

## Message from the Chair

In early November, I attended the NYSBA's House of Delegates and Sections Caucus meetings in Albany. Highlights included a stirring statement from our new President, Michael Miller. Michael referred to our turbulent times and the many serious concerns raised by the divisions and violent outbursts that are taking place in our country. We as lawyers, as a Bar Association, and as members of the General Practice Section, need to consider and discuss these matters and to work together to formulate appropriate responses to them.



**Paul T. Shoemaker**

Unfortunately, our time and attention have been diverted away from the major injustices in our world today. Among other things, our government and our society are not adequately addressing the high rates of incarceration, that have destroyed so many lives and communities, and the alienation and lack of appropriate social interaction which have resulted in so much anti-social, often violent and destructive, behavior. We need to focus on listening to and understanding each other and on working together to build a better society, a better country, and a better world.

Another highlight of the meetings was a report on the new Women in Law Section of the NYSBA. The Section is a welcome addition to the NYSBA, which is long overdue. I of course urge all of you to maintain your memberships in the General Practice Section and to encourage your colleagues and friends to join the General Practice Section with you. In addition, however, I do not hesitate to suggest that you also consider membership in the new Women in Law Section.

Domenick Napoletano, the Secretary of our Section, was in attendance in his capacity as the new Treasurer of

the NYSBA. We congratulate him on his important new role and thank him for his service to the NYSBA.

We are in the midst of planning for our Annual Meeting in January. It will take place at the New York Hilton Midtown on Tuesday, January 15, 2019. The presentations will include a discussion of the ethical obligation of a lawyer to learn the true facts. May a lawyer simply rely on his client's account? What if he thinks his client is lying? It should be an interesting discussion which will enable you to earn credits for ethics-related CLE. I look forward to seeing you there.

I also must thank Marty Minkowitz, Richard Klass and Matthew Bobrow for their dedicated service to our Section Publication, *One on One*. They have devoted countless hours to production of this high quality publication, which is a centerpiece of our Section. Please consider supporting their efforts by writing an article for publication in *One on One*.

There was extensive discussion at the Sections Caucus meeting concerning NYSBA publications. A concerted effort is being made to strengthen the publications and expand their scope and reach. Among other things, the NYSBA is undertaking to sell more advertising in the publications and is considering the extent to which the publications and CLE materials should be made available in hard copy or online or both. I commented that both formats should be available at all times—before, during and after CLE sessions. Our Chair-Elect, Elisa Rosenthal, also attended the Sections Caucus meeting and she commented on the need for careful, timely and complete notifications concerning upcoming CLE programs.

Increasing our membership is important both for the NYSBA overall and for our Section. The members of the Executive Committee of the General Practice Section have been reaching out to colleagues to encourage them to join the Section. I urge all of you to do likewise and to help us to continue to grow as a Section.

**Paul T. Shoemaker**

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

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