This has been a tremendous year so far, with the Section committees and divisions demonstrating a renewed energy and commitment to excellence in their programs and activities. Our section leaders are actively engaging our members in substantive discussions and projects from both the private and public sectors.

Among the Section's most prominent and successful programs this year was the recently concluded 22nd Annual Federal Procurement Institute (FPI), which took place March 9–11 in Annapolis, Maryland. The FPI continues to earn its stripes as the Section's flagship program on federal procurement developments. The program co-chairs, Susan Warshaw Ebner, Linda Maramba, Scott Maravilla, and Marques Peterson, planned and executed an exceptional two-day program that drew 300 attendees. Our keynote speaker was Vice Admiral (Retired) Joseph W. Dyer, USN, who shared his thoughts and insight on the keys to successful contracting, the integrated Program Officer-Contracting Officer-Legal team, data rights, and calculating what a company is worth in the defense industry. Our networking receptions were exceptionally well attended and provided valuable opportunities for attendees, including young lawyers and new members, to get acquainted and welcomed into the Section. The FPI benefited tremendously from the support and contributions of seventeen program sponsors and fifty-nine reception sponsors. A special thanks is also extended to the Federal Bar Association Government Contracts Section for partnering with our Section to present this outstanding program.

The Section has two major programs on the horizon, the 11th Annual State & Local Procurement Law Symposium and the Annual Meeting. The Symposium will be held April 7–10 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Co-chairs Missy Copeland and Eric Whytsell have developed what promises to be outstanding and interactive sessions and networking opportunities for state and local procurement practitioners. The Symposium, jointly co-sponsored with the ABA Section of State and Local Government Law, will feature session topics including ethical issues inherent in protecting against cybersecurity threats; cooperative purchasing; adopting and implementing the model procurement code; recent developments in bid protests and contract disputes; government continued on page 30
 indicators or defensive measures have been properly classified and an accounting of the number of security clearances authorized by the Federal Government for the purpose of sharing cyber threat indicators or defensive measures with the private sector.”

114. CISA § 106(a), (b).
115. See id. § 104(b).
116. Id. § 106(b).
117. Id. § 104(b)(1).

120. Id.
121. See CISA § 105(a)–(c).
122. All of the following previously proposed laws included a “good faith” standard:

• Protecting Cyber Networks Act of 2015, H.R. 1560, 114th Cong. § 6(a), (b);
• Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act, H.R. 234, 114th Cong. § 3(b)(3)(A), (B) (2015);
• Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2014, 2588, 113th Cong. § 6(c);
• Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act, H.R. 624, 113th Cong. § 3(b)(3) (2013);
• Cybersecurity Act of 2012, S. 3414, 112th Cong. § 706(b); and
• Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2012, S. 2102, 112th Cong. § 7(f).

By contrast, the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 had no “good faith” standard. See S. 754, 114th Cong. § 6(c)(1).
123. All of the following previously proposed laws included a “gross negligence” or “willful misconduct” exception, or the equivalent thereof (e.g., “intent to injure”):

• H.R. 1560, § 6(c);
• Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015, H.R. 754, 114th Cong. § 6(c)(1);
• H.R. 234, § 3(b)(3)(B);
• S. 2588, § 6(d)(1);
• H.R. 624, § 3(b)(3)(B);
• S. 3414, § 706(g); and
• S. 2102, § 7(f).

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR
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bankruptcy; the issues facing a financially distressed municipality; environmental law; and recent changes in federal grant funding. ABA President Paulette Brown will be joining us for a session addressing implicit bias in the legal profession.

Our Annual Meeting will be in San Francisco, August 4–7. Co-chairs Sharon Larkin, Rebecca Vernon, and Kevin Mullen are working very hard to assemble a dynamic program including panels on the Media and Politics in Government Procurement; Public-Private Partnerships: A Look at the Deal Pipeline for Government Infrastructure Projects; Anatomy of a Mega Protest; Industry Consolidation and Corporate Restructuring; and Agency versus Corporate Approach to Procurement and Contracting.

The Section continues to identify groups with whom we share common interests and goals. I recently
Establish liaisons to:

- Membership & Diversity Outreach Committee
- Young Lawyers Committee
- Technology and Electronic Communications Committee
- Publications Board
- Federal, State and Local Government Attorneys Committee
- Acquisition Reform/Emerging Issues Committee
- Legislative Coordinating Committee

9. Committee Reports: Assign a committee member, co-chair, or vice chair responsibility for submitting your committee's report for each of the three Council meetings by the deadline set by the ABA staff (normally two months in advance of the Council meeting)

10. Communications
- Website: Keep updated and, in addition to meeting minutes, include current documents of interest to members
- Listserv: Make sure it is complete and kept current

11. Produce Section Comment Letters when appropriate and submit to the Regulatory Coordinating Committee on time

12. Build future leaders through Succession Planning: keep track of active vice chairs who would make good chairs and active members who would make good vice chairs

established a new liaison position to connect the Section more directly to the activities of veteran and military organizations both within and outside the ABA. I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mike Barnicle, a Section young lawyer, to that new position. In this role, he will assist in facilitating collaboration on various pro bono programs and initiatives between the Section and groups focused on veterans and military interests, including the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel, ABA Standing Committee on Armed Forces Law, and veterans or military service organizations. Activities that may interest Section members include pro bono support of military and veterans communities, facilitated by the liaison in coordination with ABA Home Front, ABA Veterans’ Claims Assistance Network, ABA Military Pro Bono Project, ABA Homeless Veterans Initiative, law school veteran clinics, and other legal aid organizations serving the military or veteran communities.

Throughout this year and through this column, I have highlighted many of the outstanding substantive work produced by our committees and divisions, including participation in substantive committee meetings, hosting networking receptions, producing webinars, writing comment letters on proposed regulations, and contributing to the overall professional development of attorneys and others in the field of public contracting.

The success of the committees is centered on the leadership’s commitment to following the “Expectations of Committee Chairs,” which foster regular communication, collaboration, and collegiality. Those expectations are posted on our website but are important enough to be highlighted above.

Collectively, our current committee chairs and vice chairs embraced these expectations and the success of their committees and divisions is evident in the extraordinary value they have produced for our membership.

If you are interested in joining one of our vibrant committees as a vice chair or chair, our Section chair-elect, Ty Hughes, is considering those appointments now. Please let your committee chairs and Ty know of your interest.

The remainder of this year’s programming promises to be of the utmost value to practitioners as the Section continues to deliver the highest quality programming in our field. Please be sure to mark your calendars for the 11th Annual State & Local Procurement Law Symposium in San Juan, April 7–10, and the Annual Meeting in San Francisco, August 4–7. I hope to see you there!