

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

#JerseyStrong

By Michael J. Dennin



What were you doing between March and May of 2014? I have no idea of what I was doing. I say this because while this is a trying time, this

trying time will pass. Six years from now we will surely remember how we came together and got through a crisis. But time is still time. You want to look back at this difficult time period and remember it as a time where we became stronger as families, as friends, as colleagues. We are not abandoning each other. We are making ourselves available to help our coworkers, our staff, our friends. Sitting here writing this on March 25, I do not know what will be on April 25. I do know that we will get through it, and we will all become stronger as a result.

We at the CCBA are here for you. The CCBA is a constant. Being "socially distant" will get old real soon. We will continue to do it in order to help each other, and to protect ourselves. Each day is different, with different challenges. Social distancing shows us how much we need to rely on our fellow humans to achieve a goal. It also gives us a greater appreciation for what is most basic – our health. It gives us a greater appreciation for our families, our friends, our coworkers and colleagues. I miss you all. I last saw my bar colleagues at the Devine Award Reception. At that event we were fortunate enough to present awards to Barry Rosenberg and the Honorable Francine I. Axelrad. Barry and Her Honor have done so much for our Bar Association over their careers that they were more than qualified to win this exceptional award. In a letter Barry sent to me, he thanked our Bar for how much he has received from the Bar throughout the years. Barry and Judge Axelrad have been, and continue to be, integral in so many Bar events and activities – the Bar's former softball league, the former Bar Picnic, the Children's Holiday Party and the Children's Picnic, and countless others.

While the Devine Award Reception was only a few weeks ago, it feels like it was a year ago.

Attorneys are in the unique position to be able to help people through this present challenge. While things have certainly slowed down, the vast majority of attorneys are still working and earning an income. Many people are not in our line of work. Because of what we do we, now more than ever, have a duty to help other people during and after this crisis. Whether it be giving them lower hourly rates or lower retainers, to giving out free legal advice, we all have to do more to help people. If you can help people by discounting fees and doing pro bono work, people will genuinely appreciate it.

At the Bar Association we have had to change dates for some CLEs and other events, understandably. We are transitioning to being able to conduct video-conferencing through Zoom video and offer online webinars, and we are busy planning our summer and late spring events. The only way that we will be able to get through this and continue holding events for underprivileged children and children with special needs, veterans, and families affected by domestic violence, and to provide CLE and networking opportunities, scholarships for high school and law school students, and the countless other events and programs we sponsor, is by our members remaining members. We have gone to great lengths to keep our dues low. Our dues continue to remain at \$180 a year or less. That is \$15 a month or less (much less than a newspaper subscription). We need our members to be there for us. If our members are not here for us, then we cannot be here for you. Please continue to pay your dues and support the Association and Foundation. We promise to keep getting better as a Bar Association and to be there for you. Our dues are the Bar Association's main source of revenue and the main way we remain able to do the great things we do. We do raise money at events, but

the funds raised at those events are distributed to the charities we serve or are used to host the Children's Holiday Party and Children's Picnic each year. We also continue to work to cut costs at the CCBA. There is not one dollar spent that we do not first consider if it needs to be spent, or if we can get the same result by spending 25 cents. We continue to sharpen our focus.

Six years from now we will look back and remember that we all came together and got through it. We are all strong together. We need you and we are here for you. The Camden County Bar Association has been around for nearly 140 years and has done countless great things to help people. We are not going to let one virus take us out. Please all of you take care. If you need my help with anything, I am here to help. We at the CCBA are here to help you in any way that we can. Stay with us, and we will stay with you.



We are all very saddened about the loss of one of our longtime trustees and Bar Association members, John Palitto. John served several terms as a trustee for the Bar Association and was always willing to help the Bar Association and help his fellow lawyers, as well as the public in general. I fondly remember my conversations and interactions with John. John would go out of his way to be respectful to fellow board members. John would not hesitate at a board meeting to question something or provide his opinion, or play devil's advocate.

I will always admire John for standing up for what he believed in and for always questioning things. John is already sorely missed at our Bar Association and our hearts go out to his loved ones and family. John is forever in our hearts and our prayers and we miss him tremendously. We truly appreciate everything John gave of himself. He is a model of what a Bar Association trustee can be and should be.

Rest peacefully John. We miss you but you are still here with us and will always be.

Time to Renew!

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and Greater Productivity*

