

ACREL President's Message – News & Notes – March 2018

Greetings to all Fellows and best wishes to those celebrating the Passover and Easter holidays. Thanks to the 227 Fellows and their guests who joined us for the Mid-Year Meeting. Notwithstanding the weather challenges in the Northeast that occurred the day before the meeting, 97+ percent of those registered to attend made it to sunny Orlando.

We had a fantastic time in Orlando, highlighted by an educational program that provided insights on a wide range of topics around the theme -- *Imagine the Future of Real Estate!* Beginning with the Public Policy Forum session on autonomous vehicles and continuing with sessions on the new WELL building standard, labor and employment issues important in hotel transactions and cybersecurity issues, the presentations from our Fellows and several terrific outside speakers were outstanding. There's no doubt that all the traditional dirt lawyers in the audience came away with new knowledge about important topics that will affect our practices going forward. In addition, following the horrific events in South Florida in February and the ongoing debate on gun control, the Saturday morning session on firearms liability, concealed carry laws and related topics raised lots of questions for the packed room.

The other highlight of the Orlando program was the presentation of the Lane Award to Dick Goldberg, former ACREL President. John Hollyfield., another former ACREL President and previous Lane Award recipient, presented the award to Dick.

Many thanks to the Programs Committee for the success of the Orlando meeting. Steve, Marilyn and I met with the leadership of the Programs Committee before the meeting and could not have been more impressed with the Orlando program and the amazing efforts underway with respect to planning for our next two meetings in New Orleans and La Quinta. Thanks to the Programs Committee leadership team – Art Menor, Jack Fersko, Suzanne Bessette-Smith, Janet Johnson and Beat Steiner, and those responsible for the Orlando meeting -- session coordinators Andrew Herz, Cheryl Kelly and Adam Weissburg, and Michael Gelfand, the overall meeting leader.

One other word about Orlando– our sixteen Substantive Committees and a number of Governance and Administrative Committees held active and engaging sessions. These committees are an important part of what makes the College relevant to its members. The leadership of these committees works hard throughout the year. During the first quarter, the leadership team of each Substantive Committee participated in a conference call with their Board of Governors liaison, representatives of the Programs and Communications Committees, and one or more of the officers. Thanks to Nancy Little and Scott Willis for organizing that effort.

Many of our Substantive and Administrative Committees host conference call meetings throughout the year. In addition, Fellows located in major cities are once again gathering for local get-togethers. While the winter weather created difficult conditions all over the country, we already have had meetings of local Fellows in Boston, Denver and Houston Thanks to Kathy Murphy, Bob Fishman, Mark Senn and Marilyn Maloney for hosting those gatherings with the support of Becky Dow from the Orientations & Integration Committee. We hope to have more such meetings through the remainder of the year in Atlanta, Chicago, Cleveland, DC, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, San Antonio, San Francisco and Seattle. If you would

like to help organize a local gathering, please reach out to Becky Dow or Cheryl Armata on the Meetings Committee.

Speaking of meetings in-between our Mid-Year and Annual Meetings, we also will be hosting a reception at the annual ABA RPTE Spring Symposia in Orlando, which will be held May 10-11. All ACREL Fellows attending the RPTE meeting are invited to attend, together with our Florida Fellows that can be in Orlando that day. Stay tuned for the details.

Don't forget to join us on LinkedIn if you are not already part of our private ACREL group. Fellows and staff continue to post fun facts and pictures. The Orlando photo highlights will be there shortly and you won't want to miss our members in close proximity to alligators, manatees and large turtles, as well as the pictures of the 15 Fellows who attended the March for Life in Orlando while we were there.

If you have not already done so, mark your calendars for the Annual meeting in New Orleans on October 18th – 21st. We are planning a number of special activities as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the College, including a two-day ACREL Cares project with the New Orleans chapter of Rebuilding Together.