Notes from the President: Victoria Green, MD, JD, MBA, MHSA, FCLM

Our annual meeting is almost upon us at the Westin Galleria Dallas in Dallas, Texas, February 27 - March 2, 2014. Please review the website for the program and registration information at www.aclm.org. Our program chairs, Dr. Jim Hubler and Dr. Bruce Seidberg, have developed a myriad of exciting topics including international law, peer review, and medical legal issues, among others. Dr. Cyril Wecht's presentation entitled "The Kennedy Assassination..." will be one to remember at the 50th anniversary of the death of President Kennedy. The inaugural Reuter lecture will feature Professor Thomas W. Mayo from SMU/Dedman School of Law speaking on "Donation after Circulatory Arrest: A Lesson in How Not to Make Medico-Legal Policy." This will be the first year for this lectureship honoring Dr. Stewart Reuter who was a long time member and supporter of ACLM. Also the Sandy Sanbar lecture by Dr. Eli N. Avila speaking on "Making Practical Changes in Public Health Law." You don't want to miss this!

I want to thank our board members for their time and effort at our recent meeting. At their own expense, board members met in Chicago for a very productive meeting where we made a thorough review of our financial status, finalized the annual program and focused on strategic issues to enhance the stature of the college. We had a visit with our Chinese Delegation to discuss possible collaborative ventures and they have invited our members to attend their international conference on health law and bioethics organized by the Chinese Health Law Society, October 17 - 19, 2014, in Beijing, China. The theme is "Health Law and Bioethics: Forefront Research and Update Development." A panoramic preview of the city is available at http://aclm.org/media/viewer.aspx?v=beijing-tourism.mp4.
The esteemed moot court competition took place at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois, November 1 - 2, 2013 under the tutelage of Dr. W. Eugene Basanta. It was a momentous event with 34 teams from across the nation. In addition to myself, the final round judges were Judge Julio Fuentes of the Third Circuit US Court of Appeals, Judge Patrick Murphy of the Federal District Court for the Southern District of Illinois and Professor Anita Bernstein, the Subotnick Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School, and drafter of the health law case scenario problem. Drs. LeBlang and Tsai were also judges. Both return yearly to participate in this event.

This year's problem involved a physician suspended from the staff of a state university hospital after a negative peer review determination. He alleged the suspension violated his First Amendment rights because it was retaliation for critical comments he posted about a vaccination campaign on his "ConnectSpace" page. He also alleged several common law claims against the hospital and the individuals who participated in the peer review process. Conversely, the hospital alleged the firing was due to the physician's disruptiveness and incompetency, as determined by the peer review panel, and that it and the members of the panel were immune from the common law claims under the Health Care Quality Improvement Act. As you can see, the topic raised several exciting and challenging issues of law and policy which were thoroughly prepared by the competitors. It was an extremely researched and interesting event, enjoyed by all.

The team of Alex Silagi and Christina Yousef from Seton Hall University School of Law won the competition against Elizabeth Isaacs and Elise Puma from University of Oklahoma College of Law and Kara B. Gordon, Janelle Alleyne, and Nirvi Shah from Georgia State University College of Law. The best preliminary round and overall oralist awards went to Alex Silagi from Seton Hall and the winning appellate brief was submitted by the team of Jessica Robinson, Brandon...
Jackson and Matthew Ward representing Faulkner University School of Law. The second best brief was submitted by the Seton Hall team. It was a wonderful event planned and executed with flair and professionalism by Professor Eugene Basanta, his colleague, Professor Cheryl Anderson, their secretary, Bonnie Miller and Southern Illinois University. Because of this event, ACLM maintains significant notoriety. I hope that many of you will consider volunteering as judges in future years to support these outstanding students along their career paths.

In an effort to increase the breadth, depth and international reach of the ACLM, we are beginning to work on several novel strategies. We are making inroads into developing online CME based on the recent revamping of our website and increased capabilities. Dr. Bob Buckman has graciously accepted to be our liaison with interested vendors who may want to capitalize on the knowledge and expertise of our members. He has had several positive meetings and would be happy to hear from members who may be interested in developing content for these endeavors with the potential for limited financial remuneration to the author and the college.

Additionally, we are considering development of a speaker's bureau and expert witness directory, which is being developed by Dr. Francois Blaudeau. Please list your area of expertise, years of practice and other thoughts as appropriate. Further finalization of ideas will occur at the annual meeting for these projects, so please be present to discuss your thoughts.

If you are interested in participating in either of these strategies, please send the required information to samantha@wjweiser.com and it will be forwarded to Dr. Buckman and Dr. Blaudeau.

Several committees will meet face to face during the Dallas meeting to research and develop strategies for the coming year. We will send information by email of these committees. Please make your air flights accordingly.

See you in Dallas!

Sincerely,

Victoria L. Green, MD, JD, MBA, MHSA, FCLM
ACLM President