

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

MILES S. WINDER III

A Look at the Year Ahead



We have an ambitious and exciting year ahead at the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Leadership Academy

We have started our Leadership Academy.

This effort will shape new leaders for the NJSBA and for all the communities and constituencies of New Jersey and beyond. Our inaugural class of fellows from across the legal spectrum have begun studying the issues facing the legal profession today, and we look forward to recognizing their hard work when they graduate in the spring.

Blue Ribbon Commission on Unmet Legal Needs

The NJSBA's Blue Ribbon Commission on Unmet Legal Needs is making progress in studying ways to connect underemployed and unemployed lawyers with the growing number of residents who need legal representation but cannot afford traditional fees. It is interesting to note that a Google search of "unmet legal needs" yields a result that puts our commission at the top of the list, proving we are at the forefront of this critical issue. We look forward to examining and implementing the commission's recommendations.

Political Action Committee

We continue to examine the feasibility of creating a political action committee to provide a greater voice in the Legislature for New Jersey lawyers. The Board of Trustees expects to consider the pros and cons of this endeavor and issue a report this fall.

Fairness for All Professions Legislation

As the voice of the profession, the NJSBA is committed to pursuing legislative initiatives that provide fairness, equity

and equality to all professionals in New Jersey by enactment of a single statute of limitations for all professionals. The time has come when fairness demands that the Legislature act favorably on this legislation and that the voice of all professionals be heard in place of those special interests wishing to maintain the status quo.

Lawyers Feeding New Jersey

This fall, the NJSBA will reprise the inspirational Lawyers Feeding New Jersey project to raise funds to provide meals to the 1.2 million people in our great state who do not have enough to eat. We hope that through the generosity of the profession we can provide more than the 300,000 meals we funded last year.

Future of Legal Services

We will review the initiatives the American Bar Association proposes with regard to the future of legal services in this country. As it has been in the past, the NJSBA will be a vocal advocate for changes that make sense and oppose those that make no sense for lawyers in New Jersey.

Diversity and Inclusion

We will continue to support the diversity initiatives that make the NJSBA more inclusive and diverse. The Board of Trustees approved and published an updated Statement on Diversity and Inclusion last spring. The board has under its consideration an action plan and individual checklist. We will continue to make the NJSBA accessible to all.

Connection to Our Members

Our goal is to make real connections with our membership. To do that, the officers of the association are making an effort to attend every state bar night held in conjunction with the county bar associations. I intend to attend meetings of all the sections and committees of the NJSBA. It has been an education and a pleasure to get to know the members of the groups

with whom I have already had the benefit of meeting. To ensure you are making the most of your membership, I urge you to take advantage of our social media channels and look for video messages about what's happening.

Mid-Year Meeting in New Orleans

Our Mid-Year Meeting is scheduled from Nov. 4–8 in New Orleans. We will be staying in the heart of the city and will offer unique educational and networking opportunities. Look for the flyer in your email soon.

Open Invitation

I invite you to contact me and let me know what you are doing and what the NJSBA can do for you. Reach out to me anywhere—in the hallways of a courthouse, at the New Jersey Law Center, on the street, or write to me at president@njsba.com.

You can be proud of the NJSBA. We are “Your voice, your vision—the State Bar.” 🗣️