

TABLE OF CONTENTS ● ● ● ● ●

01 President's Column

03 Project Management for Herding Cats... and Producing CLE

04 Where Are They Now?

05 Get to Know Your ACLEA Executive

07 Member Moments

09 ACLEA 52nd Mid-Year Meeting Preview: Savannah Keynoters Focus on Trends Affecting the Legal Profession

12 ACLEA 52nd Mid-Year Meeting: Sponsor Exhibitor Opportunities

13 ACLEA 52nd Mid-Year Meeting: Info

14 Books of ACLEA

President's Column

By Jennifer LC Flynn, *President of ACLEA*



I have terrible travel luck.

Case in point: I was returning home from an ACLEA Executive Committee meeting in Austin a few years ago when my flight was delayed, causing me to miss my connection through Minneapolis-St. Paul. With a recent snowstorm having led to dozens of backed-up flights, the next available departure home to Edmonton, Alberta was three days away. I was informed that all the nearby hotels were booked, but was “reassured” that I could “put my name down for a sleeping mat”. To compound the situation, I had no worldly possessions: my gate-checked

carry-on (including my jacket and cell phone charger) had been “misdirected”. The airline prison-issue toiletry kit – which consisted of a comb, a toothbrush, and a single cotton swab – offered little comfort.

Late at night, in a then-unknown city, I soon found myself sitting alone and miserable on an airport bench... moments away from a full-on meltdown. And

Continued on page 2

President's Column

Continued from page 1

then who should appear? Vince O'Brien (ACLEA's then-president) returning home from our Austin trip. Long story short, I ended up being the beneficiary of three days' of incomparable Minnesota CLE hospitality. In the end, my three-day unexpected layover became a highly productive and enjoyable sojourn.

I counted myself lucky to have been connecting through MSP, but it occurred to me how many cities I could potentially have been stranded in where I know an ACLEA member who would have been there to help.

Over my past seven years in CLE, I have found myself "stuck" in more situations than I can count... facing thorny issues related to pricing schemes, difficult technology choices, programming conundrums, trying questions about legal indexing, and more. I have tapped into the ACLEA network for every one of my major CLE challenges and I have always found an ACLEA member willing to help. This spirit of sharing and support should come as no surprise: community is the heart of ACLEA.

ACLEA strives to develop and maintain a thriving, interactive community for its members. It does this by supporting opportunities to connect both in-person (at conferences) and year-round through technology-mediated channels. But the very best way, in my experience, to connect with new (incredible!) people, strengthen bonds, and derive benefit from the ACLEA community has been to volunteer. The members I've presented with on a panel, worked with on a committee, or served with on the EC are the ones from whom I've learned and gained the very most. They are also the ones I know will always be there to help.

With that in mind, I encourage all ACLEA members (whether brand new or seasoned veterans) to join in and volunteer – and to get the most from the deep and rich community that ACLEA has to offer. If you are looking for ways to get involved, contact ACLEA at aclea@aclea.org or reach out to me directly at jennifer.flynn@lesa.org.

And... if you are ever stranded at the Edmonton International Airport, just let me know.

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Project Management for Herding Cats ... and Producing CLE

Megan K. Moore, J.D., *Director of Programming*
Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education

Producing continuing legal education programs can feel a lot like herding cats – just when you feel like you’ve gotten everything corralled and in order, one of the “cats” breaks free and your confidence in ever mastering the situation folds. Thankfully, there are a variety of simple steps you can take to help keep things on track even when it seems like the cats have taken over.

Step One: Recognize the Nature of the Beast. The fact that you are juggling a variety of ever-changing issues and priorities is not in itself evidence of a shortcoming on your part. Rather it is, in fact, the nature of the continuing education beast. What you may not be doing well is implementing a process for managing the chaos. So it’s time to let go of the illusion that you will ever have a corral full of content and well-behaved cats and embrace the calamity.

Step Two: Name Your Cats. You have to get serious about identifying and prioritizing your tasks. Create a graphic organizer that you can fill in each day that includes the following items:

- *Hot List* – Burning issues that must be dealt with ASAP.
- *Dailies* – A checklist of daily tasks that must be done every day no matter what else the day brings. For example, this might include reviewing registration numbers, reviewing and editing marketing materials, reading program evaluations, etc.
- *Task List* – A complete list of your tasks for THAT day. Whatever you don’t complete gets transferred to your organizer for the next day.
- *Appointments* – Your Outlook appointment reminders are helpful too, but the act of writing them down and incorporating them into a daily organizer helps ingrain them in your mind and put them in the context of your complete daily plan.
- *Personal* – Tasks that are related to your personal life but that either require action during your workday or that you need to be reminded of throughout the day.

Step Three: Identify the Troublemakers. Which are the tasks or problems that are clawing their way to the top, demanding your attention? Even though these might be the tasks that you dread the most, move them up on your task list – consider making these the “hot list” items – and get them done first. Carefully consider each task and each appointment. Determine what preparations you need to make and include them on your task list. Think of your tasks in terms of items that need to happen today, tomorrow, this week, or later and sort your list accordingly.

Once you’ve completed this process, you’ve got a solid foundation from which you can add, subtract, or modify as you encounter other cats that demand your attention or need a home. As each cat demands your attention, make sure you are not making it a priority at the expense of your core task list just because it’s a task that you’d prefer to deal with or because it is seeking the most attention. Use your core list to manage the herd of cats so that they don’t manage you.

Where Are They Now?

Vic Rubino

1. Vic, it's been less than 6 months since you retired from your position of president at Practicing Law Institute (PLI) and a few years since your last ACLEA meeting. What have you been up to?

Consulting, traveling (including a trip to China to visit law firms) and attending my son's wedding.

2. What's your next big project? Do you have any trips or events you're looking forward to?

Consulting and traveling. I am headed to Galapagos soon and am planning a trip to Italy in the spring.

3. What do you miss most about ACLEA?

The camaraderie.

4. How has ACLEA changed since you first got involved?

It has grown in size and sophistication. When I joined in 1980 it was not only smaller but consisted only of non-profits.

5. What would you say is the biggest difference between CLE now and when you started in the business?

The addition of for-profit providers has added zest to the conversations and the forming of a professional staff.

6. Any predictions on the next big game changer that will force us to rethink everything?

Anything that makes learning better, faster and cheaper.

7. What's your fondest ACLEA memory?

Trying to do a song and dance number at one of the ACLEA reviews.

8. If you had one piece of advice to give a new ACLEA member, what would it be?

Attend as many meetings as you can, meet as many people as you can and brush your teeth. 😊



Get to Know Your ACLEA Executive

Alexandra Wong

The Law Society of Upper Canada

1. What is your position with The Law Society of Upper Canada (LSUC)?

I am a Program Coordinator in the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Department.

2. What did you do in your pre-CLE life and what brought you to the CLE world?

I have been with the Law Society for nine years and have held a number of positions, including Coordinator, Examination Administration & Security and Program Development Assistant.

Pre-CLE, I worked in the financial services sector in the customer service and training areas. I was introduced to the CLE world through an unexpected phone call from an employment agent, who had inadvertently printed my resume.

3. How long have you been a member of ACLEA?

I joined ACLEA in 2009.

4. What do you remember from your first ACLEA meeting?

My first ACLEA meeting was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico in 2009. I attended Boot Camp and had the pleasure of meeting a number of first-time attendees who have since become both great resources and friends.

5. What has surprised you most about being a member of ACLEA?

The willingness of all members to share ideas and best practices on how to make CLE better. The meeting of minds is an awesome generator of fresh ideas. We are all in CLE for the same reasons – to educate lawyers, paralegals and/or other legal professionals and to provide them with the essentials/tools to function effectively in an ever changing legal services landscape.

6. What other leadership positions(s) within ACLEA did you hold before joining the Executive Committee and what did you learn from (it/them)?

I started with the Newsletter Committee (now known as the Communications Committee) and my involvement has grown to include being a member of the San Diego and Chicago Planning Committees. I was given the opportunity to speak at the Chicago conference and am looking forward to speaking at the upcoming conference in Savannah. (I will be speaking on the Nightmares of CLE, a session not to be missed!)

7. What motivated you to become a member of ACLEA's Executive Committee?

I have been provided with numerous professional development opportunities through ACLEA and decided it was time to give back to ACLEA for all of the wonderful experiences they have provided to me. As a member of the Executive Committee, I look forward to not only learning more about ACLEA, but to also have the opportunity to help improve the benefits of being a member of ACLEA and increase our online presence worldwide.



Continued on page 6

Get to Know Your ACLEA Executive

Continued from page 5

8. What would you tell someone who is thinking about running for a position on the ACLEA Executive Committee?

Get involved! Join a SIG/Committee, sign up for the listservs, become a mentor - the networking opportunities are limitless and the resources are plentiful. ACLEA members all do great things in CLE and everyone is willing to share their hints and tips on their successes and failures.

9. What do you think is the most important issue facing CLE organizations today?

Not only do we need to bridge the gap between law school and the workplace, but we need to ensure that those in the legal profession are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to survive in a constantly changing legal landscape. Gone are the days of providing text book cases, here to stay are the days of providing practical hands on resources and tools.

10. What do you think will change about CLE in the next five years?

The evolution of technology and the needs of lawyers, paralegals and other legal professionals will change depending on each generation. Senior members of the profession are retiring, and a new generation is entering the work force. For CLE professionals, it means finding different ways of delivering training, via different modes of technology and creating more interactive opportunities in CLE programs.

11. If you weren't involved in CLE, what do you think you would be doing instead?

There is no doubt in my mind, that I would be involved in event planning in some capacity. I love the logistics of putting on a "show" from choosing a venue, to picking a menu to determining the setup and seeing the end result.

12. What do you like to do when you aren't working?

Outside of work, I enjoy walking for miles (those who are friends with me on Fitbit can attest to that!), reading, completing crossword and Sudoku puzzles, watching TV (yes, I'm addicted to Chicago Fire, Chicago PD and Chicago Med), playing video games and hunting for rare Star Wars figures.

13. Tell us one thing that the ACLEA membership should definitely know about you.

It is no secret that I am a huge fan of NBC's hit show – Chicago Fire, which has just been renewed for another season! I was fortunate to meet most of the cast on set in 2014. It was one of the best days ever!

Member Moment

Barbara Whitefield, *State Bar of New Mexico*

PROFESSIONALLY

Current Job: CLE Program Manager; I provide leadership and strategic management of the Center for Legal Education for the State Bar of New Mexico.

A Recent Professional Victory: Re-writing job descriptions and documenting some of our processes.

Your Latest Challenge: Setting-up our on-demand self-study program and understanding how our Association Management System (AMS) integrates with the Learning Management System (LMS) to set-up the modules and run reports.

In My Pre-CLE Life, I Was: ... a radiologic technologist (R.T.) and I am still credentialed in the profession. My specialty is vascular-interventional radiology. I understand what a true “emergency” is and can keep a cool head when things get hectic!

What Brought Me to CLE: I transitioned from clinical practice as an R.T. and joined the continuing education department of a national professional association for radiologic technologists. I became a certified association executive and made the jump from continuing medical education to CLE after organizational restructuring. CME and CLE are very similar in that both have licensing rules and regs, and similar planning and logistical needs. I’m still learning CLE’s customer needs, terminology, and practice areas.

TECHNOLOGICALLY SPEAKING

I Never Leave Home Without: A watch (I’m old school), my iPhone and my Mont Blanc pen. I love writing with a good pen!

My Favorite Software: iTunes and Outlook. Listening to upbeat music helps me be creative and stay focused and Outlook helps me stay organized and on-track with my day. I use signature templates to respond to similar customer emails (i.e., sending survey links, CLE filing information, certificates, etc). I only have to customize a few elements in the message to fit the customer’s questions.

On My Wish List: iPad Pro

Must-See Website(s): [LinkedIn Pulse](#); [Inc.com](#)

PERSONALLY

Recent Good Read: I’m a magazine junkie and love to look at food and fashion pictures! My favorite “work” magazines to read are Harvard Business Review and SUCCESS – they contain great articles about



Continued on page 11

Member Moment

Angela A. Edris, *The Pennsylvania Bar Institute (PBI)*

PROFESSIONALLY

Current Job: As a Program Attorney for PBI, I work with a talented team of colleagues and our volunteer experts to bring quality programming to lawyers across Pennsylvania.

A Recent Professional Victory: Time flies when you're having fun! December will mark my first year anniversary with PBI. Sometimes it seems as though my first day on the job was last week!

In My Pre-CLE Life, I Was: Prior to joining PBI, I worked as a government lawyer hearing appeals that were filed under Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law. Before that, I served as a director of a non-profit organization which provides legal services to vulnerable immigrant populations, and as an assistant public defender representing clients in drug and mental health treatment court programs.

What Brought Me to CLE: In addition to the fact that I love to learn, working as a CLE professional offers an excellent opportunity to use and learn a multitude of skill sets in various areas including project management, marketing, technology, event planning, etc. I enjoy thinking creatively and love the diversity of the CLE world.

TECHNOLOGICALLY SPEAKING

I Never Leave Home Without: My iPhone. Sadly, I'd be lost without it.

My Favorite Software: Outlook. It's a love/hate relationship.

On My Wish List: To master the Adobe Creative Suite.

Must-See Website(s): www.pbi.org

PERSONALLY

Favorite Pastime: Exploring a rail trail, gardening, or anything that involves clear, blue Caribbean water.

Date(s) I Never Miss: ACLEA's 52nd Annual Meeting, July 30 - August 2, 2016

My Dream Vacation: To bicycle across the continental U.S. and visit all of our National Parks.



CLE is Like a Box of Chocolates

Register Online at www.aclea.org!

Preview: Savannah Keynoters Focus on Trends Affecting the Legal Profession

Leslie Sinner McEvoy, *Webcast Program Attorney*
Minnesota CLE

The plenary speakers for this year's Mid-Year Meeting in Savannah, Georgia bring a wide range of experience in a wide range of disciplines. They will focus on a spectrum of trends affecting the legal profession today – and continuing legal education – including using emotional intelligence, core business innovation, aging in the law, the mentor leader and what new lawyers need to know to succeed in practice.



Emotional Intelligence for Successful Teams January 31, 2016, 10:45 am-12:00 pm

Susan Sneider, Founder, New Vistas Consulting

Susan Sneider is the founder of New Vistas Consulting, a legal and financial services consulting firm. Susan is an internationally recognized management expert and speaker and the well-known author of the American Bar Association best-seller, *A Lawyer's Guide to Networking*. For over 20 years, Susan has presented domestically and internationally on management, business development, leadership and networking. Susan will be speaking about how to improve our organization's results by learning to see, adjust for, and improve our teams' emotional intelligence. She will cover familiar situations, providing an action plan that will allow our teams to fulfill their highest potential at work and at play, with staff and volunteers.



Core Business Innovation: How Coca-Cola and Others Transform Their Products January 31, 2016, 4:15-5:15 pm

Carie Davis, Partner, Your Ideas Are Terrible

Carie Davis is a co-founder and partner at Your Ideas Are Terrible, an Atlanta, Georgia management consulting firm, and is the former Global Director: Innovation and Entrepreneurship for The Coca-Cola Company. Your Ideas Are Terrible helps

[Continued on page 10](#)

Preview: Savannah Keynoters Focus on Trends Affecting the Legal Profession

Continued from page 9

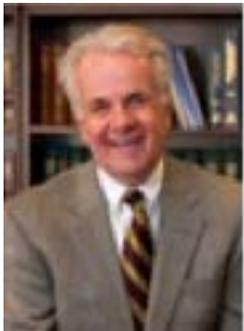
large organizations learn and implement entrepreneurial methods to solve their innovation and growth challenges. The firm's approach de-emphasizes ideation, focusing instead on identifying assumptions, validating hypotheses and finding product + market fit – methods that organizations can also learn in order to use their innovation fuel more efficiently. We all strive to continually improve our services, but how can we grow by monetizing our assets in new ways? Carie will address how organizations can use methods like lean startup for business model innovation across core offerings. She'll share case studies, methods and tools you can apply right away.



Aging in the Law: It's More Than a Senior Moment – February 1, 2016, 9:15-10:30 am

Avarita Hanson, Executive Director, Georgia Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

Avarita Hanson is an Attorney and Executive Director for the Georgia Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism with over 30 years of experience in legal and law-related environments. She oversees mandatory continuing legal education programs in professionalism for all Georgia lawyers and conducts legal professionalism programming activities throughout Georgia and with national organizations. Avarita co-chaired a ground-breaking inaugural continuing legal education seminar at the Carter Center in Atlanta that addressed assisting aging lawyers in moving to another level or second season of practice, or transitioning out of practice altogether. In her presentation, Avarita will share her experiences and provide helpful, practical information on programming continuing legal education seminars that address the issues of aging lawyers and their transition out of practice with dignity, not discipline.



The Mentor Leader – February 1, 2016, 1:30-2:45 pm

John Baker, Director, Colorado Attorney Mentoring Program

John Baker spent 30 years as a trial attorney, concentrating his legal practice in products liability litigation, representing individuals that were injured by defective pharmaceutical products and vehicles. In 2013, he was appointed by the Colorado Supreme Court Advisory Committee as the first Director of the Colorado Attorney Mentoring Program. John has the responsibility of establishing a state-wide young lawyer mentoring program, covering each of the 22 judicial districts in Colorado. In his remarks, John will share his unique mentor leadership philosophy. He will address the keys of mentoring leadership and why mentor leadership brings out the best in people. John's approach is reminiscent of the days when every attorney was matched with a mentor from whom to learn the law. The objectives of John's mentoring program are: to promote professional pride and identity in the legal profession; to promote the pursuit of excellence in service to clients; and to promote strong relationships between the bar, courts, clients, law schools, and the public.

Continued on page 11

Preview: Savannah Keynoters Focus on Trends Affecting the Legal Profession

Continued from page 10



The Profession Speaks on the Foundations that New Lawyers Need to Practice February 2, 2016, 9:45-11:00 am

Alli Gerkman, *Director, Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers*

Alli Gerkman is the Director of Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers, a national initiative to align legal education with the needs of an evolving profession, a program of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver. She became Director of the initiative in 2013, and has been part of its team since its launch in 2011. Alli leads all major projects of Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers, including Foundations for Practice, which is identifying the foundations entry-level lawyers need to practice, and steering legal education toward that end. Lawyers, judges, and clients have been consistent in their call for new lawyers who can hit the ground running. Bar associations and CLE organizations can play a role in bridging the gap between law school and law practice, but what are the competencies, skills, characteristics, and qualities that new lawyers need in order to be ready? In 2015, Educating Tomorrow's Lawyers conducted a national study that asked lawyers that very question. More than 22,000 lawyers in 35 states responded, providing a robust and meaningful view of the foundation new lawyers need to succeed. Alli will provide an overview of the survey results and how to identify the opportunities these results create for our organizations.

Member Moment

Continued from page 7

business, leadership and personal development.

Favorite Pastime: Playing with my dogs and just being outdoors. New Mexico is beautiful all year round - big, blue sky, and lots of sunshine!

Date(s) I Never Miss: Wednesday date-night with my husband.

My Dream Vacation: Anything that involves sand, sun and the ocean!

Words I Live By: Don't look back - you're not going that way.

CLE is Like a Box of Chocolates

Sponsor/Exhibitor
Opportunities

Become a Sponsor and Exhibitor at the 2016 ACLEA Mid-Year Annual Meeting

The ACLEA Mid-Year Meeting is an intimate and exciting way to make long-lasting relationships that exponentially expand your business, with approximately 200 CLE professionals typically attending each year. With members hailing from the USA, Canada, and abroad, the continuing legal education professionals who attend this meeting include programming planners, editors, publication staff, executive directors, and other key decision makers from various state and provincial bars, national bars, local and specialty bars, and independent CLE companies.

Be front and center with ACLEA attendees! We've added more sponsorship opportunities and options this year, including hosting the meeting WiFi, providing branded hotel guest room keys, and a charging station sponsorship. See page 3 for the full list.

Exhibit space at the 52nd Mid-Year Meeting is very limited, but the exhibit hall layout is ideal for constant attendee traffic. Exhibit booths will be sold on a first-come first-served basis.

[Register Online](#)

[Download the Exhibitor/Sponsor Prospectus \(PDF\)](#)

Don't miss your opportunity to showcase your company in Savannah.

EXHIBITOR SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 30

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Exhibitor Set-Up
6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Welcome Reception

Sunday, January 31

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break in Exhibit Hall**
4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. Break in Exhibit Hall

***Opportunity for Refreshment Sponsorship during this time*

Monday, February 1

8:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Break in Exhibit Hall**
2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Break in Exhibit Hall**
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. "Taste of Savannah Event"

***Opportunity for Refreshment Sponsorship during this time*

Tuesday, February 2

9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Networking Break in Exhibit Hall
11:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. Networking Break in Exhibit Hall

CLE is Like a Box of Chocolates

ACLEA 52nd Mid-Year Meeting
Savannah, Georgia
January 30 - February 2, 2016

Early Bird Registration Deadline: December 28

Highlights Include

- More than 25 unique workshops to choose from
- A special presentation by a former Coca-Cola Director
- New Member Orientation and CLE Boot Camp
- Special Interest Group meetings
- Group fitness options including walking, running, yoga, and Zumba
- Optional offsite networking events such as trolley tours and a haunted pub crawl
- The unique backdrop of the historical city of Savannah
- And more!

Meeting Resource Toolkit

Need assistance seeking approval from your employer to attend the ACLEA's Mid-Year Meeting?

ACLEA has created a [Meeting Resource Toolkit](#) to help you! The [toolkit](#) includes:

- [Sample Letter](#) Requesting Support
- Tips to Make Asking for Approval Easier
- How to Overcome Objections

Download the [toolkit](#) at [aclea.org](#), available on the [2016 Mid-Year Meeting registration page](#).

Hotel Information

Our host hotel is the Hilton Savannah DeSoto. ACLEA has secured a special room rate of \$169 USD per night for single/double **available until December 22, 2015** or until the room block is exhausted, whichever comes first.

\$169/night plus city/state tax and fees

NOTE: ACLEA has obtained this room rate by contracting a total meeting package at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto. ACLEA must meet certain minimum food & beverage and hotel room pickup requirements or ACLEA will face attrition and/or meeting room rental. In order for ACLEA to continue to provide a reasonable registration fee, we need your help. Please take advantage of the room rate we have negotiated and make your reservation by contacting:

Hilton Savannah DeSoto

15 East Liberty Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401 – U.S.A.
Phone: 1+ (912) 232-9000
Toll Free: 1+ (877) 280-0751

Hotel Website: www.desotohilton.com

Online Reservations: http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/S/SAVDHHF-LEA-20160128/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Books of ACLEA

Grammar Can Be Funny, But Not All Grammarians Are

A book review by Linda L. Kruschke, *Oregon State Bar*

If you work in legal publications (or any type of publications for that matter), grammar is important. Whether you are a legal editor, a copy editor, or a proofreader, you have to be a little bit pedantic about grammar, punctuation, and style.

But sometimes you just like to focus on the humorous side of grammar (yes, there really is a humorous side of grammar!). Sometimes you like to read books like the classic *Eats, Shoots & Leaves* by Lynne Truss. Or sometimes you enjoy the humor in more traditional grammar texts like *Garner's Dictionary of Legal Usage* by Bryan Garner.

When I was asked to write a book review for *In the Loop*, I decided it would be fun to share a different humorous grammar book with the ACLEA folks, one that the legal publications and seminars people could both appreciate. So imagine my delight when I discovered *Grammar Snobs Are Great Big Meanies* by June Casagrande. I cracked it open (okay, I actually opened it on my Kindle, but don't tell my fellow legal pubs folks) and started with the Note from the Author.

At the outset, Casagrande makes a distinction between grammar geeks—people who are fascinated by grammar and word usage—and grammar snobs—people who like to rub their superior grammar knowledge (which is apparently actually not that superior) in other people's faces for spite. She claims to be the former, but proves quite early on in the book to be of the latter ilk.

Her mean-spirited attack of grammar gurus such as James Kilpatrick, Lynne Truss, and Bryan Garner, to name but a few, took me quite aback. It was not at all what I expected and not at all funny (at least not to me). In her first chapter, "A Snob for All Seasons," she spends five pages attacking Kilpatrick as well as William Safire. She ends with a single page on the grammar lesson of the chapter, using as an illustration a sentence involving a bug crawling up these grammarian's butts. While the lesson was accurate on the use of "s" with compound subjects, it was hard to see through the unfunny language of the example.

In addition, she uses a fair amount of sexual humor in instances that are unwarranted and merely gratuitous. For example, in the discussion of the difference between "to lay" and "to lie," she uses an example that involves police requiring suspects to "lay" rather than "lie" on the floor at a crime scene. Rather than focus on the everyday difference between these words, Casagrande homes in on the slang or vulgar meaning of the word "lay," to have sexual intercourse. Her attempt at humor was lost on me and her lesson was not particularly helpful if one was truly confused about which of these two verbs to use.

On a positive note, I did find confirmation that my favorite birthday song does use the words "who" and "whom" correctly. It goes like this:

Today is a birthday, I wonder for whom
I'll bet it's for somebody right in this room
So look all around you for somebody whoooooooooooooooooo
Is smiling and happy, my goodness it's YOU!

Okay, so the "who" may not be spelled correctly, but it is grammatically correct to have "whom" in the first line and "who" in the sentence that spans the third and fourth lines.

In the spirit of full disclosure, I confess I couldn't finish this whole book, but I did slug through a good portion of it hoping to find a funny nugget. No such luck. All I found were insults to anyone who thinks that being pedantic

[Continued on page 15](#)

Books of ACLEA

The Law of the Garbage Truck: How to Stop People from Dumping on You – David J. Pollay

A book review by Earl Dumitru, *Association of Law Officers of the Crown (ALOC)*

Health and wellness have always been important. Research indicates that our attorney clients are particularly unaware and vulnerable. Sadly, wellness has often been overlooked as part of CLE programing.

The good news is that times are changing. Just this year, ACLEA recognized the Ontario Bar Association for *The Mindful Lawyer CPD Series* focusing on mental health and happiness. In Ontario, our regulator – the Law Society of Upper Canada – has long supported individual crisis support services and is now exploring other facets through a task force on promoting wellness and addressing mental health. Here at ALOC, we have focused on positive psychology and resilience. Among the resources we reviewed was *The Law of the Garbage Truck: How to Stop People from Dumping on You* by David J. Pollay.

A core premise of positive psychology is that most people, most of the time, cannot control events or the actions of others. What we can control is our reaction to events. We have a choice in how we respond. When we get cut-off on the highway or experience terrible customer service, we can get upset and let it ruin our day. Or, we can recognize that getting upset is a waste of time and energy and move on to things that are more important in our lives. In Pollay's words, "You do not have to be burdened by the negative things you cannot control."

In Pollay's book, 'bad' events – and especially people who are negative, rude, or uncivil – are garbage trucks. The book examines various situations in which we encounter garbage trucks in our personal and professional lives. And he emphasizes that avoiding garbage trucks is not enough; we all have a proactive responsibility to avoid becoming garbage trucks ourselves and spreading garbage.

The book is written in an exhorting style and includes many of the techniques familiar to the self-help / self-improvement genre including self-assessment quizzes, pledges and commitments, and a "next steps" action guide after each chapter. Written for a generalist audience, it is interesting, accessible and relevant to CLE professionals, attorneys, and our families, friends and colleagues.

There is no doubt that part of the power of this book is the colourful and elegant metaphor the 'garbage truck' – who wants to be, or be around, a garbage truck more than necessary?

Grammar Can Be Funny, But Not All Grammarians Are

Continued from page 14

(i.e. excessively concerned with minor details or rules) about grammar is a useful thing. As a Director of Legal Publications, pedantic editors are what I look for when hiring new staff. In legal publications consistency and accuracy are important; one can easily be pedantic without being a grammar snob. Likewise, as Casagrande illustrates, one can be a grammar snob (and meanie) without being particularly pedantic.

In short, I don't recommend this book for the grammar lessons or the humor. I'll keep looking for another good humorous grammar book to recommend, but in the meantime I might see if it's not too late to return my Kindle copy of this one.