

## Message from the Chair

All health care attorneys undoubtedly know the long learning curve one must follow to excel in one or more of the vast array of practice specialties. There is certainly no substitute for rolling up one's sleeves and studying, analyzing and digesting relevant materials. However, this purposeful experience of delving into the depths of the library in a particular area of law cannot replace the value of learning through the experiences of other attorneys. This is especially true for new attorneys who have the opportunity to seek guidance from those who have traveled down (or further down) a similar path.

At its core, mentoring consists of a mentor's commitment to providing guidance and advice to assist the mentee in their professional development. Quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive impacts on both the mentor and mentee's personal and professional experiences. A mentoring relationship provides a mentee with access to meaningful practical experiences and assistance with identifying and navigating the various career options and paths that are available. Questioning mentees about their interests and skills helps them gain greater insight into their vision for their future, and a mentor can help guide the mentee in the best direction to fulfill their potential. For a mentor, the mentoring relationship can re-energize the mentor's career through a solid connection to the next generation of lawyers with a different perspective and perhaps a fresh approach. Mentors also have the opportunity to learn, or be reminded, of the difficulties and pitfalls that confront new lawyers. The relationship also allows the mentor to reflect on their own experiences and share beneficial insight into what was successful, or not so successful, at various points in their career, and can lead to great personal satisfaction from assisting new lawyers to navigate those challenges.

In addition to the benefits that mentoring provides mentors and mentees, strong mentoring relationships serve to strengthen the value of lawyers' membership in the Health Law Section. As mentoring relationships blossom, mentees will be exposed to members of the mentor's network, and vice versa, creating a strong bond between members of our Section. Section meetings then become places where relationships are enhanced rather



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than simply created. Open discussions between mentors and mentees result in mentees having greater confidence in their ability and willingness to provide valuable contributions to the Section. Vibrant mentoring relationships will also instill in the Section a culture that will result in today's mentees seamlessly transitioning into tomorrow's mentors.

In my previous article, I discussed the profound and lasting impact that my mentors had on my professional development and career. It is my hope that beginning lawyers in the Health Law Section will enjoy a positive mentoring experience similar to the one that I enjoyed. To increase that possibility, the Health Law Section has implemented a mentoring program within the Section. Our Section has and will continue to provide a "Call for Mentors." Seasoned health care attorneys are encouraged to sign up and share their time and experience with someone new to our practice area. If you are someone who is in the fledgling stages of your career, whether as a new lawyer or as a lawyer new to health care, please take advantage of this opportunity to connect with a colleague who can help facilitate your development.

I hope you will consider participating in this rewarding initiative. If you are interested in partaking but have not received additional details on how to become involved, or have anything else you would like to discuss, please feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Warmest regards,

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