Estates & Probate Section
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Purpose
The mission of the Estates & Probate Section is to concern itself with all issues affecting estates, trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, powers of attorney, living wills and healthcare documents, and probate litigation as well as gift, inheritance, estate, and income taxes. The section promotes sound public policy and best professional practices.

Annual Report
The section continues to support improvements in Connecticut laws affecting all aspects of the world of "estates and probate." To that end, we expend an enormous amount of personal energy and significant financial resources on developing a proactive legislative agenda. During 2005–2006, we continued to focus on improvements in the laws affecting healthcare agents in Connecticut, the adoption of the Uniform Trust Code, and, above all, the improvement and preservation of the Connecticut probate system.

Special mention is due to the extraordinary efforts of Greta Solomon and the Spousal Elective Share Committee, appointed in early 2005 by our immediate past chair, Steve Fast. Their work has been outstanding. Section Vice Chair Suzy Walsh, Secretary Peter Mott, Treasurer John Ivimey, and executive committee members Deb Tedford, Amy Day, and Molly Ackerly have all made strong contributions to our section's legislative efforts.

We also have benefited from the generous support of CBA President Lou Pepe, whose understanding of our complex and ambitious legislative agenda led to our section being authorized to retain an outside lobbyist in 2006. On behalf of the entire section, I extend our thanks to him for this support.

CLE Co-chairs Greg Hayes, Dave Hermenze, and Judy Keppelman have organized important and interesting educational programs for our meetings. We are grateful for their efforts.

Former section chair Sara Stadler, with a committee comprised of Eileen Donahue, Bob Gilhuly, Warren Johnson, and Deb Tedford, conducted a long-range planning assessment of our section, the findings and recommendations of which will guide our efforts in the years ahead.

As a section, we are clearly evolving from the days when we were concerned primarily with minimizing the taxes paid by the wealthy to one in which the values of diversity and social justice are acknowledged, respected, and advanced. Yet, we remain committed to a strong ethic of individualism within the context of the community as a whole and with the awareness that not all individuals are as capable as others.

It has been an enormous privilege to lead this section during the past year and, with my colleagues, I look forward to next year and the challenges it will present.