

Chair's Farewell Message



My farewell message is primarily one of gratitude. I have so many to thank for a truly rewarding chair year. Right at the top of the list are the people behind the scenes at our Bar office in Albany: Lisa Bataille, Kathy Plog, Kathy Heider and Adriana Favreau. The steady and capable work of these extraordinarily dedicated NYSBA women make it all happen. I

know that now, more than ever. On behalf of the entire Section, thank you Lisa, Kathy, Kathy and Adriana for a full year of successful activities.

I'm also fortunate to have had the full backing of my partners at Hancock Estabrook, LLC in Syracuse, a law firm that has supported community and bar leadership from its beginning in 1889.

The 2015 highlights include three terrific Section meetings. Our hats go off to Carl Baker (Spring meeting at Kiawah); to Mary King, Nate Berti and Rob Reynolds

(Fall meeting at the Turning Stone Resort); and to Susan Miller King and Lisa Newfield (Annual meeting, NYC) for their leadership in fulfilling perhaps our most important mission: to provide our members and all New York attorneys the very best in legal education opportunities, with a bit of fun mixed in, as always.

On the legislative front, with the leadership of Kate Madigan, Bob Freedman and Jill Choate Beier, we have advanced the debate on Digital Assets and Powers of Attorney, matters of critical importance to all New Yorkers. Under Meg Gaynor's watch, we will continue to advocate for the best legislative solutions possible on these matters and the long list of other legislative items.

So, it was my great pleasure on January 27, 2016, to pass the gavel, both figuratively and literally, to my good friend Meg Gaynor. As all who have served as Section officers can attest, one of the best fringe benefits of this job is making friends with great Trusts and Estates lawyers from across the State!

Marion Hancock Fish

A Message from the Incoming Chair

It is an honor to serve as the Chair of our Section. In looking forward to the balance of 2016, I expect that the Section's focus will continue to be on legislation that is important to the New York Trusts and Estates Community. Work on an amendment to the Power of Attorney will continue. Professors Bloom and LaPiana spent last summer working on changing and coordinating trust law in New York and seeing to what extent the Uniform Trust Code can be adapted to be effective in New York. This will continue. The Section is hopeful that the legislation regarding a trustee's power to adjust between principal and income will move forward in the Legislature. This legislation is important given a trustee's duty to invest for total return and the diminishing amounts of interest and dividends earned on investments.



The Spring Meeting will begin on May 5, 2016, at The Boulders, a beautiful resort located on the outskirts of Phoenix, Arizona. The rooms are individual casitas. Some of the Section members are planning to combine the trip with a visit to the South Rim of the Grand Can-

yon. The area is perfect for stargazing and it is expected to have a long distance telescope and an expert at one of the receptions to identify constellations and answer any questions. The hotel boasts a well-known spa, hiking trails, tennis courts and two challenging golf courses.

The CLE Program for that meeting is in process and was not finalized at the time of this writing. Jill Choate Beier and Carl Baker are Chairs of the program. The details will be included in the brochure for the meeting. Make sure to reserve your casitas quickly as the hotel is a small venue. You can find out more on the hotel's website, www.Boulders.com.

Taking care of one of the New York State Bar Association's largest Sections often becomes a full-time volunteer job. On behalf of my fellow officers and the 4,000 plus members of the Section, I thank Marion Hancock Fish for all her work leading our Section over the past 12 months. She was constantly on top of the many issues that arise in the course of the year, guiding our committees, directing our work, and speaking for us at various gatherings (Bankers meetings and Surrogate's Associations) in different parts of the Empire State. Job well done, Marion. I am certain she is looking forward (as are her partners) to getting back to client matters.

Magdalen Gaynor