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Municipal Lawyer

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A Message from the Chair

2012 has been another interesting year to be involved in government law and practice for our membership representing local government or private clients interacting with local governments. New realities and increasing burdens upon local governments create greater opportunities for, and challenges to, municipal attorneys in facilitating government innovation and public private partnerships in the delivery of services. At the same time, attorneys representing private parties in dealing with local government must keep abreast of changing opportunities and impediments to private initiative. Attorneys who stay active in the Municipal Law Section are in a better position to understand the broad legal framework in which all of these issues and opportunities arise.

However, as our membership statistics demonstrate, we are an interesting demographic profile still not reaching as diverse an audience of municipal practitioners as are out there fending for themselves.

Category	Percentage
Gender	
Female	21%
Male	79%
Practice Setting	
Government	16.92%
Private Practice	74%
Office Size	
Less than 20	68%
20 to less than 50	15.42%
Over 50	15.75%
Age	
Under 45	23.82%
Over 45	76.18%
Years Admitted to Bar	
Under 20	20.17%
Over 20	79.83%
Race/Ethnicity	
White	92.98%
Non-White	7.02%

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NYSBA

Our Section must reach out to more members of color, younger audiences and women, all of whom are facing the same issues without the benefits of collaboration, education and networking provided by our Section membership and participation. I ask all of our members to be aware of this concern, and to suggest ideas and ways to increase our diversity.

I also encourage you to make the most of your own Section membership by becoming involved in the great work of our committees: Bylaws, Employment Relations, Ethics and Professionalism, Legislation, Membership, Municipal Finance & Economic Development, Green Development, and Technology. This issue of the *Municipal Lawyer* contains names and contact information for members of the Executive Committee and committee leadership. Section members can conveniently join one or more of our committees online at www.nysba.org/municipal. Contact NYSBA Membership Services if you need your Web site sign-in information: 518.487.5577/800.582.2452, or membership@nysba.org.

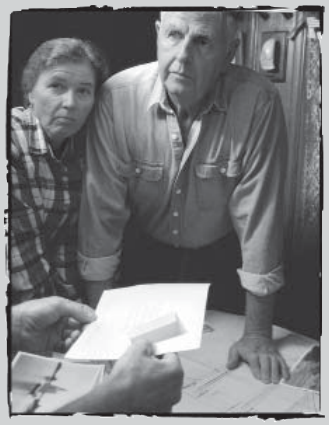
SAVE THE DATE: Our Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 24, 2013 at the New York Hilton. Sharon Berlin, Rich Zuckerman, and Natasha Phillip are serving as co-chairs and developing an exciting program agenda. We hope to see you there.

Please contact me at hp@jacobowitz.com with your suggestions or ideas for improving our Section. I look forward to meeting with you at an upcoming program.

Howard Protter

There are millions of reasons to do Pro Bono.

(Here are some.)



Each year in communities across New York State, indigent people face literally millions of civil legal matters without assistance. Women seek protection from an abusive spouse. Children are denied public benefits. Families lose their homes. All without benefit of legal counsel. They need your help.

If every attorney volunteered at least 20 hours a year and made a financial contribution to a legal aid or pro bono program, we could make a difference. Please give your time and share your talent.

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Call the New York State Bar Association today at **518-487-5640** or go to **www.nysba.org/probono** to learn about pro bono opportunities.