

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

NJSBA Spearheads Efforts to Improve Community and Profession



While we may be headed into the depths of winter, it is my honor to share with you important news about New Jersey State Bar Association initiatives that are heating up.

Lawyers Feeding New Jersey 2016

Though we may all be waking up to outside temperatures well below freezing, I have something to warm your hearts.

It's called Lawyers Feeding New Jersey 2016.

As lawyers we do a host of good things for the communities where we live and work—for the vast majority of those efforts, we do not receive payment. Yet, our profession still receives an enormous amount of criticism from the public.

Lawyers Feeding New Jersey 2016 is a swift, sweeping event that will do a great deal of good for the communities in which we live, as well as show the world we care and that we are doing something for which we get no recompense.

We are feeding the hungry of our great state.

Did you know that 1.1 million people in our state of 9 million are food insecure?

Of these, 1.1 million, 400,000 are our children.

That's enough children confronting food insecurity to nearly populate both Newark and Jersey City.

To make this event more impactful for all of us, we have established a competition where you can create or be on a

team—and winners of the competition will be honored at a ceremony this spring.

The event began on Jan. 4 and continues until Feb. 26.

Please donate today at njsba.com.

Diversity and Inclusion

As an association, we are making progress to become more diverse and inclusive.

Our Leadership Academy is progressing and we will hold graduation and introduce of a new class by the Annual Meeting and Convention in May.

Moreover, the Board of Trustees updated a statement supporting diversity and inclusion last year. That statement will guide this organization for years to come. More recently, the trustees approved a Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan for the association and a checklist our leaders can use to track and share the work they perform in their offices, communities and personal lives to promote diversity and inclusion.

Further, this month—on Feb. 10—the NJSBA will hold the annual Diversity Summit, which was originated by President Rick Steen, a half a decade ago.

The summit brings together our leaders and members with those of the state's diversity bar associations. The goal is to provide an opportunity for an open discussion of how the NJSBA and profession can become more diverse and inclusive and how we can help our members do the same.

Sign up today and attend. It will be worth your time.

As always, thanks for your continuing support and if you see me in a courthouse, at the New Jersey Law Center or on the street, please stop and introduce yourself and tell me what you are up to. ☺