



## From the Chair

By Rudolph R. Ramelli\*

The Tax Section had a very active and productive summer. In July, the Council and Officers met to review the task force reports generated during the long-range planning project. The purpose of the review was to prioritize the numerous recommendations and to develop action plans to implement the recommendations. Many of the suggestions coming out of the project warrant further study and will take time to implement.

A number of the action items, however, have already been implemented. One of the recommendations made by the task force was to change the title of the Vice Chair – Professional Services to Vice Chair – CLE. The change is in recognition of the fact that this officer position deals primarily with CLE issues. The Vice Chair – CLE, working with the Continuing Legal Education Committee, coordinates all of the Section's CLE activities other than the programs put on by the Committees at our Section meetings. This includes the European and Latin America Conferences, the Section programs on Saturday afternoon and the Section's numerous teleconferences.

The Vice Chair – Communications has been repurposed as the Vice Chair – Pro Bono and Outreach. This was done in part because of the growth of the Section's pro bono activities. The Vice Chair – Pro Bono and Outreach will be responsible for coordinating the Section's pro bono activities, will serve as liaison to the Young Lawyers Forum, the Membership and Marketing Committee, the Public Service Fellowship Committee and the newly combined Pro Bono and

Tax Clinics Committee. This Vice Chair will also be responsible for the Section's media relations and development of the Section's website.

Council also determined to combine the Pro Bono Committee and the Low Income Taxpayer Committee into the Pro Bono and Tax Clinics Committee. Because of a significant overlap of the members of those two Committees, it was felt that combining the two Committees into a single committee would be more efficient and allow the combined Committee to better focus its efforts. Working with the Vice Chair – Pro Bono and Outreach and the Section's Pro Bono Staff counsel, the Section is looking forward to working with the combined Committee to expand the Section's pro bono presence.

Council also approved a new standing committee to select the Janet Spragens Pro Bono Award recipient. This new committee is modeled after the Distinguished Service Award Committee. Committee members will include the Chair of the Pro Bono and Tax Clinics Committee, the Vice Chair – Pro Bono and Outreach, three prior recipients of the Pro Bono award and three at large members. The Committee has been formed and held an organizational meeting.

The Section is also moving forward with its study of the format of the Section meetings. Section staff is currently working to develop a survey which will be sent to all Section members to get their input on whether any changes in our meeting format should be considered. The results of this survey will be reviewed by Council and with Committee Chairs to see whether or

not improvement or a restructuring is needed. Changes will not be made solely for the sake of change, but only in response to the needs of our members. This will be an evolving process that will likely take a number of years to implement.

Finally, the Section submitted a number of reports and comments to the government. Over the summer, the Tax Reform Option Project produced six reports submitted by the Bankruptcy and Workouts Committee, the Insurance Committee, the Employee Benefits Committee, the Transfer Pricing Committee, the Corporate Tax Committee and the Tax Exempt Financing Committee. All can be found on the Section's website. In addition there are a number of reports in the process of completion. Nine Committees submitted comments over the summer, bringing the number of comments submitted by the Section since the beginning of the year to twenty. All of these submissions reflect the good work of the Section's many volunteer Members. ■

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