

ACLM Notes from the President

March/April 2013



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Comments from ACLM Members:

If you have thoughts or opinions on articles in the ACLM LMP that you would like to share with the membership, please email them to Amy Meyer at amy@wjweiser.com.

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Contact Us

ACLM
Two Woodfield Lake
1100 E Woodfield Road
Schaumburg, IL 60173
P: (847) 969-0283
F: (847) 517-7229
E: info@aclm.org
www.aclm.org

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

It is with a sad heart that I begin these notes by notifying you of the passing of Dr. Elaine Bukowski. Elaine has been a long-time member of ACLM and has, in prior years, provided a presentation updating federal laws. We will miss her and will continue to keep her family supported in prayers. Elaine's joy and determination will be a gauge for our future progression and she will remain in our thoughts and hearts.

It is in this spirit and with great humility that I accept the position as president of this great organization. I am honored and humbled to join with each of you as we embark on a new and exciting year for the American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM). I wish to convey my gratitude to Dr. Kent Harshbarger, our immediate past president, for his inexorable energy, determination and aptitude which has taken ACLM to higher heights with skill and proficiency.

I would like to express sincere thanks to each of you for your enduring support of ACLM, as our foremost asset is our collection of such talented and accomplished members. Thank you for continuing to provide your expert gifts, insight and experience through presentations, committee and board participation, or just through your presence and conversation! Without your patronage and encouragement, we, as an organization, would not be able to advance the values, philosophy and ideology at the intersection of medicine and law.

Many thanks to Sue O'Sullivan, Wendy Weiser, and their immensely proficient staff for providing a staunch foundation and unwavering support over the many years of our partnership. Their recent update of our website will launch unending opportunities for enhanced online resources, education and information.

Thank you also to the board of governors, the executive committee (Dr. Marty Stillman, Dr. Tom McLean, and Dr. Kent Harshbarger), as well as Dr. Dale Cowan, Dr. Mike Raskin, Dr. Mel Shiffman and especially Dr. Gary Birnbaum (who, although was not present in body, was an immeasurable presence in spirit), for their skillful navigation of programmatic and budgetary matters of the college which now establishes the fundamental groundwork for embarking on our new strategic plan. The strategic plan was the brain work of Dr. John Anderson (prior ACLM president) and Dr. Bruce Seidberg (recent recipient of the Gold Medal Award and a prior president) who have both worked tirelessly to bring this to fruition. Based on the arduous and persistent efforts of those mentioned above, the college now has a diagram that will guide ACLM along a path to become a force for change and justice into the next decade!

Our major priorities of the next year will be membership development and retention; revenue generation; improved marketing strategies; website development; and enriching our CME/CLE offerings to include ethics, professionalism, pain management and substance abuse. The purpose of these five strategic initiatives is to direct the evolution of ACLM toward the envisioned future of becoming "the preeminent professional organization that bridges medicine and law through education and advocacy to advance understanding and practice in all areas where the disciplines connect." As an organization, this may be accomplished through our core values of education, justice, equity collaboration, integrity, advocacy and values navigation.

Congratulations to Dr. Chris White as he begins his term on the executive committee and to our newest board members Dr. Veling Tsai and Dr. David Donnersberger, Jr. This recognition and advancement is well-deserved, and we welcome your participation and insight.

We have just concluded a successful meeting in Las Vegas under the leadership of Dr. Tom McLean, where scholarly presenters provided their expert knowledge and the latest information and resources on many aspects of law and medicine including medical tourism, federal and state law update, peer review, medical device liability, and social media. Additionally, the dental program was a resounding success with nearly double the number of participants. A few of the highlights of the combined program included a special session with our Chinese delegation hosted by Dr. Tom Noguchi, and a focused medical ethics program which was enjoyed by all participants. The Dorothy Gregory Women's Leadership breakfast chaired by ACLM Executive Director Sue O'Sullivan, with invited guest Paulette Jacobsmeier, CSSC, facilitated an interactive session on wellness and time management.

Dr. Jim Hubler is the program chair for our next meeting scheduled from February 27 - March 2, 2014 in Dallas, Texas. The program is thus far designed to be very informative and edifying. As Dr. Cyril Wecht was involved in the forensic analysis at the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas, we may hear tidbits of little known information in this case.

Please let me know if you are interested in serving on any of our many dedicated committees. I would welcome your involvement and ideas, which offers the opportunity to direct the goals and objectives of the college.

I look forward to our collaborations in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Victoria Green, MD, JD, MBA, FCLM
President
American College of Legal Medicine