Greetings fellow Section members!

What a year it has been! The procurement community was still reacting to sequestration, and then came the government shutdown. Government, industry, law firms, judges, academia—everyone has been impacted. The Section, too, has been reacting to this chain of events.

As all of you know, we had to reschedule and relocate our fall program due to low registration at the originally scheduled place and time. I am grateful to the program chairs (Susan Ebner and Robert Wu), moderators, and panelists for their flexibility and devotion to the program. Their hard work and perseverance allowed us to hold the program in December in Washington, D.C., where a larger concentration of government contracts practitioners is located. Thank you, also, to K&L Gates and McKenna Long & Aldridge for providing the Section with space for the program and the Council meeting, to Tina Gillenwater for her tireless administrative support in organizing the meeting and arranging for refreshments, and to our sponsors for their unwavering support. Because so many people worked so hard, we were able to offer all our members and guests a quality program at an affordable price. I am so proud of all of you who helped make the program a success!

In addition to the fall program, the Section held its 6th Biennial Federal Drug Pricing Conference just five days after the government shutdown ended. Thank you to the Health Care Contracting Committee and program co-chairs (Connie Wilkinson and Lorraine Campos) for their exceptional work in planning this program. Because of their “show must go on” attitude, their hard work both before and during the shutdown, and the support of our sponsors, this program was well-attended and a resounding success!

I have other great news to report. Our much loved and dearly missed director, Marilyn Neforas, has returned to work after an extended leave of absence. We are so happy to have you back, Marilyn! We have missed your good cheer, sound advice, and friendship.

This year has been successful on other fronts. My young and new lawyer initiative, which involves highlighting new lawyer talent and giving new lawyers opportunities to shine, has been a huge success. The Young Lawyer Committee (YLC) chairs—Oliya Zamaray, Sam Jack, and Rob Leaby—have been tremendously helpful with this initiative. With their help in reaching out to young and

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new lawyers, younger and newer lawyers have been participating on panels, volunteering for programs, writing articles or working on publications, and making substantive presentations to the Council. The YLC members have volunteered to be liaisons to a large number of substantive committees to better integrate new lawyers into the Section activities. In recognition of their hard work, I have appointed all of the liaisons to be vice-chairs for the committees they are involved in. Congratulations to all of you!

In further support of young and new lawyers, the Section has been offering discounted programs for newer lawyers in hopes that their firms and organizations will support their attendance at training programs. The Section has also been providing special training for new lawyers. As an example, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) hosted an “Ask GAO” session in November for young and new lawyers, which was well attended by attorneys from law firms, industry, and the government. This program gave young and new lawyers an opportunity to meet, and ask questions of, several of GAO’s bid protest attorneys and contract appeals board judges. Thank you to all of the Section members and leaders who do such a wonderful job of mentoring new lawyers!

I am also proud to report that, earlier this year, we nominated Dan Chudd from Jenner & Block for this year’s ABA Young Lawyer Division National Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. Dan, who only recently “aged out” as a young lawyer, was one of the first chairs of the YLC, served as a young lawyer representative to the Section’s Council, is currently co-chairing the Section’s Technology & Electronic Communications Committee (which is responsible for implementing a number of major Section initiatives), is co-chairing the annual program this year, and participates in a number of other Section activities. Dan’s nomination reflects the Section’s deep appreciation for his contributions, as well as our commitment to recognizing and praising the talent of young lawyers.

Shifting gears, I wish to report out some other successes throughout our Section, particularly with our technology initiatives. A big thank you goes to Dan Chudd, Josh Drewnitz, and Greg Bingham for their tireless work on multiple technology projects. Thanks, too, to Jill Pena and Beth Fritz, on Whyte from the ABA for their technical support in getting these projects off the ground. I mention three of the projects below.

First, we have successfully “gone green” at our programs, meaning that we are no longer issuing paper books and are instead providing electronic links to program materials. By the time this article is published, the December program will be over. If you attended and had either positive or negative experiences with the electronic links, or you have suggestions for improvement, please let me know.

Second, we now have a “live” calendar on the Section’s website. This calendar contains links to all of the Section programs and committee meetings, so that you can see what is happening throughout the Section in one location. For the calendar to remain useful, however, I need your help. I urge all committee leaders to “feed” the calendar with updated events on a regular basis, so that the information remains current and accurate.

Finally, we have created a leadership portal on the Section’s website. This portal contains important documents and resources for the division and committee leaders and liaisons. This portal was created in response to your suggestions that we have a central repository for Section leaders to use. You suggest, and we respond, so keep those ideas coming!

This article talks about a few Section initiatives, but across the Section, committee leaders and members are doing fantastic work in exciting areas. Thank you all for your hard work and contributions to the procurement community and to the legal profession.

Until next time . . .

—Sharon

**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**MARCH 20–22, 2014**
20th Annual Federal Procurement Institute and Midyear Council Meeting
Loews Annapolis Hotel
Annapolis, MD

**APRIL 24–25, 2014**
9th Annual State and Local Procurement Symposium
Grove Park Inn and Spa
Asheville, NC

**AUGUST 7–9, 2014**
Annual Educational Programs and Council Meeting
Hyatt Regency Boston
Boston, MA

**OCTOBER 31–NOVEMBER 1, 2014**
Fall Educational Program and Council Meeting
InterContinental Miami
Miami, FL