Laid out succinctly, with riveting and sometimes disturbing clarity and facts, the major economic and policy challenges confronting our country. His talk provided the details and context for many issues that current political debates address only with slogans. Look for his presentation slides on the Section's website.

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NEWS FROM THE CHAIR
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The other aspect of our Chicago gathering that deserves special mention was the wonderful networking, camaraderie, and energy that infuses this Section. It was rewarding to see so many new faces engaging in the interaction among practitioners from across our field. Much credit and thanks are due to the Annual program co-chairs who put together this outstanding event: Gerry Doyle, Judge Elizabeth Grant, and Heather Kilgore Weiner.

If you missed out on Chicago, fear not because there is another great program just around the corner. The Section’s Fall Meeting will again feature presentations on some of the most intriguing and challenging issues of the day. There will be a special focus on the multiple legal predicaments created by the increasing problem of counterfeit parts in the supply chain. There are new regulatory actions expected coincident with this program, so these discussions will be truly at the cutting edge. Plus, other parts of the program will deal with latest developments regarding government data rights and compliance with the new business systems rule. So, come to Denver in November!

And, if you can’t join us for that session, then go to the Section’s website and explore the many other programs scheduled for upcoming committee meetings and make plans to attend in person or remotely.

Membership
There was considerable discussion at the Annual Meeting regarding the need for renewed emphasis on recruiting and retaining Section members. Let me explain why I believe this is so important.

First, our Section’s special strength and value derives from its diverse membership. By this I am referring not so much to considerations of gender, race, etc. (an area that also assuredly needs attention), but rather to the dynamic mix of participation from lawyers operating across the broad array of stakeholders involved in public procurement: federal, state and local government agencies, judicial tribunals, big and small businesses, law firms, law schools, consulting firms, and anyone else. That mixture of viewpoints and interests is what makes our policy programs and debates lively and productive, our substantive contributions on policy issues credible, and the networking opportunities within the Section so valuable. If the Section is to avoid reverting to just a small club of private lawyers, we need to pursue robust efforts to develop and maintain a broad membership mix.

Second, we are a relatively small Section within the ABA, but for our size we accomplish a great deal. There are always more positive initiatives and policy matters for our Section to pursue than any small number of individuals in a volunteer organization like ours ever seems to have time to accomplish. The bigger the Section’s active membership pool, the more resources we have to achieve our always ambitious agenda.

Third, I firmly believe that this Section continues to play a vital role in supporting the professional growth of lawyers practicing public procurement law and in improving the quality of law in our field. For that legacy to endure and expand, the Section’s membership must be constantly renewed and revived, lest we wither and decline.

All of which has led me to task our Section leadership to give special attention to promoting membership this year. We need to identify, and then remove or overcome, considerations that deter lawyers from joining and participating in the Section. We also must enhance and

John Pachter, left, accepts the first “Allan J. Joseph Excellence in Leadership” award from the award’s namesake, Allan Joseph, right, who was himself recognized with the Section’s “Lifetime Achievement” award during the August Annual Meeting in Chicago.
modernize the Section's value and relevance, and reach out to law departments and firms where public procurement lawyers work. The entire Section Council will be giving this attention, and each committee will be designating a liaison to the Membership Committee.

And, if you want to know what you can do right away to help, start by passing along the suggestion that opened this column to your colleagues.

**Awards**

I want to close by accentuating the positive and share news of the awards that were presented at the Annual Meeting, in recognition of outstanding contributions to the Section and the profession.

The Section's first “Allan J. Joseph Excellence in Leadership Award” was presented by Allan to John S. Pachter, (see photo), past Section chair and current delegate to the ABA House of Delegates, to recognize John's exceptional efforts and contributions for more than three decades.

Allan Joseph, (see photo), also a past Section chair, who has held multiple other leadership positions in the ABA, was presented with the Section's Lifetime Achievement Award for his brilliant advocacy, unbounded enthusiasm for any challenge, uncommon wisdom, keen insight, and extraordinary standards of excellence.

The Section's Construction Division received the “Committee of the Year Award.”

Daniel I. Gordon was inducted into the Section Fellows, to recognize his long-term and exceptional service and contributions to the Section as a Council member and committee officer, as well as his leadership at the Government Accountability Office, as administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy, and currently as associate dean for government procurement law with the George Washington University Law School.

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**New!**

**Services Contracting Best Practices: A Guide to Successful Services Contracting**

Government agencies spend over half their procurement budgets on the acquisition of services from contractors, and *Services Contracting Best Practices* provides professionals with hands-on tools to assist in the proper acquisition and management of services. The state of services contracting in the federal government was examined by experienced members from government, academia, industry, and law firms as part of the ABA Section of Public Contract Law’s Services Contracting Best Practices Task Force. The book includes chapters on acquisitions planning, industry-government communications, market research, general considerations, requirements definition, performance-based acquisitions, organizational conflicts of interest, small business and bundling considerations, contract design and formation, commercial buyers’ contract structure/terms and conditions, contract types, IDIQ multiple award contracts, multiple award contract task and delivery orders under FAR 16.505.