

Message from the Chair

It's striking to me that this is the last introduction to our *Newsletter* that I will write as Chair of the Section. I am proud of the accomplishments we have achieved and the plans we have set in place for future success, and humbled by the contributions so many others have made to the Section and its activities this year.



Robert N. Holtzman

Were you one of those who joined us this year? An organizer of or panelist on one of our dozens of CLE programs across the state? A member of one of our Committees? Did you attend our Annual Meeting in New York City or our Spring Meeting in Manchester, Vermont? Or one of the many events we are sponsoring across the state to bring members of the bar together with Commercial Division Justices? Perhaps you joined us for Smooth Moves 2019 or the annual awarding of the Shira A. Scheindlin Award for Excellence in the Courtroom?

The Section engages in and sponsors more outstanding programming in any given year than any one person could hope to attend. But if you did not make it to any events in the past year, I strongly encourage you to attend just one event in the coming months, and then attend a

second. You will have the opportunity to meet and work with lawyers and judges at the top of our profession in a community setting that many long-time bar aficionados will tell you has been one of the most satisfying aspects of their careers.

I want to express special gratitude to Mark Davies, Editor of our *Newsletter*, and Dan Wiig, Editor of *The Litigator*, who together have co-chaired our Publications Committee since its inception. Their tireless behind-the-scenes work ensures that these outstanding publications continue from year to year. This will be Dan's last year as editor of *The Litigator*, as he has been elected Vice-Chair of the Section for the coming year. We also are indebted to the dedicated members of the Publications Committee, who write many of the articles in this publication and edit those in *The Litigator*.

I also want to recognize the officers I have had the luck to serve with this year: Laurel Kretzing, Jonathan Fellows, Anne Sekel, and Natasha Shishov. To me, each of them represents precisely the combination of excellence, fellowship, and character that exemplifies our Section and its members. The Section is in good hands for the coming year.

And, finally, thank you to the Section for the honor of serving as an officer for the past three years and as chair this year. I look forward to celebrating the successes of the Section for many years to come.

Robert N. Holtzman

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