

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Michael Mallow*

As we reflect on our accomplishments since our last Report publication this Spring, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the remarkable achievements and milestones we have reached together. The year 2024 has been a testament to our collective dedication to advancing the practice of law and fostering a vibrant legal community.

One of the highlights of the latter part of the year was our 50th Annual Meeting in Napa. This statewide milestone event was not only a celebration of our rich history but also a forward-looking gathering that brought together some of the brightest minds in our field. The discussions, networking opportunities, and camaraderie experienced in Napa, along with stellar wine tastings, will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on all who attended.

Our Los Angeles ABTL programs this year have been both diverse and enriching. We closed our Spring season with the Dinner Program: Tales from the Trial Table – Successful Storytelling, Voir Dire, and the Power of Pithy Themes. This program provided invaluable insights into the art of storytelling in the courtroom, emphasizing the importance of concise and compelling narratives.

The Annual Members-Only Judicial Reception was another standout event, offering our members a unique opportunity to engage with the judiciary in an informal setting. This reception continues to be a cornerstone of our efforts to build stronger relationships between the bench and the bar.

In our Dinner Program: Behind the Gavel – Meeting the Federal Judiciary, we had the privilege of hearing directly from the newer federal judges about their experiences and perspectives. This program fostered a deeper understanding of the judiciary's role

and the challenges they face, enhancing our appreciation for their work.

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD) MCLE Event: Mediation—Preparation, Advocacy and Outcome was particularly impactful for our younger members. This event focused on the critical skills needed for effective mediation, from preparation to advocacy and achieving favorable outcomes. It was a fantastic opportunity for our young lawyers to learn from seasoned practitioners and enhance their professional development.

We concluded our program series with the Dinner Program: The Role of Strategic Communication in High-Profile Litigation. This event underscored the significance of strategic communication in managing high-profile cases, providing practical advice on navigating the complexities of media relations and public perception.

I am also thrilled to announce our new alliance with Team Prime Time. This strategic partnership aims to promote and sponsor the Team Prime Time Trials, an innovative program designed to empower at-risk youth through positive exposure to our legal system. The Prime Time Trials program provides students with the opportunity to participate in mock trials, developing their critical thinking, public speaking, and teamwork skills. By supporting this initiative, we are not only giving back to the community but also inspiring the next generation of potential lawyers and diversifying our legal pipeline. A special thanks to the Honorable Andre Birotte for presiding over the mock trial and to our inaugural firm sponsors, Gibson Dunn, Hogan Lovells, Shook, Hardy & Bacon and Weinberg Gonser. It is with great hope that this list of sponsor firms will grow exponentially in the future.

As I move through the waning days of my presidency, it is with great pride that I pass the gavel to incoming President Kahn Scolnick and officers Amy Lucas, Alice Chen Smith and Stephanie Yonekura. This extraordinary team, who I met through ABTL and now consider dear friends, will no doubt accomplish even more this coming year than we did in 2024. I am confident that the Los Angeles ABTL will continue to thrive and make meaningful contributions to our Los Angeles and California legal community. I hope that all of you take full advantage of everything our wonderful organization has to offer.

Thank you for your support, commitment to our organization and for giving me the honor of being your ABTL President.

***Michael Mallow***

*Partner, Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P.*

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