

# Message from the Chair

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Chairperson for the past year. We have worked together to continue to build the General Practice Section in terms of membership, programs and activities.

The Continuing Legal Education presentation at our Annual Meeting on January 15 was stimulating and well-received. We started out with a CPLR update by Professor Burton Lipshie, followed by an intriguing panel discussion concerning the ethical obligations of a lawyer to learn the true facts. The session was topped off by "Hot Tips from the Experts," which provided the usual rapid-fire presentation of important and interesting information in a number of fields.

I was most pleased that my article, "The Time Has Come to End Mass Incarceration," appeared in the *New York Law Journal's* Annual Meeting edition. I continue to believe that this is one of the most serious issues facing our country today. The levels of incarceration throughout our country are far above those in other countries and clearly are unacceptable. Fortunately, a movement is building to roll back mass incarceration and bring more fairness and justice to our legal system.

Our Annual Meeting included the presentation of the General Practice Section Award to our past Chair and quintessential Court Street lawyer, Richard A. Klass. I was pleased to honor Richard for his service as a past Chair, a diligent co-editor of this publication, and the moving force behind many of our programs and activities.

Among the activities with which Richard is involved is a spring event that is in the planning stages. Under the leadership of Richard and Elisa Rosenthal, our incoming Chair, we will host an informal event that will include beer tasting and an opportunity to network and learn. We will notify you of details as soon as they are available.

Sadly, I must report that our staff liaison, Stephanie Bugos, is moving on to bigger and better things. She has accepted a position as a data analyst with the NYSBA in connection with the NYSBA's implementation of a new Association Management System and website. We wish her all the best, but at the same time we regret that she will be leaving us. We will miss her pleasant personality and her diligent and wonderful support for the General Practice Section.

The Section has sponsored the production of an Attorney Wellness video narrated by Robert Herbst. Herbst is a lawyer and a champion powerlifter. He describes how weightlifting has helped him cope with the stresses of life as a lawyer and he provides helpful advice on how to use exercise and diet to improve your life. Details on how to access the video will be available soon.

The Section has added a new District Representative for the Ninth Judicial District. He is Alexander Fear of New Rochelle. In addition, we have a new Co-Chair for the Second Department. He is Richard St. Paul of White Plains. We welcome them both to their new positions and look forward to working with them to continue moving the General Practice Section forward.



**Paul T. Shoemaker**

I want to close by thanking all of you for your participation and support over the past year and urging all of you to continue your involvement with, and to seek to engage others in, the General Practice Section.

**Paul T. Shoemaker**

NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
**GENERAL PRACTICE SECTION**

Visit us online at [www.nysba.org/generalpractice](http://www.nysba.org/generalpractice)

The banner features a black and white photograph of a person sitting at a desk with a laptop, a smartphone, a notebook, and a coffee cup. The NYSBA logo is in the bottom right corner.