

## Corporate Counsel Organization Highlights

### Letter From The President Of The New Jersey Corporate Counsel Association



To The Readers Of *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*:

NJCCA has distributed to its members a notice written by Vice-President Lee Braem regarding the New Jersey Supreme Court's December 2003 announcement of the registration procedures for in-house counsel in New Jersey. Lee, who also published an article on the topic in the January issue of *The Metropolitan Corporate Counsel*, provided information about the Court's new rules and how to obtain further information. I commend these materials to you whether or not you are admitted in New Jersey. Our notice is available at the NJCCA and the MJP web pages at [www.acca.com](http://www.acca.com). To read Lee's article, visit [www.metrocorpocounsel.com](http://www.metrocorpocounsel.com).

The Court's new rules require those in-house counsels working in, but not admitted to, this state to take steps to register or face disciplinary action by the Supreme Court of New Jersey for the unauthorized practice of law (UPL). Those who are already admitted owe it to themselves and to their colleagues to be able to spread the word about this procedure and to ensure that they themselves do not run afoul of the rules by assisting someone in the unauthorized practice of law. Regardless of how you may feel about the procedures and costs imposed by the Court, we are first and foremost attorneys bound to follow the rules adopted by the Court.

We have asked the law firms with which NJCCA interacts, such as sponsors and CLE providers, to circulate our notice to their corporate clients who may not be NJCCA members. You can do the same with your outside counsel. Our interest in avoiding UPL charges against an in-house counsel apply to all in-house practitioners, not just dues-paying members.

Some members have sent Lee questions and comments about the Court's rulemaking process, how the fees were set, and what options exist for people with varying unique situations. NJCCA, of course, cannot answer all the questions, but we are responding to each individual inquiry. In addition, NJCCA is also organizing a forum tentatively scheduled for March 3 for members to gather and discuss the rules, their implications and to provide an introduction to attorney regulation in New Jersey.

NJCCA will continue to review the Court's new rules and their implications for in-house counsel. Send us your questions, let us know your experiences and learn more about our March 3 forum by contacting NJCCA's Executive Director, Barbara Walder, at (973) 927-5622 or by e-mail at [njcca41@aol.com](mailto:njcca41@aol.com). Your views will be shared with our Board and, if appropriate, NJCCA can share its views with the Court.

Your opinions shape what we do. I invite you to let us know what NJCCA can do to help you be the best in-house lawyer you can be.

Sincerely,  
Arthur H. Saiewitz

### NYSBA Hosts Diversity Reception At Its 127th Annual Meeting

The New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) last month hosted a networking reception, Celebrating Diversity in the Bar, as part of its 127th Annual Meeting at the Marriott Marquis in New York City.

The event was held in collaboration with minority bar associations to introduce attorneys to opportunities for involvement and professional development available through NYSBA.

"As the voice of New York's lawyers, we recognize that in order to be most effective in the next century, and continue to deserve respect and trust, the organized bar must reflect the diversity of the public it serves," said A. Thomas Levin, NYSBA president.

Mr. Levin explained that the NYSBA has already taken steps to make diversity one of the cornerstones of its strategic plan which will guide the bar's future efforts. For example, last year, the House of Delegates, the associa-

tion's decision and policymaking body, formally adopted an association-wide diversity policy to increase the effectiveness of NYSBA in addressing societal and member needs.

The policy resulted from a recommendation of the Special Committee on Association Governance, Mr. Levin said. That committee, chaired by Dennis R. Baldwin, Mackenzie Hughes LLP, proposed the policy as part of its charge to recommend ways to improve and enhance the governance and structure of the association.

In his first act upon taking office, Mr. Levin appointed a Committee on Diversity and Leadership Development, which was later approved by the House of Delegates.

The committee already has begun to help identify, encourage and mentor future leaders of the bar to prepare for leadership positions and advance diversity initiatives in the 72,000-member statewide lawyers' group.

### 2004 Corporate Counsel Institute Slated February 25 In Edison, NJ

The 2004 Corporate Counsel Institute has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 25 by the New Jersey Corporate Counsel Association (NJCCA), the New Jersey Institute of Continuing Legal Education (NJICLE) and the New Jersey State Bar Association Corporate & Business Law Section.

This comprehensive institute is designed to provide in-house lawyers with information and skills they can use to ensure the successful operation of their department and their company. It will be of interest to corporate counsel who are members of large legal departments as well as those who are solely responsible for the corporate counsel function.

Some of the day's discussion topics include: duties and responsibilities of in-house counsel; executive compensation issues; D&O insurance; what's happening in Trenton; asbestos, natural resource damage and other toxic liabilities; class actions; crystal ball gazing – what's on the horizon.

Serving as program coordinator is Robert D. Chesler, Lowenstein Sandler, PC. The keynote luncheon speaker will be Michael J. Faigen, Issues Management, LLC.

Other panelists for the day-long institute will be Edward T. Dartley,

W.R. Huff Asset Management; Paul R. Dorf, managing director, Compensation Resources, Inc.; Peter H. Ehrenberg and Edward M. Zimmerman, Lowenstein Sandler; Mary E. Fletcher, assistant general counsel, Cambrex Corporation; Patricia D. Herbst, senior vice president-claims consulting, Marsh USA Inc.; Lucinda P. Long, senior vice president and general counsel, Valley National Bank; Fredi L. Pearlmutter, Cooper, Rose & English; Fred T. Podolsky, executive vice president, Hilb, Rogal & Hobbs, and Jeffrey M. Pollock, Fox Rothschild.

Also Thomas J. Riordan, vice president-law and administration, Rockwood Specialties; Jay Sturm, general counsel, Vital Signs, Inc.; Kenneth E. Thompson, McCarter & English, LLP; Jonathan Wasserman, legal director-antitrust and litigation, Schering-Plough Corporation, and Theodore M. Weitz, vice president, general counsel and secretary, ITXC Corporation.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel, Edison, NJ.

For CLE credit information, see the Bulletin Board in this issue.

For a full schedule of fees and registration information, call (732) 214-8500.

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