This is my final year of my three year term as APA Ombudsperson. On July 1, 2017, I officially hand the baton to Laurie Shrage, although I will be working with her on any cases that arise over the summer. Laurie has experience both as APA Ombuds and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Sexual Harassment. I am gratified to know that I will be leaving the ombuds work in more-than-capable hands.

It has been a privilege to serve, and I thank the APA for trusting me with this important role.

Summary of activity
It was a relatively quiet year for the APA Ombudsperson.

There were 27 (twenty-seven) incidents over the twelve month period. Twelve (12) were requests for assistance that did not concern a complaint against a person, department, or institution. The remaining fifteen involved a complaint of some kind.

The requests for help were for the following: setting up a mentoring project; setting up a junior faculty support group; changing the published status of a member at a website; responding to the Professor’s Watchlist blog; setting up an initiative to ensure best practices for journal editing with buy-in from editors of the leading journals; judging whether job advertisements conformed with the APA non-discrimination statement (2x); dealing with quick rejection from a journal; setting up a British Ombudsperson paralleling the APA’s; setting up sexual harassment and discrimination procedures for philosophy society; and, finally, setting up a target of opportunity line in a department.

The incidents involving a complaint of some kind concerned the following: complaint against an institution for third year review denial; complaint against a department for the way it deals with disability; an inquiry into censuring a department; advice about being a whistleblower on a department; a potential lawsuit against a university for mishandling health matters of a member; discussion with a lawyer handling a sexual harassment case; help with a legal case against an institution; complaint against a foreign institution for violation of professional rights; complaint against an institution for tenure denial; complaint against a blog; and, finally, five reported complaints against senior, white male philosophers for either sexual harassment or harassment.

Descriptions of these cases and how they were handled (with all identifying information removed) appear in a confidential document for the National Office records.