

# Message from the Chair and Editor

“In this bright future you can’t forget your past.”—Bob Marley

As you read this, I will be nearing the end of my term as Corporate Counsel Section Chair. It has been an honor to lead this Section and I am proud of all that we accomplished together. You will recall that my term began earlier than expected due to our then-Chair Jana Behe’s untimely passing in August of 2017. I had originally agreed to take on the role of Chair-Elect under Jana’s leadership because we had a shared vision and similar goals. Plus, I anticipated it would be fun because Jana was great to work with and we shared a growing friendship. Right before she passed we reconfirmed our plans for the upcoming year. When I expressed my concerns about filling her shoes and meeting the demands of the role, she assured me I would not be alone as she would remain actively involved and available. Indeed, I made her “pinky-swear promise” the same. While Jana was not physically present, her spirit remained and kept pushing us forward to accomplish the Section’s goals. Here are a few highlights of the Section’s accomplishments in 2018.

We recruited several new members to the Executive Committee. We sought people who had various years of experience and different types of in-house experience who were passionate about identifying and implementing new ideas. I invite you to meet the “new recruits” on page 18.

In the spirit of identifying ways to meet the needs of our vast and diverse membership, we began conducting one-hour luncheon webinars on timely topics impacting in-house counsel. We conducted programs such as “GDPR 1 Month to Go”; “Crisis Management for In-House Counsel” and “Blockchain and Smart Contracts 101.” These programs are designed to be interactive, roundtable-style discussions so that participants can ask questions of each other and the program speakers without leaving their desks. They are also complimentary for all Section members and recorded so that members can listen later if unable to join the live session.

We also partnered with other Sections such as the Dispute Resolution and Commercial and Federal Litigation Sections to conduct joint CLE programs such as “Mediation Choices for Effective Representation and Advocacy” and “The Litigative DNA: The Underutilization of Mediation in N.Y.”. Additionally, we partnered with the Lawyers in Transition Committee and the Westchester County Bar Association to conduct a live program titled “Life as In-House Counsel: How to Get There and What to Expect.” These programs are also available online. We have additional programs planned for 2019 with the N.Y. Women’s County Bar Association on “Breaking Through Bias to Achieve Rainmaking and Leadership Success” on



January 22, 2019 and we will be doing a joint program with the Dispute Resolution Section at the Annual Meeting titled “ADR in the Boardroom and the Headlines: Not Fake News” on January 17, 2019.

We continued our tradition of the Section’s Diversity Internship program, named in honor of former NYSBA President Kenneth G. Standard. The Section works with various New York law schools each year to select diverse law students to apply for summer internships in corporate law departments with New York State-based companies. You can read more about this year’s program on

page 20. David Rothenberg successfully led this initiative for many years but decided it was time to hand over the reins to Yamicha Stephenson, our Treasurer and a former KGS intern herself. We thank David for his service and look forward to Yamicha’s leadership. The public interest fellowship portion of the program was renamed the “Jana Springer Behe Corporation Counsel Section Fellowship.” The goal of the fellowship is to provide (i) non-profit organizations with diverse candidates; and (ii) diverse students with an opportunity to experience in-house legal practice. We encourage you to make a donation to further support the Fellowship and honor Jana’s memory. Additional information can be found on page 28.

Thinking about the future of our Section, we have been identifying ways to engage law students. One such effort included an event with New York Law School and its First Generational Professionals Group about business dinner etiquette. Several Executive Committee and Section Members were in attendance.

As I turn over the reins to Mitchell Borger, I am confident that he will continue the Section’s current efforts and implement new ones. Mitch is a long-standing member of the Executive Committee, experienced in-house counsel at Macy’s and a prior Chair of the Section. Indeed, Mitch has already organized a planning committee for our 2019 Corporate Counsel Institute scheduled for October 2019.

While my term as Chair is ending, I look forward to remaining active with the Section serving as a representative of this Section in the House of Delegates and continuing as Editor. I encourage you to get involved and reach out to me and/or other Committee chairs listed on page 41. We would love to hear about your ideas on how to better serve our members and encourage you to get involved.

Thank you for your support and encouragement this year. Happy 2019!

**Elizabeth Champnoi**