

# LETTER FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

**A**s my year as NCBE's chair draws to a close, I understand why my predecessors have commented about the speed with which their year in the leadership position of the organization transpired. It seems as though only yesterday I was receiving the gavel from Sam Hanson. I now pass it on to the very capable Rebecca Thiem and hope that her year as NCBE chair is as fulfilling as mine has been.

It has been an honor to preside over an organization that has existed to serve the bar admissions community for 80 years. I knew of NCBE when I chaired the California Committee of Bar Examiners, but only through the opportunity to serve on the NCBE Multistate Bar Examination Committee—and subsequently, the Board of Trustees—did I come to fully understand the importance of having the solid foundation of the National Conference protecting the interests of bar examining boards. The organization truly “has our back.”

By that I mean that there is an attention to detail and a pursuit of excellence that allows those of us who are called to serve as bar examiners to be able to rely on good test products and to acquire the essential knowledge about licensing issues that equips us to carry out the important and somewhat daunting task of deciding who is worthy of a law license—and who is not. We bar examiners know that the consumer of legal services deserves a licensing system



that identifies those who are qualified to perform professionally. What NCBE delivers are tools that aid us in the mission of identifying those candidates.

I have abiding respect for my colleagues on the board, all of whom are drawn from the world of bar admissions, and for the NCBE staff that performs consistently good work with dedication, enthusiasm, and good cheer.

At NCBE's Annual Meeting just concluded in Boulder, Colorado, it was my pleasure to select David R. Boyd of Alabama as the former NCBE chair to be honored for his work—past and present—for the organization. His leadership, particularly as a steward of the MBE, has set a high standard indeed. In addition, I was pleased to be able to select Carol McDonald, the recently retired bar admissions director for Idaho, as the Administrator of the Year. Carol has been a mainstay in the bar admissions community for many years, whose gifts of talent and generosity are well known to her colleagues.

It has been a privilege to be a part of the NCBE family, and I thank one and all for a very good year. 📧

Best regards to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Philip M. Madden".

Philip M. Madden