

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Reflecting on a Successful Year



In the final analysis, it's been a good run. My year as bar president has presented challenges beyond my original expectations, but I think I've met those challenges and more.

With that said, I know I am leaving the post with an organization that is better, stronger, more open, and more diverse and inclusive than

when I started. And we have remained true to our core mission and advancing important issues, such as standing up for the critical importance of judicial independence.

It's been a whirlwind.

My term started in the summer, with an effort to make selecting your leadership a more open, transparent and Internet spam-reducing process. I am grateful to our members for approving the changes to our bylaws to make this a reality.

Then we went to New Orleans for our Mid Year Meeting. I will always remember that it was a great success, with a 'second line' of lawyers and friends parading down Bourbon Street.

In the meanwhile, we started the inaugural class of the NJSBA's Leadership Academ. The academy strives to make the

association both more diverse and more inclusive.

Then on to Lawyers Feeding New Jersey-2016. We decided to move the competition out of the hectic holiday season to the first part of the New Year, when food banks usually have their lowest inventory. And we managed to provide over 100,000 meals to New Jerseyans.

This spring, we kicked off the campaign for the first complete overhaul and simplification of the association's bylaws in 30 years. Our goal, as always, is to create a document that is easy and meaningful for our members to read and use.

Now, in the waning days of my presidency, I am proud to be continuing our role in protecting judicial independence from political forces that would impose their will on our treasured New Jersey Judiciary.

All-in-all, it's been a good year for this country lawyer from Somerset County.

The best is yet to come under the leadership of Thomas H. Prol, your incoming president, and Domenick Carmagnola, who will join the Executive Committee as secretary, as well as new trustees joining the Board of Trustees.

I could not have done this without the help, advice, criticism and resources of the members of our great association. I treasure the advice and wit of my Executive Committee and the staff of the association. Thank you all; thank you very much. ☺