

As this is my last Presidents' notes, I end this term as I began, with great humility, being honored and humbled in having served as the 45th president of this great organization. This has been an exciting and eventful year for the American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM). I wish to convey my gratitude to the members of the Executive Committee, Kent E. Harshbarger, MD, JD, MBA, FCLM; Martin J. Stillman, MD, JD, FCLM; Thomas R. McLean, MD, MS, JD, FCLM; and Christopher White, MD, JD, FCLM for their aptitude and expertise in advancing the goals and objectives of this organization. Additionally, thank you to the Board of Governors, which works diligently to ensure continued innovation toward the vision and mission.

During the year we selected Professor Michele L. Mekel, JD, MHA, MBA as the new editor of our prestigious academic chronicle, *The Journal of Legal Medicine*. Be sure to check out the January/March 2014 issue of *The Journal of Legal Medicine*, which is a dedicated symposium issue on medical-legal partnerships (MLPs). The articles in this issue are the product of a summit on the topic, held at Southern Illinois University School of Law in the summer of 2013. The resulting articles, written by the pioneers of and current leaders in the MLP arena, provide an understanding of the MLP movement, as well as insights into the need for MLPs. In addition, this issue of the journal provides an excellent resource for those interested in starting or participating in such an organization.

During the year, additionally, our website was revamped with increased capabilities. Francois M. Blaudeau, MD, JD, FCLM, FACHE will oversee the anticipated speakers bureau and expert witness directory; and Robert W. Buckman, PhD, FCLM will facilitate content development for online CME in conjunction with outside vendors. Please contact Samantha Panicola at samantha@wjweiser.com if you are interested in participating. We have focused on membership enhancement through personalized letters, local professional society advertisement and improved relationship with WAML and the Legal Nurse Consultants. The ACLM Foundation has been expanded with donations, allowing the college to support worthy educational activities. Furthermore, we continue to look to avenues of revenue generation through reimbursed CME content development and improved marketing strategies. Members of these committees will meet in advance of our annual meeting in Dallas, to develop strategies for the new year, as we persist in becoming the preeminent professional organization bridging medicine and law.

I would also like to remember two esteemed members that have passed during this year. Elaine M. Bukowski, MD, JD, FCLM and Don H. Mills, MD, JD, FCLM were staunch supporters of ACLM, and Dr. Mills was a past president of ACLM. We will forever remember their talents and expertise.

Members of our organization continue to make strides in the field (while advancing the name of ACLM). Cyril H. Wecht, MD, JD, FCLM has been appointed to the prestigious review board of the American Investigative Society of Cold Cases, which reviews unresolved homicide cases. Members of this esteemed board are selected based on their professional training and proven experience and expertise in the field of forensic science.

Our foremost asset remains our talented and accomplished members. Thank you to each of you for your enduring support during my tenure. Those serving on committees, on the board or just unwavering participation at meetings continue to allow us to advance the values, philosophy and ideology at the intersection of medicine and law.

Many thanks to Wendy Weiser, Samantha Panicola, Denita Norman and other members of the WJ Weiser & Associates staff for providing administrative insight and skills that allow us to enjoy such a comprehensive quality meeting. Our annual meeting is almost upon us at

the Westin Galleria Dallas in Dallas, Texas, February 27 – March 2, 2014. Our program chairs, James R. Hubler, MD, JD, FACEP, FCLM and Bruce H. Seidberg, DDS, MScD, JD, FCLM have developed a wonderful program including a myriad of exciting topics including international law, peer review, medical ethics and medical malpractice. Dr. Cyril Wecht will present at our banquet, “The Kennedy Assassination: Fifty Years of Lies” during our evening of friendship and networking. The inaugural Reuter Lecture honoring Stewart R. Reuter, MD, JD, FCLM, who was a long time member and supporter of ACLM, will feature Thomas W. Mayo, JD with his presentation entitled “Donation after Circulatory Arrest: A Lesson in How Not to Make Medico-Legal Policy.” Importantly, the S. Sandy Sanbar lecture will be presented by Eli N. Avila, MD, JD, MPH, FCLM on “Making Practical Changes in Public Health Law.” You don’t want to miss this!