

Letter from the President

Jason R. Jobe, Esq., *Thompson Coe*

As we move through the dog days of summer, there is relief in sight—three fall days in beautiful Chicago! PLDF's 10th Annual Meeting will be in the Windy City, September 25 - 27 at the W Chicago – Lakeshore. Once again, we have put together an impressive lineup of attorneys and claims professionals who will speak on a broad range of topics and tips applicable to defending professional liability claims. In addition to expanding your knowledge and knocking out CLE/CE credits, you will enjoy the opportunities to socialize and network with others in the industry—a focus of PLDF that I believe sets us apart from other organizations. We will have the Young Professionals Reception, the Welcome Reception for all members, group dinners around the city, a practice committee luncheon, field trips (Chicago Architecture Foundation River Cruise or the Chicago Crime Tour) and a member dinner at Cité (on the 70th floor of Lake Point Tower). And yes, this is all included in your registration fee! If you have not done so already, you can register and book your hotel room on PLDF's website.

With this being my last column as President, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone for another great and productive year that has seen growth in membership, outreach and member benefits. This is the result of a collaborative effort. I want to specifically thank our amazing Board of Directors—Tom Jensen (Lind Jensen Sullivan & Peterson); Tim Gephart (*Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company*), Erin Higgins (*Conn Kavanaugh*), Lisa Tulk (*Kessler Collins PC*), Pat Eckler (*Pretzel & Stouffer, Chartered*), Andrew Jones (*Furman Kornfeld & Brennan, LLP*), Kathleen Buck (*Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company*), Paul Ruiz (*Adventist Health*), Louie Castoria (*Kaufman Dolowich Voluck, LLP*), Kiera Goral (*QBE*), Molly Eiden (*Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company*), David Anderson (*Collins Einhorn Farrell PC*), Peter Biging (*Goldberg Segalla LLP*), Dan Church (*Morrow Willnauer Church, LLC*) and Glen Olson (*Long & Levit LLP*), who have invested significant time and resources continuously working to improve the organization. I also appreciate the dedication of our practice committee leaders, whose hard work has resulted in increased involvement among and contributions from the committees. I must also highlight the great job by our new managing directors, Sandra Wulf and Sara Decatoire, who had big shoes to fill following Chris Jensen's promotion to the role of full-time grandmother. They made the transition seamless and have brought some great new ideas to the organization.

Speaking of filling big shoes, Erin Higgins was certainly a hard act to follow as President. I really appreciate all of her advice and assistance this year. I hope to be a similar resource after passing the torch to our next President, Lisa Tulk. Last, but certainly not least, I want to recognize and thank Pat Eckler and Tom Jensen for the remarkable job they have done with the publication you are currently reading. They have taken the *PLD Quarterly* to a new level in quality and substance.

Before being sent out to pasture, I wanted to once again emphasize my main recommendation for all members—get involved in order to get the most out of your membership. There are many numerous opportunities that include meeting and work with great people, taking on leadership positions and gaining valuable exposure for you and your firm/company.

Professional Liability Defense QUARTERLY

As we approach the culmination of our year in Chicago, I wanted to revisit the following new-year “resolutions” recommended for all members in my initial column last fall:

- 1) Attend the Annual Meeting;
- 2) Spread the word about PLDF to your co-workers, colleagues, and other acquaintances within the profession;
- 3) Join and become involved in PLDF practice committees and the Young Professionals committee;
- 3) Submit an article for the *PLD Quarterly*;
- 4) Submit a program proposal for the Annual Meeting with a panel of attorneys and claims professionals;
- 5) Think PLDF for assignments and referrals; and,
- 6) Provide feedback to the leadership.

Hopefully you have met at least some of these “resolutions” in the past year, and you will continue to consider them moving forward.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments or suggestions. I look forward to seeing everyone in Chicago!

About the Author

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About the PLDF

The Professional Liability Defense Federation™ is a not-for-profit organization designed to bring together attorneys, claims professionals and risk management specialists to share expertise and information helpful to the successful defense of professional liability claims.

Membership in the PLDF includes delivery of the *Professional Liability Defense Quarterly*, which is devoted to current legal defense and claims handling issues. Articles of topical interest spanning a wide range of malpractice defense subjects are presented to add value to effective defense preparations for the claims handler and defense counsel. We encourage member submission of articles proposed for publication to: Editor-in-Chief, *Professional Liability Defense Quarterly*, PO Box 588, Rochester IL 62563-0588, sandra@PLDF.org.

To learn more about the PLDF and all that we have to offer, please visit www.PLDF.org or contact our management team: Managing Director Sandra J. Wulf, CAE, IOM, sandra@pldf.org; Deputy Director Sara Decatoire, CAE, IOM, sarad@pldf.org.