

Message from the Incoming Chair

As the members of our Section know, facts and evidence are the lifeblood of every trial attorney's work. The analysis of facts and evidence is our "daily grind." Sometimes the facts are difficult to deal with and not helpful to our client's case. Regardless of whether facts and evidence are favorable or unfavorable for our client's case, all trial attorneys toil over the evidence and the standards of admissibility to best advise our clients on trial or settlement strategy. Really, I cannot think of a better time—or a more challenging time—to be a trial attorney. Having the benefit of analyzing facts and the admissibility of evidence in our daily professional lives—we are lately confronted with "alternate facts," "fake news,"—and overall the impact of social media on our profession, the courts, and our clients, I believe that the recent public discourse on these topics has highlighted the role of the legal profession and our system of jurisprudence in American life. Participation in our professional organizations becomes even more important against this backdrop.

This year our Section will be sponsoring and co-sponsoring membership events throughout the state. In a profession such as ours, it is always important to break out of your bubble! It's so easy to go through a daily routine in your own office without understanding the value of meeting other members of the profession in person. In my experience, outside of the friends I made in law school, the longest and most enduring connections I have made in this profession came about from my participation in Bar Association committees and events. You never know when you might need a friend to give you a fresh outlook on an issue, or to help you explore a different opportunity in legal practice. I hope that new members of our profession will actively engage in our Section by coming to meetings in person whenever possible, and volunteering for work on a committee that interests them. I invite anyone who would like to explore opportunities for active participation in our Section to contact me if you would like more information about a committee, an event, or our Section in general.

With an objective of enhancing the advocacy skills of law students in our state, this past February, our Committee Chair Tom Valet once again managed the New York Regional Round of the National Trial

Competition at the U.S. District Courthouse for the Southern District on Pearl Street in New York City. Out of the 15 law schools in our state, 11 competed in this program, which was hosted this year by Fordham Law School. The two winning teams were St. John's University Law School and Brooklyn Law School. We extend our congratulations to all participants, to our winning law schools, and to the Overall Best Advocate, Christopher Clark from Syracuse University School of Law. This program is a cornerstone of our Section's commitment to enhancing the advocacy skills of law students in our state. Thank you especially to Tom Valet and Violet Samuels for your ongoing efforts and commitment of time making for another successful competition. We ask all Section members to consider volunteering their time to support the 2018 competition next year.



Noreen DeWire Grimmick

Save the dates!! This year our Summer Meeting will be held in beautiful Hotel Hershey in Hershey Pennsylvania from August 6, 2017 through August 9, 2017. As many of our Section members know, beautiful golf courses, wonderful family recreation, and great continuing CLE courses will be offered during our summer meeting. Hershey, Pennsylvania is a reasonable driving distance for a good number of our Section members, so we expect a good turnout for this program. More details about the program will be available on our website shortly.

It was wonderful meeting so many members of the Trial Lawyers Section at our January meeting in New York City this year. We welcomed several new members to our Executive Committee and we look forward to their active participation in the leadership of our Section in the coming years.

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Looking for past issues?

Trial Lawyers Digest



www.nysba.org/TrialLawyersDigest

