

# Message from the Chair

## Vision of the Future

I took over as Chair from Carole Burns on June 1, 2017 and now I'm at the end of my two-year term. We have done some exciting new things, and the Section will continue to be active under the leadership of our new Chair, Anthony Enea of White Plains. Much of the activity surrounded getting senior lawyers together to talk to each other about their transitions. We developed the concept of *Meeting of the Minds* as a series of regional "Gatherings" created by the SLS in partnership with other bar associations around the state. The goal was to connect senior lawyers looking to transition from full-time practice and whether there could be a connection with younger attorneys seeking personal growth in the profession. These gatherings are designed to bring lawyers together with a diverse group of speakers, coaches, medical professionals, and experienced attorneys to share their success in handling life transitions. The first Gathering was held in the fall with the Monroe County Bar Association. It got great reviews from attendees. Senior attorneys commented this was their first time to talk with contemporaries about transitioning.



The next Gathering was held during the 2019 Annual Meeting in New York City in January. A larger group spent the morning together, and it included a round table discussion about the importance of the Gatherings being co-sponsored with local bar associations, NYSBA's Young Lawyers Section and the General Practice Section. We reached out to the courts, the law school community, and health care providers who share our concerns about the aging legal workforce and the future of the profession. We want to continue these Gatherings around the state with local bars. If you're interested in hosting one, let me know.

We continue to work with our consultant Steve Gallagher in planning new initiatives. You will find Steve's contributions on the Section's On-line Discussion Board, and you should keep an eye out for his writings in *The Senior Lawyer* and *NYSBA Journal*.

We will continue our work with other Sections to conduct joint programming to promote Meeting of the Minds, to reduce a siloed approach to lawyer well-being. Steve will continue to work with program coordinating committees to find topics and speakers, and to explore new ways of promoting these programs. We will continue to find ways to connect senior lawyers with younger lawyers interested in growing their own business.

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As we continue to hold Gatherings throughout the state, we will continue producing 10-minute Micro-Learning videos for the new website. We are planning on making several short videos based on the *New York State Bar Association Planning Ahead Guide*.

Be sure to read Stephen Gallagher and Leonard Sienko's provocative article on Elder Orphans in this edition of *The Senior Lawyer*.

We are working to establish a series of webinars called *Lawyer Well-Being* that will start in October 2019. This series will be open to all lawyers for the purpose of promoting lawyer well-being and resilience in the legal community, improve lives, nurture competence, and elevate the standing of the legal profession. We believe our members have the expertise to help other lawyers work their way through life's transitions. We also feel that we can attract a broad range of outside speakers in related areas to offer monthly webinars throughout the year.

These Zoom Video Webinars will be offered for free on a once-a-month basis on the second Tuesday of each month from noon to 12:30 p.m. No CLE credit will be offered, but all sessions will be recorded, and these on-demand webinars will be archived to begin building a library for *Lawyer Well-Being* materials. Other sections and committees have valuable content that can be brought into this central *Lawyer Well-Being* community.

Some of the early topics for our webinars suggested by our members include:

1. Social Security issues
2. Senior life planning beyond the financial plan
3. Medicaid issues
4. Planning for long-term care expenses
5. Valuation of a professional practice
6. Planning for unforeseen contingencies – death, illness or infirmity
7. Insurance coverage issues
8. End-of-life choices New York
9. Financial Strategies and Debt Management

My thanks to past Chair Carole Burns for all of the advice she has given to me. I wish Anthony Enea a great term and I will be ready to assist him in any way I can.

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