

Message from the Section Chair

By Hermes Fernandez

I'd like to avoid a well-worn opening to this message, but I just can't.

This is my first message as Chair of the Health Law Section. I am honored that you, my peers, colleagues and friends have entrusted me with the leadership of our vibrant Section. I am following many well-respected health lawyers, from our Section's first Chair, Barry Gold, to our most recent, Bob Hussar. Thank you to all who have preceded me and brought our Section to the status it enjoys today.



Our Section has long been known for the quality of this *Journal* and our continuing legal education programs. As we are learning, bar associations must do more than simply provide opportunities for their members to attend lectures and read journals, as important as those are. We intend to do more. During the upcoming year, working with the Section's officers and Executive Committee, we plan on expanding the opportunities for our Section members to meet one another, to talk to one another, and to build links with one another. We are health lawyers. We have much in common. Let's get to know one another. We will learn from each other, and, no doubt, enjoy one another.

Some of you may know that during January's NYSBA Annual Meeting, the Section's officers got together for

dinner. The dinner was a success. But the dinner was just a dry run. We are hoping to expand the dinner, making the dinner available to members and friends of the Section, and turning the dinner into an annual event. The dinner will be the Tuesday evening immediately preceding the Section's annual meeting during the NYSBA Annual Meeting. Watch for more details as they become available.

I urge you to become an active member of the Section. In my years in the Bar Association, and as a Charter member of the Health Law Section, I have learned that the value of membership in the Section and the Bar is in direct proportion to a member's involvement. The more active you are, the more valuable your membership will be. So, do it for yourself. Join a committee. Join two. Participate in a CLE. Recruit a member. Mentor a member. Find a mentor for yourself. Look for speaking and writing opportunities. This *Journal* accepts articles. The Section's committees, and the process for submission and acceptance of articles, are listed at the back of the *Journal*. If there is an issue that you believe the Section should address, be it public or Bar-related, let us know. We welcome your ideas. I welcome your ideas. You can call me. You can send me an email. The only bad ideas are unstated ideas.

I cannot close without congratulating Hank Greenberg on his ascension to the presidency of the New York State Bar Association. Hank, a former General Counsel of the State Health Department, is a longtime member of our Section. I believe that Hank is the first member of the Section to become NYSBA President. Congratulations, Hank!

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NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

If you have written an article you would like considered for publication, or have an idea for one, contact
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Articles should be submitted in electronic format (pdfs are NOT acceptable), along with biographical information.

REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

