ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS TRIAL LAWYERS

abtl REPORT

LOS ANGELES

SUMMER 2025

2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kahn Scolnick

I'm thrilled to deliver the President's Message for this edition of the ABTL Report. I started attending ABTL events nearly two decades ago as a junior associate, and I was blown away by the collegiality and the high-quality programming. Those two core features of the ABTL have kept me coming back ever since! Our organization—and the Los Angeles Chapter in particular, with its roughly 2,500 members—is thriving. We have consistent, outstanding turnout and engagement at our dinner programs, lunch programs, judicial reception, YLD events, and annual seminar. That's due, in large part, to our shared belief and commitment to the professional, ethical, and civil practice of law.

Of course, the past few months have brought challenges that none of us could have anticipated. Dozens of our members lost their homes in the Altadena and Palisades fires, and many more of us have been affected in a variety of other ways. It's been inspiring to see our legal (and broader) community rise to the challenge to help those affected—opening up our homes and wallets, doing pro bono work, checking in on our neighbors, etc. And our profession is also facing other, more existential threats. The independence of the judiciary and the ability to represent clients without fear of reprisal are two pillars of our democracy. Paraphrasing from Chief Justice Guerrero's recent remarks in her "State of the Judiciary" address: We must ensure that all members of the public have equal access to the legal system, we must safeguard individual rights, and we must promote the fair and timely administration of justice. I am confident that ABTL will continue to uphold those fundamental goals.

Ok, back to business. Since our last ABTL Report, we had a fascinating dinner program in February on the landmark *Grants Pass* decision from the last Supreme Court term, which addressed homelessness and the Eighth Amendment's limitations on public camping ordinances. Our March lunch program focused on civility, a topic near and dear to ABTL. Our April dinner program was a lively discussion about the record-breaking jury verdict in the *Guardant v. Natera* false advertising trial. The YLD had a brown-bag lunch with Judge Holly Thomas in April, and our members-only judicial reception will take place on June 26. We're now busy lining up some exciting events for this fall and early 2026—so stay tuned! In short, as the other chapters recently put it at our joint board retreat, the Los Angeles chapter is a "powerhouse." (By the way, a lot of the credit for that goes to our immediate past President, Michael Mallow, whose dedication to ABTL has been unparalleled.)

Thank you for your support and commitment to our organization. I'm honored to be your ABTL President and I look forward to seeing all of you soon.