

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by Erica Moeser

Boston was _____. I can fill in that blank with so many words: *memorable* and *surreal* and *gripping* come to mind. Those who attended NCBE's Annual Bar Admissions Conference in April will no doubt carry images that are seared into their consciousness. Franklin Harrison has captured some of them in his column. There were so many different moments for each of us there. Many are unforgettable.

And then there was the program! The opening keynote by Professor Dan Coquillette assumed a certain poignancy, delivered, as it was, during the city's shelter-in-place lockdown on Patriots Day. We are happy to share it in this issue with those of you who were not in Boston—and, for those of you who were, to give you the opportunity to re-experience Professor Coquillette's words.

The Boston educational program content spanned the spectrum of issues that are of great importance to bar examiners, from nuts-and-bolts sessions on testing, character and fitness, and ADA matters, to the lessons we can learn from other organizations (such as the Law School Admission Council, the National Association for Law Placement, and the American Bar Association), other disciplines (such as medicine and engineering), and other nations (such as the United Kingdom).

In addition, the program content tackled the future: how to predict future conduct of attorneys through pre-admission screening, how to move beyond paper-



and-pencil testing, how test content may be modified in the future, and how law schools are contributing to diversity as they produce tomorrow's lawyers.

Next year we have set our sights on Seattle for another installment of this invitational Annual Conference to be held May 1–4, 2014.

This issue marks the farewell—and victory—lap for NCBE's current Chair, Franklin Harrison. It has been such a pleasure to work with him, and he has put in many, many hours in fulfilling his role with this organization.

This August Franklin will be succeeded by Margaret Fuller Corneille of Minnesota—known to all as Peg. Peg is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners, a post she has held for almost three decades. Peg came along when I was early into my career with the Wisconsin Board of Bar Examiners, and we have been friends across the river (the Mississippi, that is) ever since. She will be only the second bar admission administrator to chair the Conference. (Kathryn Ressel, now Kathryn Seagle, of Florida was the first.)

Many who see the names of the Trustees on the NCBE letterhead may not realize what expertise, experience, and diversity we have on the NCBE Board of Trustees. The credentials of the current Trustees are impressive, and that is what it takes to steer a nonprofit organization so important in the licensing of lawyers. In a nutshell, and in order of seniority:

Rebecca Thiem of Bismarck, North Dakota, is a former North Dakota Board Chair and a practicing lawyer.

Franklin Harrison of Panama City, Florida, is a former Florida Board Chair and a practicing lawyer.

Peg Corneille of St. Paul, Minnesota, is the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners.

Bryan Williams of New York, New York, is the senior member of the New York Board and a practicing lawyer.

Mark Carlin of Bethesda, Maryland, is the Chair of the District of Columbia Board. He recently retired from the practice of law.

Tom Bice of Fort Dodge, Iowa, is a former Iowa Board Chair and a trial judge.

Darryl Simpkins of Hillsborough, New Jersey, is the Chair of the New Jersey Board and a practicing lawyer.

Bob Chong of Honolulu, Hawaii, is the Chair of the Hawaii Board and a practicing lawyer.

Rebecca Berch of Phoenix, Arizona, is the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court.

Missy Gavagni of Tallahassee, Florida, is the Executive Director of the Florida Board of Bar Examiners.

Cindy Martin of Kansas City, Missouri, is a former Missouri Board Chair and an appellate judge.

Bucky Askew of Atlanta, Georgia, is a former Consultant on Legal Education for the American Bar Association and a former bar admission administrator in Georgia.

As this NCBE year ends, Rebecca Thiem's term on the Board will conclude. Nominated to join the Board of Trustees is Suzanne K. Richards of Columbus, Ohio. Suzanne recently retired from the practice of law and has served for many years as a member of the Board of Commissioners on Character and Fitness in Ohio.

The Board is served by a capable staff at NCBE. Key members include:

Kellie Early, Chief Operating Officer

Vicki Millard, Director of Financial Operations

Kent Brye, Director of Information Technology

Penny Gessler, Director of Investigations

Mark Albanese, Director of Research

Susan Case, Director of Testing

Judy Gundersen, Deputy Director of Testing and MEE/MPT Program Director

Beth Hill, MBE Program Director

Melissa Cherney, MPRE Program Director

Doug Ripkey, Associate Director of Testing

Mike Tallman, Associate Director of Information Technology

Brad Gilbert, Counsel and Manager of Human Resources

Claire Huismann, Manager of Publications and Editor of the *Bar Examiner*

Myra Andreassen, Manager of Operations

Stacy Littrell, Manager of Testing Services

Janet Riley, Manager of Investigations

It is with great joy that I report that former NCBE Board Chair Marygold Shire Melli—known to all as Margo—has been chosen to receive one of the prestigious Margaret Brent Awards when the American Bar Association conducts its Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, this August. (See page 60 of this issue.) The award—long overdue, as far as I am concerned—is intended to recognize women who pioneered in law and who chose to mentor others who followed along the trail they blazed. During Margo's long career at the University of Wisconsin Law School, and in her capacity as a bar examiner and as a leader at NCBE, she epitomized both the intrepid pioneer as well as the generous mentor of so many, including me. All of us at NCBE are very proud of her. 📖