



## The American College of Legal Medicine

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### **PRESIDENT'S LETTER    April 23, 2021**

On behalf of your leadership team, I would like to update you about some important developments within the College.

**Legal Medicine Perspectives.** One of our first objectives this year is to get ACLM's publication, Legal Medicine Perspectives (LMP), up and running again. For those who are newer to the College, LMP has been part of a long tradition of the College; it has provided a forum for sharing insights and information about cutting edge developments in legal medicine, ranging from analyses and commentaries on interesting cases to perspective pieces on important public health issues.

ACLM Fellow Dr. Liz Valencia has agreed to oversee the editorial board for LMP with assistance from ACLM members Dr. Sarah Diekman and Dr. June Zhao. Our plan is to start slowly and hopefully, beginning in June, to publish an issue each month containing one to two pieces on the College's website. We are shooting to include one article written by an established physician, dentist, attorney, academician, or public health practitioner, and additionally, one student-authored piece. Thanks so much to Liz, Sarah, and June for their willingness to take on this important project!

So, importantly, what can you do to help make this effort a success? First, if you have written (or would like to write) an article that you would like to publish, please contact the editorial board. They would be happy to work with you and provide feedback and guidance. Second, if you teach students in law school, medical school, or another graduate program in health law or public health, please encourage your students to think about submitting an article for consideration. (To make the process less daunting and to help students understand what they are aiming for, Liz and her team are planning to prepare an instructional video that will provide guidance to prospective student authors about topic selection, writing, and organization.) Third, if you have interest in serving as a reviewer or editor, please let the editorial board know. We have established a dedicated email address for correspondence with the editorial board at [LMP@ACLM.org](mailto:LMP@ACLM.org). We are hopeful that with everyone's support, the

College can revitalize this important publication.

**“A Day with the Judges” on October 22.** Along with the American Board of Legal Medicine, ACLM will co-sponsor “A Day with the Judges” on October 22, 2021. This meeting will be Co-Chaired by The Honorable Justice Noma Gurich of the Oklahoma Supreme Court and ACLM Past President Dr. Sandy Sandbar. This event, which will serve as ACLM’s Mid-year Meeting, will be a “hybrid” conference, meaning that attendees can choose to attend live in Oklahoma City or to participate remotely. The program details are still being worked out by the Planning Committee. Additional information about the program and logistics will be shared in the coming months.

**Webinar Series.** As mentioned last month, ACLM will be offering a series of webinars over the next several months on topics of interest to our members and, importantly, to prospective members.

Our first webinar is entitled **“Non-Compete Provisions in the Medical Profession: Trends, Limitations, and How to Protect Your Interests”** and will be held on April 29 at 1:00 pm eastern/ 12:00 pm Central/10:00 am Pacific. The speakers will include ACLM Board member Robert Harrison and Anne Hovis, a counsel in my firm. This webinar is complimentary for attendees and will offer 1.5 hours of Category I CME credit.

Save the date. Our second webinar will be on Tuesday, May 25 at 1:00 pm eastern/12:00 pm Central/10:00 am Pacific. It is entitled **“Runaway Patients – Leaving Against Medical Advice; Tiptoeing Around the Medico-Legal Minefield”** and features ACLM Fellow Dr. Jeffrey Segal as the speaker. More details will be shared in a couple of weeks.

What can you do to help? In addition to showing your support by attending, these webinars are a great way to introduce non-members to the College. We are trying to put together high-quality programs on subjects that have broad appeals for physicians, dentists, health care providers, and attorneys engaged in health law. These first two webinars are complimentary, so are a great way to invite non-members check out the College. Non-members can register free of charge at for the April 29 webinar at [American College of Legal Medicine - Events \(theaclm.org\)](https://www.theaclm.org). Also, if you have suggestions about future topics that would be of interest, if you would like to be a speaker or propose a webinar, or if you would like to help on the Webinar Planning Committee, please let us know at [Info@ACLM.org](mailto:Info@ACLM.org).

We will share more details on future webinars as they become available.

**New Members.** The Membership Committee is off to a great start on the heels of an outstanding annual meeting in February. So far this year, the College has had six new applications for Fellowship and six new applications for membership in addition to applications for student membership. If we can keep this momentum, we can have the best year for new membership in a decade. What can you do to help? If you have prospective members who you believe would be a good fit for the College, let us know. Someone on the

Membership Committee would be happy to reach out to them and tell them more about the College.

**2022 Annual Meeting.** Given the tremendous amount of effort involved in planning an annual meeting, the Executive Committee appointed Dr. Eli Avila to be Co-Chair for the 2022 Annual Meeting in San Diego along with Dr. Bob Bitonte, who up to this point, has had the laboring oar as Program Chair. Dr. Bitonte and Dr. Avila will be working to put together an outstanding program, and at this point, we are hopeful that this will be an in-person meeting, but we will continue to monitor the pandemic and make necessary adjustments as events unfold.

### **Journal of Legal Medicine.**

The College's three-year contract with Georgia State University (GSU) to oversee the editing and publication of the Journal of Legal Medicine (JLM) will expire on June 30, 2021. We are actively engaged in talks with Dean Camille Davidson at Southern Illinois University (SIU), which, prior to GSU, had been a long-time academic partner of ACLM with respect to JLM. Dean Davidson has been trying to expand the health law program at SIU and is excited about the prospect of bringing JLM back to SIU. The challenge at the moment – which would be true at any law school -- is finding the right faculty member to take the helm. We have also reached out to other law schools to gauge their interest in the event things do not work out with SIU.

### **Committee Update.**

Although we are still working on the Chairs for a couple of Committees, the following individuals have been nominated, approved by the Executive Committee, and have agreed to accept their assignments for 2021-2022:

Website Committee – Chair: Dr. Michael Vinluan

Marketing and Public Relations Committee – Chair: Dr. Laura Winter

Publications Committee – Chair: Dr. Michael Brooks

Nominating Committee – Chair: Dr. Monique Anawis

Student Awards Committee – Chair: Dr. Sarah Diekman

Honorary Fellowship and Gold Medal Committee – Chair – Dr. Bruce Seidberg

Education Fund Committee – Chair—Dr. Robert Buckman

Membership and Credentials Committee – Co-chairs Dr. Santos Ruiz-Cordero and Dr. Jennifer Sullivan

Education and Professional Development Committee – Chair: Dr. Tony Quang

Young Professionals Committee – Chair – Dr. Becky Bye

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee – Chair: Dr. Frank Woodside

Finance Committee – Chair: Dr. Eli Avila

All of us on the Board strongly encourage each member of the College to get involved and to help make the College the best that it can be. Service on a Committee is a great way to get plugged in and to network with other members. If you would like to speak with one of the members of the Board to discuss your interests and to see how you can get involved, just let us know at [Info@ACLM.org](mailto:Info@ACLM.org).

Hope that you and your family are staying safe and healthy.

Joe Piorkowski

President, American College of Legal Medicine