

## Message from the Outgoing Chair



As my term as Chair of the Section comes to a close, I want to thank those who have contributed their time and talents to support Section activities. Committee chairs and their members have provided numerous CLE opportunities. Drafting, updating and improving forms for use in our practice is in the works. District representatives have organized both social and educational

events, as well as community service projects. The authors who have contributed to our *Journal* and Co-Editors William Johnson, Marvin Bagwell, Vincent Di Lorenzo and Matthew Leeds, deserve special praise for their contributions and hard work. My thanks to every committee chair, district representative and all of members of the Executive Committee for their service to our Section.

Special thanks to Section officers, past and present. I have appreciated their advice and support throughout my years as an officer. Last, but certainly not least, my gratitude to Amy Jasiewicz at the State Bar office. She has been a wealth of knowledge about the policies and procedures we must follow. Her assistance in coordinating the many Section activities is invaluable.

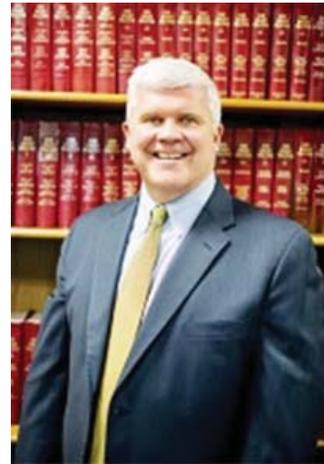
In January the Section's by-laws were amended to include two out-of-state members on the Executive Committee. In addition, in recent months a Sponsorship Committee has been added as a new standing committee.

Incoming Chair Tom Hall has long been an active member of our Section's Executive Committee, having served in a number of capacities over the years. We can look forward to a busy and productive year under his leadership. He will be supported by a strong team of officers, Jerry Antetomaso, Ira Goldenberg and Michelle Wildgrube, moving through the ranks, and Spencer Compton as Budget Officer.

Again, I encourage you to join us for the Summer Meeting on July 26-29, at Water's Edge Resort & Spa in Westbrook, Connecticut. You can expect a terrific CLE program, and you will meet some wonderful people. Your spouse, significant other and children are welcome to join us. The venue has something to offer everyone. I can assure you that all will make new friends and have a good time.

Trish Watkins

## Message from the Incoming Chair



I feel privileged and honored to serve as the Section Chair of the Real Property Law Section (RPLS). I follow a long line of prior Section Chairs, all of whom I greatly admire, have taught me much, are outstanding lawyers and are true professionals in every sense of the word. Our immediate past Chair, Trish Watkins, is no exception. Trish has worked tirelessly to guide our Section

with her wisdom, good nature and dedication. I want to personally thank Trish for everything she has done for the Section. Trish has left me with some big shoes to fill.

There is much discussion these days, not only in the New York State Bar Association, but in all bar associations and associations for other professions (medical, accounting, engineering, etc.) about declining membership. I have heard many theories about why this is so. However, rather than dwell on why lawyers don't join a bar association or a Section such as the RPLS, I thought I would focus on some of the reasons why the RPLS has over 4,200 members. I can tell you, from my own personal perspective, that when I started practicing law, I was advised by many experienced attorneys that I "should" or "must" join the Bar Association and become active. The underlying message seemed to be that joining the Bar Association was in part a privilege once someone became a lawyer and was in part an obligation to our profession. I believe this message has, for whatever reason, become lost. Looking back, the reasons why I have remained active and will continue to remain active with the RPLS, include the following:

### 1. Outstanding CLE

Year in and year out, the RPLS puts on fantastic CLE programs. Our recent CLE programs have covered numerous and varied topics in areas such as Brownfields Development, Title Agent Licensing, Not-for-Profit issues, Construction Rights of Adjacent Property Owners, Advanced Real Estate Topics, and Real Property Tax Assessment Litigation & Appeals, just to name a few. There is something for everyone.

### 2. The Summer Meeting

Our Summer Meeting is held at a "destination resort" every July. This year our summer meeting is at Water's Edge Resort & Spa located in Westbrook,

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