Karen L. Manos, Chair

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as chair of the Public Contract Law Section over the past year. This is an eventful time for the government contracting community. Our clients, companies, and agencies are grappling with a procurement system that has been severely strained by sharply increased procurement spending combined with too few government acquisition professionals, a public policy preference for accountability and oversight in lieu of better acquisition management, and a negative public image of both the government and its contractors. These challenges make the work of our Section even more important. Over the past year, we have continued to work for the public good with a common goal of improving the procurement system. During this period, the Section published two monographs: The Guide to the Mandatory Disclosure Rule: Issues, Guidelines and Best Practices and Best Practices in the Acquisition of a Government Contractor. In addition, the Section’s current collection of state law summaries is available for review on the State Law Database Coordination Committee Web page at http://www.abanet.org/dch/committee.cfm?com=PC501800. The Section contributed to the public debate by submitting thoughtful comment letters in response to proposed procurement regulations and pending legislation on such important issues as contractors on the battlefield, contractor business systems, and personal conflicts of interest. And, equally as important, we continued our proud tradition of providing timely, high quality educational programs to our members and the greater government contracting community. I am also proud to note that our Section leadership is now younger and more diverse, and the new leadership has reinvigorated some previously moribund committees.

I have been fortunate to be able to work with extraordinarily talented, conscientious professionals. As I join the august ranks of the past chairs of the Section of Public Contract Law, I will always treasure this year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as chair of our great Section.