Milestones emphasize time passing, and writing this last Chair’s column makes me realize that a year is not much time after all. There is certainly not enough time to benefit from all that our Section offers. The remarkable array of Section events just since I last wrote reflect well our diverse government and private sector membership.

The 19th Annual Federal Procurement Institute lived up to its reputation as a lively and substance-filled forum. Government and contractor practitioners discussed difficult and creative approaches to fiscal austerity, strategic sourcing, and sequestration. We’ve heard refreshingly candid appraisals from trial judges describing their struggles to apply appellate precedents. There was current and practical wisdom on domestic sourcing, records access in cost audits, OCIs, suspension & debarment, international risks, and small business programs. OFPP Administrator Joe Jordan brought us up to date on procurement policy developments.

The 8th Annual State & Local Procurement Symposium included a practicum on government contract law basics, followed by presentations on hot topics, enforcement issues, emergency contracting, public-private partnerships, and ethical considerations in outsourcing. This was but one of the State & Local Division’s many activities this past year, which has included regular substantive meetings and a newsletter.

The Contract Claims and Disputes Resolution and Young Lawyers committees teamed up with an enthusiastic group of judges to produce a two-part program on “Practicing before the Boards of Contract Appeals.” This very successful live and webcast event introduced the revised and updated manual of the same name, which the Section makes available free of charge as part of its public education mission.

The Battle Space and Contingency Procurements Committee, jointly with the GWU Government Procurement Law Program, conducted a program featuring Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction Stuart W. Bowen, Jr., discussing his final report “Learning from Iraq.”

Our committees are consistently producing substantive meeting programs that read like a course catalog for public procurement. They provide opportunities to learn this area, get informed about latest developments and

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Section committees and a task force are preparing white papers or comment letters regarding several areas where the federal government is developing policy: proposed DoD counterfeit parts rules, GSA and DHS requests for information on potential cybersecurity standards, and OFPP’s assessment of how best to compare relative public and private sector costs when making in/out sourcing decisions. The Section also submitted comments, prepared by the Battle Space and Contingency Procurements Committee, regarding Executive Order 13627, “Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking In Persons In Federal Contracts” (and related statutes). Fortunately, the Section continues to marshal its members’ collective experience, wisdom, and energy to promote best practices regarding legal issues created by the many challenges confronting our industry.

Our Section likewise faces challenges, particularly from financial and membership pressures, and changes underway in our parent organization. Vigilant efforts will be needed to maintain the Section’s relevance and vitality, particularly for government and younger lawyers, and to adapt to changing times and technology. That said, we have gone a long way to further institutionalize membership building and programs. I look forward to supporting these initiatives, while new ones commence, under the energetic stewardship of incoming Chair Sharon Larkin.

Many, many people devote enormous time and energy to this Section’s work. It would take several pages to list them, but I extend my deep appreciation to them all for their efforts, particularly the Section’s officers, council, and division and committee chairs so instrumental to making things happen. The next time you attend a Section function, please take just a moment to thank those who put it together. They volunteered their time and energy because they care about what this Section does.

On a personal note, I must extend special thanks to our tireless Director, Marilyn “trains run on time” Neforas, without whom this Section would not function, to my firm for its support, and to my secretary, Sherye Sandall, for helping me make it through the year. And, finally, thanks to my wife Debbie, for her enduring patience and encouragement, and her ceaseless efforts to keep me sane and grounded.

Elsewhere in this publication are more eloquent tributes to the late Allan Joseph, a longtime Section leader who will be missed by all who knew him. I note only that he and I met as professional adversaries and ended as friends, which I’ve discovered was a not uncommon situation that speaks volumes about Allan’s character.

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**NEWS FROM THE CHAIR**

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controversies, and engage with individuals in the thick of cutting edge topics. Recent examples include:

- Over 100 attendees at a recent Bid Protest Committee meeting witnessed a lively debate about conflicting legal standards governing agency override decisions, which featured COFC Judge Allegretta, and lawyers from the DoJ, DoL, Air Force, and the private bar.
- DoD’s energy privatization was the focus of a Privatization, Outsourcing, and Financing Transactions Committee meeting, including the Army’s recent $7B multiple award task order contracts (MATOC) program focused on renewable and alternative energy production.
- COFC Judge Wheeler and former ASBCA Judge Park-Conroy anchored a discussion of best practices and risks regarding expert witnesses at a Contract Claims and Dispute Resolution Committee meeting.
- GSA Suspension and Debarment practices were addressed at meetings of the Suspension and Debarment and Commercial Products and Services committees, both featuring Maria Swaby, Director of GSA’s Suspension & Debarment and Contract Remedies Division.
- DoD’s Director of the Standards of Conduct Office, Leigh Bradley, was the featured and entertaining speaker at a meeting of the Ethics, Compliance, and Professional Responsibility Committee.
- Counterfeit parts detection and management in DLA high risk procurements and in the context of business systems audits were explored at an Acquisition Reform & Emerging Issues Committee meeting.
- The Accounting, Cost and Pricing Committee presented a very timely program on contractor incurred cost support and DCAA records access.
- Security, surveillance, and privacy implications of unmanned aerial vehicles was the focus of a presentation that the Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Data Protection Committee co-hosted with the Science and Technology Section.
- The Procurement Fraud Committee will host a discussion of agency disclosure programs and the mandatory disclosure rule among the individuals responsible for those programs at the DoJ, DoD, Air Force, and GSA.

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