

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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Law Center Reopening Symbolic of Crafting the Best Path Forward



My fellow attorneys—I am excited to share with you that, at long last, we will once again be throwing open the doors of the New Jersey Law Center to the legal community.

I will not say welcome back, as doing so suggests nothing has been happening. Indeed, nothing could be further from the truth. Throughout these last 16 months, the New Jersey State Bar Association has taken an all-hands-on-deck approach to getting attorneys and the entire

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profession the information, resources, assistance, and community they have needed. Today, we remain ever-committed to helping the New Jersey legal community successfully transition from the pandemic-induced shutdown and advance the lessons we learned.

Just a few days ago, the Association took part in a listening session about the future of court operations with leading officials in the Administrative Office of the Court. We shared the insights and experiences of our members to help craft the best path ahead. We are thinking critically about what adjustments in the practice of law should be memorialized, where additional potential changes can be made to ensure the entire legal system is in step with advancements in technology and society, and where it is absolutely necessary to return to in-person proceedings to advance the cause of justice for all who come in contact with the system and how that should be done.

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As we prepare for the next chapter, fully cognizant that things may once again require us to change course, I am optimistic about the days ahead. And I am looking forward to the opportunities we will have to reconnect at the Law Center—our home, and the heart of the state's legal community. On July 16, our Board of Trustees met in person at the Law Center, and the difference from our virtual meetings was palpable in the vibrancy of the discussion, the exchange of ideas and the energy we shared throughout the room.

On Aug. 5, we are holding a job fair. It's our first significant in-person event since the shutdown almost a year and a half ago. It will include New Jersey law firms, attorney employers, and job candidates from a variety of practice areas and experience levels. We are thrilled to contribute to the return of New Jersey's professional legal events with this dynamic offering. Once again, we will gather in person and continue to rebuild from the public health crisis that challenged so many of us in our personal and professional lives.

We will soon announce a full schedule of events, meetings and seminars at the Law Center. These are opportunities to make important and worthwhile business and social connections and to gain access to and the ability to learn from the best legal minds in the state. We are also investing in technology upgrades that will make hybrid meetings more interactive as we are adapting the way we work to serve the needs of our members in every corner of the state. And we are developing the policies and procedures to keep our visitors well informed and safe.

The Association is here for each of you. It is our core mission to help you fulfill your professional and personal goals and serve as a unifying force in the legal community. So rather than say welcome back, I cannot wait to see you so I can say welcome. Until then, stay well and safe. ☺