

# ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS TRIAL LAWYERS

# abtl

# REPORT

LOS ANGELES

SUMMER 2021

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Susan Leader*

I am happy to report that after a 17-month Covid hiatus from all in-person gatherings, we were able to enjoy our first in-person program on July 14 at The Yard at the Omni hotel. It was not our traditional dinner format, but thanks to the careful planning of Executive Director Linda Sampson and dinner chair Robert Wallin, we were able to combine a COVID-friendly social hour with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and a short program by Jeff Kessler on college athletics in the Supreme Court. This was our first but hopefully not last in-person gathering this year: We plan to host our members-only judicial reception on September 22 outside at the Omni hotel downtown and to present a more traditional dinner program in November.

As noted in my last report, we are fortunate to boast an increasingly diverse and growing membership, and I would like to welcome all of our new members and new firms, including Perkins Coie, Elkins Kalt, and King & Spalding.

Our collaboration with the bench is ongoing. I'm excited to announce that we are sponsoring a new diversity inclusion working initiative spearheaded by Los Angeles Superior Court Judges Eric Taylor and Ruth Kwan. The goal is to promote the development of oral advocacy and courtroom experience for underrepresented members of the bar who face barriers because of their race, sex, gender or sexual identity, disability, religion or any other reason. Our members will serve as faculty in an ongoing series of lectures, mini seminars and taped trainings that will be available for free on the court's website. Please reach out to me or Linda Sampson ([abtl@abtl.org](mailto:abtl@abtl.org)) if you are interested in participating.

Finally, planning for the ABTL seminar in Hawaii this October is well under way. We are thrilled to have Justice Anthony Kennedy joining us this year as our keynote speaker. The hotel is sold out, but registration remains open for those who are interested.

Again, it was great seeing many of you last month and I look forward to connecting again at our upcoming events. In the meantime, stay safe and well, and thank you again for your support in these unprecedented times.

*Susan Leader*

*ABTL President, 2021*