

Message from the Chair

By Robert M. Harper

With my term as Chair of our Section nearly complete (at least as I write this message), I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the officers who will guide our Section in 2020, and to thank several of the many Section members, among others, who contributed to making the past several months as rewarding as they were.



Robert M. Harper

First, I would like to congratulate Jill Choate Beier of Beier & Associates, PLLC for her selection as the incoming Chair of our Section. Having had the pleasure to work with Jill on Section matters for several years now (most especially during the past year), I have observed how she approaches each and every task with which she is charged in a thoughtful manner, and I know that she will be an excellent Chair. Congratulations and best of luck, Jill!

Second, I would like to congratulate Jennifer Hillman of Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C., Laurence Keiser of Stern Keiser & Panken, LLP, and Michael Schwartz of Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, LLP for their election as the Section's Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer, respectively. During my tenure as Chair, Jen, Larry, and Michael have provided invaluable assistance to me, and I am confident that they will continue to do so for Jill and the Section in 2020 and beyond.

Third, I would like to thank Patricia Shevy and Paul Duffy for their excellent work as program chairs of our Section's Annual Meeting (entitled "Trusts and Estates in the 21st Century"). Tricia and Paul organized a program concerning cutting-edge topics, including the administration of digital assets, cryptocurrency, litigation and electronic evidence, and digital security for attorneys. They also arranged for an impressive group of speakers—consisting of Jill Choate Beier, Sean Weissbart, Sarah (Katie) Lynagh, Sarah Brennan, Angelo Grasso, William Keniry, Justin Hearing, and Suzanne Brown Walsh—to present at the Annual Meeting. Thank you to Tricia, Paul, and the speakers for the hard work that they devoted to the Annual Meeting.

Fourth, I would be remiss if I did not thank our Section's staff liaison, Lisa Bataille, for her guidance and support in 2019. Over the past year (and for many years before that), Lisa has been an invaluable resource for me, and for the Section and its members more broadly. Thank you for all that you do, Lisa!

Fifth, I must express my sincere appreciation for my colleagues at Farrell Fritz, P.C. I am fortunate to work with an excellent group of trusts and estates attorneys, and appreciate the many ways in which they assisted me in 2019 (and well before that).

Thank you for your participation in our Section in 2019. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Section Chair for the past year.

Like what you're reading?

To regularly receive issues of the *Trusts and Estates Law Section Newsletter*, [join the Trusts and Estates Law Section of the New York State Bar Association](#) (attorneys and law students only).