

# Message from the Incoming Section Chair

It is with a tremendous sense of pride and honor that I embark upon my new role as Real Property Law Section Chair of the New York State Bar Association. It has been a privilege to be actively involved for many years in a Section that is, by the number of its members, among the largest in the Bar. More significant than its size, however, is the fact that it is the most active. Our committee chairs and members are devoted to improving the proficiency of our profession by offering so many continuing legal education programs and other educational presentations. The number and variety of scholarly and practical articles, books and other communications published by the brightest minds in our profession is staggering. Our members teach, mentor and provide internships. They readily serve in pro-bono positions and devote their time and energy to helping others without the expectation of recognition or gain. They actively review and comment on existing and pending legislation, and offer guidance to public officials, judges and the media on the principles and precedents of real property law.

Our Section is very well represented at all levels of NYSBA's governance and our members help shape the policies of the entire State Bar.

Above all, our members lead by example with wisdom, humor, grace, dignity and a unique camaraderie

Every new year brings challenges and shared goals. Paramount is the growth our Section's membership. We value our longstanding existing members and look forward to welcoming new members and their active participation. Several significant legislative issues are pending that we must address decisively. We are firmly committed to the expansion of the internship program and dedicated to enhancement of diversity in our Section generally, and on our Executive Committee specifically.

My thanks go out to each Committee Chair, member at large and district representative for their devoted service to our Section. Therefore, I express on behalf of the entire State Bar a collective thank you for a job well done and a prayer that they remain encouraged to continue to serve for the good of the public and our profession



Our outgoing Chair, Steve Alden, deserves special recognition and thanks. I am astounded by his nearly immediate response to Section emails. It's not just the speed that is so impressive. The wisdom and thoughtfulness of his decisions and recommendations are uniquely noteworthy. He astutely identifies the core of the issue and lasers in on a solution instantaneously.

The work that that our Section has accomplished is exceptional, and it is due to the stellar work of the officers in charge. David Berkey, our First Vice-Chair, has planned a terrific Summer Meeting and is already planning the Annual Meeting for January. Second Vice-Chair, Leon Sawyko, has the most compelling soft-spoken style of reasoning that I have ever encountered. Finally, our incoming Secretary, Mindy Stern, brings broad knowledge and keen insight to the table. I have high expectations for the increased success of our Section due to their leadership.

With our collective expertise and dedication I look forward to the achievement of our goals and a productive tenure as Chair. I look forward to greeting you and spending time with each of you at our upcoming summer meeting.

**Benjamin Weinstock**

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