

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

ALLEN A. ETISH

Like a Rolling Stone



I may be showing my age a bit, but as I assume the post of president of the New Jersey State Bar Association, I can't help but think about the Rolling Stones' song "You Can't Always Get What You Want." If I had a choice, I would certainly not have chosen to lead the state

bar, or any other organization for that matter, in 2009, in the midst of an international economic downturn. But, as the Stones so aptly put it, while you can't always get what you want, you do, in fact, get what you need. And getting what we all need to survive and thrive in the present economic climate is the focus of my term as president.

This effort began with a strong selection of financially focused seminars offered at the recent Annual Meeting, where experts provided guidance on everything from reducing insurance and research costs to grasping and embracing the myriad of changes the economic downturn has produced. Using these programs as a foundation, we are in the process of developing a range of educational, networking and counseling opportunities to help New Jersey's attorneys strengthen their existing practices and explore new areas of law.

The deferral of starting dates or the elimination of jobs has created a fear and anxiety in our law schools. While we work

to fine-tune the practices of members already in the trenches, we will also focus our attention on the recent and upcoming law school graduates who represent the future of the legal profession. Mentoring these law students and providing support will allow these new lawyers to enter our profession with some dignity.

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These are truly unique times, but much to our credit the state bar association has been developing programming and support services for several years that are now invaluable to both large firms and solo practitioners. Building on this foundation will take hard work and determination, *but it can, and will be done.*

I welcome the opportunity to help lead the New Jersey State Bar Association in these uncharted, yet navigable waters. Together, we can meet the challenges that lie ahead with confidence, and emerge on the other side, stronger and more vital than ever. ♪