

Message from the Chair

As is the tradition of our Section, I took over as Chair of the Section after the events concluded at the New York State Bar Association Annual Meeting in New York City in January.

Please allow me the courtesy of offering the Section's gratitude to immediate Past Chair Tim Fennell. For many years, Tim has been active in our Section and the Executive Committee for our Section. So, he was a natural to serve this past year as Chair. His institutional knowledge of the Section's history was invaluable. His year as Chair included a terrific trip to the Powerscourt Resort in Enniskerry, Ireland in late July. The program included fantastic CLE including several panels moderated by Professor Patrick Connors of Albany Law. The seminar guests, including NYSBA's then-President, Michael Miller, and his wife, Cindy, enjoyed our trip to Dublin, which included an authentic Dublin pub tour, a tour of Trinity College, and a meeting with Ireland's Chief Justice, Frank Clarke, at the Four Courts. After our meeting with Chief Judge Clarke, we adjourned to "The Sheds Bar" at the Distillery Building for a reception with Irish barristers and solicitors. It was a great meeting for our Section!

In April, our Section sponsored the New York State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section Trial Academy at Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York. This program has been successfully run for many years. The Section's sponsorship allows one Section member to attend as a "scholarship winner." This year, an attorney from the Capital District (Albany) attended as TICL's scholarship award winner. Hopefully, an article will follow about his experiences in a future issue of the *TICL Journal*.

In early May, the New York State Bar Association's Executive Staff and Officers, including President Hank Greenberg, hosted the Section Leadership Conference at the State Bar Center. On behalf of the Section, I attended with Section Secretary Mike O'Brien and Section Past Chair Tom Maroney. It was exciting to hear of the future changes coming to the NYSBA. Takeaways from the meeting included how other Sections are more effectively using social media platforms to promote their Section activities, and membership efforts to identify and recruit active NYSBA members whose practice areas align with our Section, but who are not yet Section members.

More recently, I attended the NYSBA Commercial and Federal Litigation Section's "Smooth Moves" Diversity Program at Lincoln Center. Our Section was one of eight sponsoring Sections from the NYSBA. The program included a 90-minute CLE entitled "The Color of Neutrality: Increasing Diversity in Alternative Dispute Resolu-

tion." Following the CLE program, the Honorable George Bundy Smith Award was presented to Honorable Preet Bharara and Honorable Joon Kim, former U.S. Attorneys of the Southern District of New York.

Speaking of CLE, many thanks to Lisa Smith for co-chairing our full-day CLE held in conjunction with the Trial Lawyers Section at the January Annual Meeting of the NYSBA. Also, many thanks to TICL Executive Committee members Joanna Roberto and Elizabeth Fitzpatrick for continuing to co-chair TICL's CLE efforts. Many programs are being offered in the summer and fall.

Thanks are also in order to *TICL Journal* Editor David Glazer, for his many years of service to the Section. I hope you enjoy this issue. The subject matter of the articles includes: indemnification in labor law construction cases; a review of the law relating to school traffic cameras; cyber-crime; litigation from playground accidents, and workers' compensation. Great work by the authors.



James P. O'Connor

James P. O'Connor