

Message from the Chair

By Catherine A. Christian

I am honored to serve as Chair of CAPS as we continue to serve public sector attorneys by promoting the highest standards of professional conduct and competence, providing a network system to further their common interests, and highlighting their exceptional work.



The Committee has been working on a number of initiatives and programs that will interest public service attorneys for 2013. In January our Annual Meeting program began in the morning with a panel of distinguished constitutional law professors from Brooklyn Law School who summarized the biggest decisions of the 2011-2012 United States Supreme Court term. The afternoon panel on *Social Media and Legal Ethics* explored the most common uses of social media by lawyers in both the private and public sector and examined the legal and ethical issues that are implicated by those uses. The day was capped by a well-received reception honoring the 2013 Award for Excellence in Public

Service recipients: former New York State Court of Appeals Justice Carmen Ciparick, Hon. Judy Harris Kluger and Deborah Liebman, Deputy Counsel for the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. The awards subcommittee is now reviewing nominations for the 2013 Citation for Special Achievement in Public Service which will be presented in September 2013.

On May 16, we co-sponsored with the Albany County Bar Association's Attorneys in the Public Service Committee an informal meet and greet social event at Provence Restaurant in Albany. Special guest, Third Department Presiding Justice Karen K. Peters, delivered uplifting remarks about bar association service and how public sector attorneys are a much needed voice within the membership.

Please join CAPS during 2013 at one or more of our events and meet other public sector attorneys and other members of the bar represented in NYSBA Committees and Sections.

We have assembled a stellar group of authors and informative articles for this issue dedicated to renewable energy. Once again, a big thank you to Rose Mary Bailly for her continued dedication and tireless work as editor-in-chief of the *Government, Law and Policy Journal*.

A graphic featuring the word 'BLOG' in large, 3D block letters. A white mouse cursor arrow points to the letter 'O'. Above the word, the words 'File edit view' are visible in a smaller font, suggesting a software interface. The background is a light gray grid.

CAPS Blog for and by Public Service Attorneys

NYSBA's Committee on Attorneys in Public Service ("CAPS") has a blog highlighting interesting cases, legal trends and commentary from around New York State, and beyond, for attorneys practicing law in the public sector context. The CAPS blog addresses legal issues ranging from government practice and public service law, social justice, professional competence and civility in the legal profession generally.

Entries on the CAPS Blog are generally authored by CAPS members, with selected guest bloggers providing articles from time to time as well. Comments and tips may be sent to caps@nysba.org.

To view the CAPS Blog, you can visit <http://nysbar.com/blogs/CAPS>. You can bookmark the site, or subscribe to the RSS feed for easy monitoring of regular updates by clicking on the RSS icon on the home page of the CAPS blog.