

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING
BAR CENTER, ALBANY, NEW YORK
NOVEMBER 6, 1999

PRESENT: Adler; Alcott; Ayers; Baldwin; Bergen; Bohner; Bowen; Bowler; Bracken; Buckley; Buzard; Chambers; Clements; Cloonan; Coffey; Coffill; Coleman; Collura; Cometa; Connolly; Cooper; Coppins; Corcoran; Cyrulnik; DeFritsch; Denton; DiGirolomo; Doyaga; Dwyer; Eggleston; Eppers; Farrell; Fink; FitzGerald; B. Freedman; H. Freedman; M. Freedman; Friedberg; Friedman; Futter; Gardella; Gerstman; Gingold; Glover; Golinski; Gorgos; Graber; Gutleber; Haig; H. Hall; Hallenbeck; Handlin; Harren; Hassett; Headley; Heller; Helmer; Hesterberg; Higgins; Hoffman; Hoye; Hutchinson; Inclima; Jacobs; Jacoby; James; Kahn; Kamins; Kelly; Kennedy; M. Kessler; S. Kessler; Kilpatrick; Kilsch; F. Klein; M. Klein; Krane; Kranis; Kretser; Lagarenne; Landy; Lawrence; Levin; Levy; Lieberman; Lindenauer; J. Longo; M. Longo; Lorman; MacCrate; Madigan; Manley; McAuliffe; McCarthy; McGlinn; Meng; Mettler; Miklitsch; M. Miller; Millon; Minkowitz; Miranda; Morse; Mosenson; Nashak; O'Donnell; O'Reilly; Patrick; Paul; Peradotto; Pfalzgraf; Pfeifer; Pruzansky; Purcell; Rahn; Raylesberg; Reger; Reich; Reizes; J. Thomas Reynolds; Rice; Rider; Rifkin; Roper; Rosner; Rothberg; Rothkopf; Rothstein; Rubin; Samel; Schraver; Shapiro; Sherman; Souther; Spellman; Sperendi; Standard; Stenson; Stewart; Sunshine; Taylor; Terranova; Tharp; Tippins; Tishler; Torres; Trevett; Uebelhoer; Vitacco; O. Walsh; Williams; Witmer; Wolf.

1. Approval of minutes of June 26, 1999 meeting. The minutes of the June 26, 1999 meeting were deemed accepted as distributed previously.

2. Report of Treasurer. Mr. Headley summarized the Treasurer's report covering the period January 1 to September 30, 1999, with copies of the financial statements having been circulated previously to the members of the House. He reviewed the major elements of the income and expense budgets, and noted that through strong recruitment and retention efforts by the Committee on Membership, both net membership figures and dues revenues had increased over the previous year. He also observed that with the advent of mandatory continuing legal education in New York, CLE income from programs and sales of related materials had risen significantly from 1998. Mr. Headley stated that this increase in income had been accompanied by a corresponding rise in expenses due to the expanded programming and the need to hire additional staff members. He also noted the costs incurred to ensure that the Association's computer system would be Year 2000 compliant. Mr. Headley advised that the financial posture of the Association would enable dues to be kept level for the sixth consecutive year, doubling the normal three-year dues cycle, and that CLE seminar prices would remain constant for the eighth straight year. He indicated that based on current information, the Finance Committee anticipated a year-end surplus in the range of \$1 million, prior to audit. Mr. Headley stated that the Association remained in sound financial condition at the close of three - quarters of the fiscal year. The report was received with thanks.

3. Report and recommendations of Finance Committee.

a) Continuation of affordable dues program. Finance Committee Chair G. Robert Witmer, Jr. summarized the affordable dues program introduced on a renewable basis in 1990 to assist members who were experiencing financial hardship to remain members of the Association. He noted that refinements in the program as approved by the House were working effectively to limit participation in the program to those who were experiencing true fiscal hardship. A motion was adopted unanimously approving continuation of the affordable dues program for an additional two years.

b) Proposed 2000 income and expense budget. Mr. Witmer then summarized the major components of the Association's proposed income and expense budget for 2000, noting the growth in both income and expense budgets caused by the rise in membership as well as expanded CLE and section activities. He noted that as was done during the current year, the Finance Committee would generally follow the philosophy of utilizing budget surplus funds to improve member services without raising dues or CLE prices. After discussion, a motion was adopted approving the budget as submitted by the Finance Committee.

4. Address by Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives. Hon. Juanita Bing Newton, Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives summarized the responsibilities connected with her position, which had been established earlier in the year with the approval of the Chief Judge and the Administrative Board. She indicated that this initiative signified the commitment of court administration at the highest levels to provide a statewide, comprehensive approach to ensuring meaningful access to the justice system for all New Yorkers. Judge Newton noted that a focus of her assignment would be eliminating barriers to justice, particularly for the disadvantaged who have need to access the courts regarding such critical issues as housing, immigration, or family matters. She advised that her duties would include the pursuit of increased rates for the 18-B Assigned Counsel Program as well as establishing permanent, stable new funding sources for civil legal services. She stated that her office would be building on the earlier effort by the Association in making a comprehensive assessment of unmet legal needs in the state. In addition, Judge Newton expressed her desire to work closely with the organized bar to increase pro bono participation and to develop programs in this area. She also outlined her goal for achieving more user-friendly courts, as well as improving public understanding of the legal system through outreach and educational efforts. Judge Newton encouraged cooperation and involvement by the state and local bars in this program, and invited input concerning barriers to the justice system. The report was received with the thanks of the House.

5. Presentation of the Justice Award by the Committee on Justice and the Community. Mr. Rice and Gregory X. Hesterberg, Chair of the Committee on Justice and the Community, presented the Justice Award to David Kaczynski and Linda Patrik. They received the award, which recognizes non-lawyers for bravery, leadership, dedication, commitment, exemplary service, or personal courage by combating unlawful conduct through their professional or personal activities, for their role in the apprehension of Unabomber Ted Kaczynski. In accepting the award, and in deeply moving speeches, Ms.

Patrik described the role of ethics in guiding their actions and Mr. Kaczynski noted the moral complexities posed by the death penalty in connection with their decision to provide information to the authorities. Both expressed their gratitude for the award and acknowledged the positive role played by attorneys in guiding them through a difficult process.

6. Report and recommendations of Commission on Providing Legal Services for the Middle Income Consumer. Mr. Headley, in his capacity as Chair of the Commission on Providing Legal Services for the Middle Income Consumer, summarized an affirmative legislative proposal to provide a procedure for the simplified resolution of cases under \$75,000. He described the major features of the plan which seeks to furnish a fair and voluntary means for resolving cases with the assistance of counsel which could not be litigated economically by means of normal civil trial procedures. Mr. Headley noted that the proposal had been revised based on the issues raised when it had been considered by the House at the January 1999 meeting. He indicated that these modifications were designed to address concerns expressed about the adequacy of notice, the taking of testimony by video deposition, the lack of a sufficient record on which to base an appeal, the grounds for permitting an appeal as of right, and the absence of a sunset provision. He advised that the commission was considering further changes based on more recent comments and would likely have additional refinements to present for consideration at the January 2000 meeting. The report was received with thanks.

7. Report of President. Mr. Rice observed that, as was done at previous meetings to allow as much time as possible for the discussion of substantive items, he had furnished a detailed, written report to the members, and would provide only a brief oral summary of selected items. A copy of the written report is attached to these minutes. Mr. Rice then reported the following matters:

a) He described the extraordinary level of activity by the Association through its sections, committees and programs in which he had been privileged to participate in recent months. He generally acknowledged the dedication of the volunteer members whose donated time and expertise had contributed significantly to the growth and stature of the Association.

b) He had spoken to a number of bar groups at the state, national and international levels regarding the professional and ethical issues connected with multi-disciplinary practice entities. He related recent developments in Washington, D.C., as well as in foreign countries, particularly in Europe. He noted the role of the Special Committee on the Law Governing Firm Structure and Operation in monitoring developments and analyzing the complex issues posed by MDP. Mr. Rice stated that a fuller report on these matters would be presented by the committee later in the meeting.

c) He described his participation in the recently concluded meeting of the International Law and Practice Section in Budapest, Hungary. Mr. Rice outlined events commemorating the forty-third anniversary of the Hungarian revolution and role attorneys had played in that nation's efforts to secure freedom, as well as the importance of the bar in Hungary's more recent economic revival.

d) The Nominating Committee had met on November 5, 1999 and had nominated Steven C. Krane for election as President-Elect at the January House meeting. He expressed appreciation to the committee for its diligent efforts in selecting an outstanding slate of nominees.

8. Report of Committee on Standards of Attorney Conduct. Steven C. Krane, Chair of the Committee on Standards of Attorney Conduct, reported that when the four Appellate Divisions in July 1999 adopted uniform amendments to the Code of Professional Responsibility, they had included virtually all the revisions proposed by the Association. He noted the availability of the Code for members desiring copies as well as several resources for articles explaining the new provisions. Mr. Krane then explained the process by which Code amendments are developed and indicated that the American Bar Association, through its Ethics 2000 project, was in the process of reviewing that organization's Model Rules of Professional Conduct. He outlined the structural differences between the ABA Model Rules and the New York Code and indicated that because of these differences, the format in which New York's standards were presented would likely be an issue for future study. He indicated that the Committee on Standards of Attorney Conduct was monitoring the work of the ABA group so that when the ABA product became final, his committee would be in a position to make appropriate recommendations to the House. He advised that based on past experience, this would likely be a deliberate process so there would be ample time for review and study in advance of any formal consideration. The report was received with thanks.

9. Report of The New York Bar Foundation. Maryann Saccomando Freedman, President of The New York Bar Foundation, described the nature of the law-related projects being supported by The Foundation, and urged the members to contribute to The Foundation by means of the check-off contained on the annual dues bill. She also reviewed the role of the Fellows and acknowledged the efforts of John R. Dunne as President of that group. She advised that The Foundation was about to initiate an annual fund campaign and expressed appreciation to Robert L. Haig for his assistance in organizing this effort. Ms. Freedman then introduced Rachel Kretser who spoke about the work of the Legal Project of the Capital District Women's Bar Association in addressing domestic violence issues. The report was received with the thanks of the House.

10. Report of Task Force to Study "Pay to Play" Concerns. A. Thomas Levin, Chair of the Task Force to Study "Pay to Play" Concerns, summarized the status of matters with respect to the regulation of "pay to play" in New York. He reminded the members of the position adopted by the House in January 1999 which included the condemnation of arrangements where the selection of those to provide services to public entities is to be based on the making of campaign contributions; the approval of EC2-37 and EC2-38 to clarify the Code of Professional Responsibility on this point; urging the Legislature to enact legislation consistent with the House's position; requesting the Office of Court Administration to adopt rules for the disclosure of significant contributions by attorneys and law firms; and recommending the enactment of legislation to implement use of merit

procurement procedures by governmental agencies seeking to engage legal or other professional services. He indicated that these proposals had been submitted to the Office of Court Administration which had them, as well as recommendations from other groups, under study. He also noted that in August the American Bar Association's House of Delegates had rejected a proposal that would have prohibited attorneys from accepting engagements where contributions had been made to the public official awarding the work. Mr. Levin indicated that the task force would continue to monitor developments and to advocate the Association's position, which would provide reasonable regulation in this area while still preserving the right of attorneys or law firms to make political contributions the same as other individuals or entities, subject to the relevant provisions of the Code of Professional Responsibility. The report was received with the thanks of the House.

11. Report of Special Committee on the Law Governing Firm Structure and Operation. Robert MacCrate, Chair of the Special Committee on the Law Governing Firm Structure and Operation, reported on the status of the committee's studies stemming from the resolution adopted by the House of Delegates in June with respect to multi-disciplinary practice. He indicated that the committee was in the process of developing a detailed factual predicate for its final product. Mr. MacCrate advised that toward this end, six interrelated study projects had been formed to: appraise the changes in the legal profession over the past fifty years; study the articulation and enforcement of professional values; analyze the functional equivalents of "one-stop shopping," where lawyers work together with persons from other disciplines under and within the existing law; explore the new multi-profit center phenomenon where accounting firms and other entities recruit lawyers to render legal services; study multi-disciplinary practice outside the United States, with a focus on several major European nations, Ontario, Canada and New South Wales, Australia; and an appraisal of the factors that bear upon the argument for the inevitability of MDPs. He indicated these first phase studies would likely be completed in early 2000. The committee will then focus on various issues significant to a consideration of multi-disciplinary practice, including the professional responsibilities of lawyers and law firms; the control of MDPs; capitalization of the practice of law; ancillary services; strategic alliances; advertising; quality of life and the size of firms; the definition of practicing law; lawyers who work for organizations that provide assorted services and financial products; and antitrust considerations. He indicated that the committee anticipated completing its report in the spring of next year. The report was received with the thanks of the House.

12. Report of Chair. Mr. Hasset reported the following matters:

a) Information had been circulated with reference to enrollment in the mentor program for the Young Lawyers Section so that younger and newer lawyers in that section might have access to guidance from more experienced practitioners. The members of the House were encouraged to participate in the program.

b) As part of the mailing of background materials, the members had received a report by the Special Committee on the Grand Jury Project, setting forth comments regarding the recommendations prepared by the Chief Judge's Grand Jury Project. He noted the timetable for the submission of views had precluded review by the Executive

Committee or House. He commended the report as providing excellent insight and analysis of the Grand Jury Project's recommendations.

c) The amended version of the state budget as adopted, while restoring essential funding for legal services programs, did not provide a permanent funding mechanism for this purpose. He indicated that the President's Committee on Access to Justice would be pursuing this issue, and he encouraged the members of the House to assist the staff of the Department of Governmental Relations in developing an effective legislative contact effort in this area.

d) He recognized the Association officers and members-at-large of the Executive Committee who had been selected by the Nominating Committee for election in January. He commended that committee for its conscientious efforts in choosing outstanding leaders for the Association.

13. Date and place of next meeting. Mr. Hassett announced that the next meeting of the House of Delegates would be held on Friday, January 28, 2000 at the Marriott Marquis in New York City.

Respectfully submitted,



Lorraine Power Tharp
Secretary

New York State Bar Association

One Elk Street, Albany, New York 12207 • 518/463-3200 • <http://www.nysba.org>



THOMAS O. RICE

President
Wingate, Kearney & Cullen
32 Court Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
516/694-5500
FAX 516/694-5813
torwkcli@aol.com

November 6, 1999

To: Members of the House of Delegates

Re: Report of President

As was done for the Cooperstown meeting, I am submitting the following written summary of matters of interest to preserve as much time as possible for the consideration of other items at the November 6, 1999 House of Delegates meeting in Albany.

- Legal Services Corporation. I am pleased to report that last month, House and Senate conferees came to agreement on H.R. 2670, the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill. Part of this agreement included funding for the Legal Services Corporation at \$300 million for fiscal year 2000, the same amount the LSC received for the current year. While not the \$340 million sought by President Clinton, the \$300 million figure is significantly above the \$141 million which appeared in the markup of the appropriations bill prepared by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State back in July. I want to acknowledge the President's Committee on Access to Justice, chaired by C. Bruce Lawrence of Rochester, and the various county and local bar associations for their extensive efforts in support of the Legal Services Corporation budget.

- Civil legal services funding. The state budget as finally adopted this year made significant funding restorations to civil legal services programs. Budget bills agreed on by the Legislature restored over \$13 million of the \$16 million the Governor had removed from criminal and civil legal services programs during the previous 16 months. The appropriations restored most of the programs near to their previous funding levels, but did not replace any of the money vetoed from the budget in 1998. Included in the appropriations was \$6.3 million in support of civil legal services, which provides partial funding for 30 legal services offices across the state. The budget also provided \$3.5 million for Prisoners' Legal Services and \$1.4 million for the State Defenders Association, which furnishes training and technical support for public defenders offices. Again, I want to thank our President's Committee on Access to Justice, the Committee on Legal Aid, chaired by Barbara D. Finkelstein of White Plains, the staff of our Pro Bono Affairs office and all those county and local bar associations which provided their unequivocal support for adequate funding for legal services programs in New York State.

- Commission on Alcohol and Substance Abuse in the Profession. Chief Judge Kaye has appointed a Commission on Alcohol and Substance Abuse in the Profession to broaden understanding of the problem of substance abuse in the legal community and to develop an action plan to mitigate the

harmful consequences abuse brings to the profession and the public. The group is chaired by Court of Appeals Associate Judge Joseph W. Bellacosa and is an interdisciplinary panel comprised of lawyers, judges, law school deans, administrators and experts in the field of substance abuse. I am pleased to note that seven members of our Committee on Lawyer Alcoholism and Drug Abuse have been appointed to the group: Kenneth E. Ackerman of Syracuse, Timothy D. Foley of Utica, Robert P. Guido of Syosset, John W. Keegan of White Plains, Hon. Sarah L. Krauss of Brooklyn, Eugene J. O'Brien of Smithtown, and David R. Pfalzgraf of Buffalo, as well as Ray M. Lopez, the staff Director of the NYSBA's Lawyer Assistance Program. I am sure you join me in wishing this group every success in arriving at constructive solutions for a difficult problem.

- Commission to examine the court system's response to drug cases. In a related area, Chief Judge Kaye has appointed a separate commission to study how the courts can better handle drug cases. The new commission is headed by former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Robert B. Fiske, Jr. As part of its effort, the commission will be considering ways in which the courts can gain greater flexibility in sentencing addicts and drug dealers. It also has a mandate to explore ways of adding new drug treatment courts to the system that would permit sentencing of convicted addicts to be held in abeyance so long as the defendants successfully attend a treatment program. We look forward to the product of the commission's study which will be reviewed by the Criminal Justice Section and other interested groups.

- New committees. I am pleased to announce the appointment of two new committees to support the ever-expanding work of the Association. The first is the Special Committee on Public Trust and Confidence in the Legal System, which is being chaired by Ellen Lieberman of New York City. This group will be studying the recommendations developed by the Chief Judge's Committee to Promote Public Trust and Confidence in the Legal System, which examined bias and prejudice in the system, access to justice, judicial administration, professional ethics, the media's portrayal of the bench and bar, and public understanding of the system. The second new group is the Special Committee to Study Real Property Tax Certiorari Procedures, which is being chaired by Lawrence A. Zimmerman of Albany. The special committee is charged with reviewing the process followed by nonlawyer real property tax consultants in pursuing tax assessment reductions on behalf of property owners in the state. Its study will include relevant legal and ethical issues, as well as the beneficial or harmful effects this process may have on property owners. You will be kept advised concerning the progress of the two new committees as they pursue their separate studies.

- Meeting with law school deans. On September 28, 1999, Paul Hassett and I, together with senior members of the Association staff, met in New York City with the deans of our state's law schools. Nearly all of the schools were represented and we had a productive session which explored a number of topical issues including the impact on law schools of recommendations made by the Chief Judge's Committee to Promote Public Trust and Confidence in the Legal System, the plans by the National Conference of Bar Presidents for a bar/law school forum next year, the role of law schools in shaping the future of the legal profession, educating students on law office management, the role of legal educators and the bar in continuing legal education, and opportunities for cooperative efforts by the bar and law schools. The session proved to be productive and informative and should lead to a closer relationship between the bar and our state's law schools in the coming months.

- 18-B Fees. Chief Judge Kaye remains firmly committed to supporting our efforts to secure an increase in 18-B panel fees from the current \$40 an hour for in-court work and \$25 out of court. At a press conference in early October, Judge Kaye characterized the effort to secure an increase in 18-B rates as being at the "top of the list of challenges for the new millennium." We recognize that the struggle to obtain legislative action in this area remains difficult. The Governor's staff and legislative leaders continue to acknowledge the fairness of a long overdue increase, but they then raise concerns about costs and the absence of funds to support increased 18-B rates. However, we will continue to press the issue in the interest of the public, the court system, and the attorneys who handle 18-B cases.

- Meeting with Chief Administrative Judge Lippman. On September 27, we met with Chief Administrative Judge Lippman in New York City. We discussed a broad range of topics of mutual interest to the bar and the court system including 18-B panel fees, pay to play, mandatory continuing legal education, court reform, the report of the Chief Judge's Grand Jury Project, the 2000-2001 judiciary budget, multi-disciplinary practice, the recommendations of the Chief Judge's Committee to Promote Public Trust and Confidence, the court system's expanding use of technology, and the voluntary plan being introduced by OCA to permit court documents to be filed on recycled paper. I am pleased to report that our relationship with the judiciary remains open and strong, and that OCA is receptive to our views on critical issues affecting the legal profession.

- Use of recycled paper for court filings. In mid October, OCA issued rules approved by the Administrative Board to permit court papers to be filed on recycled paper. Given the large number of court filings that are made each year, which consume paper estimated to be in excess of 100,000 tons, the new rule has a definite salutary purpose from an environmental perspective. I should note that the program is voluntary, consistent with a recommendation made by the NYSBA's Executive Committee when it reviewed an earlier version of the current plan. We are also indebted to our Environmental Law Section for its insights prior to our commenting on the proposal as recently adopted by the court system. We were concerned about the fiscal impact that using recycled paper may have, particularly on solo and small firm practitioners. Consequently, OCA is to be congratulated for taking a gradual approach to the use of recycled paper so as to minimize any potential adverse impact on attorneys.

- Grand Jury Project report. In your package of materials for the November 6 House meeting, you will find a report by our Special Committee on the Grand Jury Project, chaired by Susan B. Lindenauer of New York City. That report sets forth the special committee's comments regarding the recommendations drafted by the Chief Judge's Grand Jury Project, which focused on the experiences of grand jurors and efforts to ensure equitable distribution of service, efficient use of time, adequate facilities and proper explanations of procedure. Our special committee was in agreement with most of the improvements recommended by the Project. It did suggest some modifications to the Project's proposals, particularly in emphasizing, given the diversity that exists in our state, that the courts should have the flexibility to tailor practices to local needs and to build on procedures that are working well. Our special committee's report was forwarded to Chief Administrative Judge Lippman this past August, as he had requested that our views be submitted as early as possible. Consequently, we could not defer submission to permit formal discussion at the November House meeting. However, I commend our special committee's report to you, as it provides excellent insight and analysis with regard to the Grand Jury Project's recommendations.

- Committee on Attorneys in Public Service. Our Committee on Attorneys in Public Service, ably chaired by Tricia Troy Alden, with Henry Greenberg as Vice-Chair, continues its high level of activity. Last year's inaugural reception and recent well-attended educational programs are being followed by the release of a new publication, the Government, Law and Policy Journal, which will be geared towards the interests of publicly-employed attorneys. The Journal is being produced in cooperation with the Government Law Center of Albany Law School. To celebrate the release of the premier issue, the Committee on Attorneys in Public Service will be hosting a reception at the Bar Center on the evening of November 18, 1999, with Hon. Richard C. Wesley, Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals, as guest speaker. We wish the committee well with its new publication as a means of promoting greater active involvement of public sector attorneys in the Association.

- Insurance Department restrictions on "no fault" claims. Earlier this fall, the State Insurance Department released proposed revisions to 11 NYCRR Part 65 that would have placed increased restrictions on "no fault" claimants. The proposed changes would work a hardship on consumers, as time periods for the filing of notices of accident would be reduced from 90 to 30 days, and the time for filing claims for health-related services would be reduced from 180 to 45 days. These reductions have the potential for creating a severe hardship for badly injured or hospitalized victims, those who may not be familiar with the process, or those whose primary language is not English. With the assistance of our Committee on Tort Reparations, chaired by Lucille A. Fontana of White Plains, we have communicated to Governor Pataki our opposition to the proposed revisions. Final action with respect to the amendments is still pending and is not likely to occur before next spring. We will keep you informed regarding developments.

- Mid-Atlantic Bar Conference. From October 14-16, 1999, the NYSBA participated in the twenty-first annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Bar Conference, held in Annapolis, Maryland. This yearly meeting affords an opportunity for the Presidents, Presidents-Elect, immediate past Presidents and Executive Directors from Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C., and New York to share their perspectives regarding issues common to state level bar groups in our region. The topics addressed this year included multi-disciplinary practice, serving the community and the bar, helping members to feel better about themselves, mentoring new admittees and solo practitioners, protecting the independence of the judiciary, creating innovative and effective legal education in the schools, and ethics for a new millennium.

- Section meetings. Over the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to attend meetings of our sections in diverse locations as close as upstate New York and as far away as Budapest, Hungary. In July, I was with the Real Property Law Section in Bermuda and in August attended the meeting of the Elder Law Section in Montreal, Canada. In September, I joined our Business Law Section in Orlando, Florida. October was a whirlwind in terms of travel: I was with the Environmental Law Section and the Municipal Law Section, both of which met in Cooperstown; the Trusts and Estates Law Section in Palm Beach, Florida; and, finally, with our International Law and Practice Section in Budapest, Hungary. At these meetings, I was able to speak with our section leaders and to listen to the concerns expressed by members in attendance. My participation broadened my knowledge of our sections and our membership, and will enable me to better represent our Association during the balance of my term.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your support and confidence in me. We remain a strong and vital organization because of the involvement and dedication of our members. You have my pledge that I will continue to do my utmost to justify the trust and confidence you have placed in me as your President.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas O. Rice".

Thomas O. Rice

