Message from the Chair

William D. Johnston
Chair, Business and Corporate Litigation Committee

At the conclusion of the 2010 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, I was privileged to succeed Pete Walsh as chair of our Committee. This message to you -- the Committee's members -- will be brief.

Three thoughts.

First, a hearty and heartfelt "thank-you" to Pete Walsh for his outstanding work as chair these past three years. He steadily but without fanfare increased Committee membership, expanded the number of subcommittees, encouraged leadership development and orderly transition, ensured the development and presentation of excellent programs and publications, emphasized the importance of diversity, promoted camaraderie between Committee members, and promoted early opportunities for meaningful involvement no matter how junior a Committee member may be. In doing so, Pete built upon the legacy given to us by past Committee chairs Frank Balotti, Jim Holzman, Judge Elizabeth Stong, and Mitch Bach. Pete's shoes, to say the obvious, will be difficult to try to fill in even the smallest way.

Second, thanks in advance to *all Committee members who will serve as leaders* during the coming three years -- to Committee co-vice chairs Heidi McNeil Staudenmaier and Pat Clendenen, to past chairs, to our Committee's Judicial Designees (Judge Philip Brandt, Justice Henry du Pont Ridgely, and Judge Elizabeth Stong), to Business Law Section Advisor Vice Chancellor Donald Parsons, to Business Court Representatives Judge Gail Andler, Judge Ben Tennille, and Judge Brian Van Camp, to subcommittee chairs and vice chairs, to task force chairs and vice chairs, to liaisons to other groups with the ABA. Our Committee will be strong -- and grow stronger and more vibrant -- because of your talent and your dedication. Let's keep lines of communication open -- at and between meetings. And please always keep in mind providing opportunities to all of our Committee members and grooming new Committee leaders.

A special thanks to Peter Valori, editor of our *Network* newsletter, to Bret Cohen, editor of the *Annual Review of Developments in Business and Corporate Litigation*, to Francis G.X. Pileggi, liaison to *Business Law Today*, and to *Business Law Today* editor Pat Clendenen (and all who contribute to one or more of these important publications).

Last, but certainly not least, I *encourage every member of our Committee* to carefully consider how the Committee can best be of value to you and your colleagues. I know that resources -- time and dollars -- are limited. How can the Committee be of greatest benefit to you and others? Are we doing all that we can and should do to promote diversity within our profession? If you don't attend any (or many) meetings, why not? What type and form of CLE programs do you prefer? Do you find this publication and other publications by Committee members to be useful? Should we be utilizing a Committee listserv and/or subcommittee listservs? If so, how can we best do so? How can we best enhance the Committee webpage and subcommittee webpages? What about the use of "social media"? Should the Committee have more or different social events? How important are networking opportunities? Should we be collaborating more with groups either within or outside the ABA? If so, with whom and how?

Responses to these questions (and undoubtedly others) should position us to serve the Committee's new *and* longtime members. But we need your input, now and going-forward.
If I can be of any assistance whatsoever to you in the next three years, please contact me at 302.571-6679 or at wjohnston@ycst.com. In the meantime, please remember the following Committee meeting dates and locations:

- November 18-19, 2010 (Washington, D.C.)
- April 14-17, 2011 (Boston, MA)
- August 4-8, 2011 (Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

Hope to see you there!

Bill Johnston is a partner in the Wilmington, Delaware-based law firm of Young Conaway Stargatt &Taylor, LLP. He is immediate past chair of the firm's Corporate Counseling and Litigation practice group.