

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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Tackling Life's Transitions— NJSBA Efforts Impact Attorneys and Those We Serve



WHEN I WAS INSTALLED AS NJSBA PRESIDENT, I SPOKE ABOUT A NEW COMMITTEE formed to assist members in their life's transitions and an ambitious plan to match the unmet legal needs of a substantial segment of society with the talents of the unemployed and underemployed attorneys in our state. That laid the

groundwork for a theme of my term—helping others.

We saw this theme played out with our recent Lawyers Feeding New Jersey effort. To alleviate the growing hunger problem in our state and highlight the amazing things lawyers do each and every day, we created a virtual competition. In a heartwarming wave of enthusiasm our members reached down deep and contributed more than 300,000 meals to the less fortunate, an impressive achievement.

This same passion has been exhibited by the legal giants we asked to tackle the complex problem facing unemployed law school graduates and the many low- and moderate-income residents in this state who need legal assistance but cannot afford the typical rate of established lawyers.

We established a blue ribbon commission of highly respected jurists, phenomenally talented lawyers, recognized advocates and legal scholars from across the state to address this problem. As a testament to the importance of the issue and an eagerness to effectuate change, former Supreme Court Justices Virginia A. Long and Helen E. Hoens have volunteered their precious time and guidance to lead this commission. While the group is just beginning its important work, the desire to solve this problem is palpable and contagious.

Equally amazing is the reaction to our Lawyers in Transition Committee. This recently minted committee has focused

on addressing the twists and turns facing all lawyers in transition, ranging from those just entering the practice to those retiring from the profession.

The response has been overwhelming from colleagues who are in the midst of dealing with the many transitions that crop up in life and impact professional goals. Through the talented leadership of our co-chairs, NJSBA Trustee Kimberly A. Yonta and Sandra Kroll, we are providing much-needed help to our brothers and sisters.

This guidance has taken the form of successful seminars and networking events that have been planned throughout the year; the practical tips they can gather from the e-publication on the topic that we offered to all members this summer; the valuable information available in this edition of *New Jersey Lawyer Magazine*; and the tangible guidance they can glean at the upcoming day-long Lawyers in Transition Conference.

All these efforts and many more underscore the undeniable fact that lawyers are amazing people. As a bar association we have capitalized on that quality and created an organization that is the envy of the nation. In exchange for a nominal fee, we open doors for you and your practice that make us as much a needed resource as your computer.

As we head into another busy year, I ask you to keep us in mind.

If you are a member, take advantage of the many opportunities to make you a more successful attorney. If you are not a member and you want to be the best you can be, join us now. And no matter whether you choose to belong to the pre-eminent legal association in the state or not, mark your calendars for May 14 through 16, and come to Atlantic City for our Annual Meeting and Convention, where you can see for yourself what thousands of your friends and colleagues are raving about. ♪