

Balancing Individual Freedom and Embracing Our Collective Responsibility in a Time of Uncertainty

By NDIDI N. MOSES

“When nothing is certain, anything is possible.”

— Mandy Hale

A virus the world minimized and discounted would only months later cause the economies and health-care systems of the world to shudder, as they are propelled into the midst of a global pandemic. While various leaders have pointed fingers at each other, a clear lesson emerges for citizens across the globe, and a promise that the human race would emerge stronger, more resilient and enlightened. This is because the pandemic served as irrefutable evidence that we are all interrelated and interconnected. What impacts one member of our human race, even if that person is a stranger, in a remote town, in a foreign country, thousands of miles away from our homes—will one day impact us. What this means is that when we act in our own self-interest, for immediate gratification, we must remain aware of how our actions may impact others, and return like a boomerang to change our own realities.

This truth is as scary as it is powerful. While it means that we may suffer for the irresponsible deeds of others, it also means that if we work in concert, our collective work and social responsibility may ensure not only our redemption but also that of strangers. The interrelationship that exists among us means that we are much stronger together than we could

Ndidi N. Moses is the 96th president of the CBA. Her focus for this bar year is balance for a better legal profession. As an active member of the association, she serves on the Board of Governors, House of Delegates, and Pro Bono Committee.



ever be apart, and that if we learn to harness our resources, energy, voice, skills, and creativity, we can change the world.

The 2020 pandemic forced this truth upon us all, during a time when everything that mattered was on the line, and we were being forced into war with an

ineffective. In short, we are required to step out on faith, onto an invisible path that would be paved and lit as we walk in it. We would be denied the luxury of a map to guide us, and given no warranty of success. Still, one truth remained. As we were forced to remain physically apart, we knew that we were, neverthe-

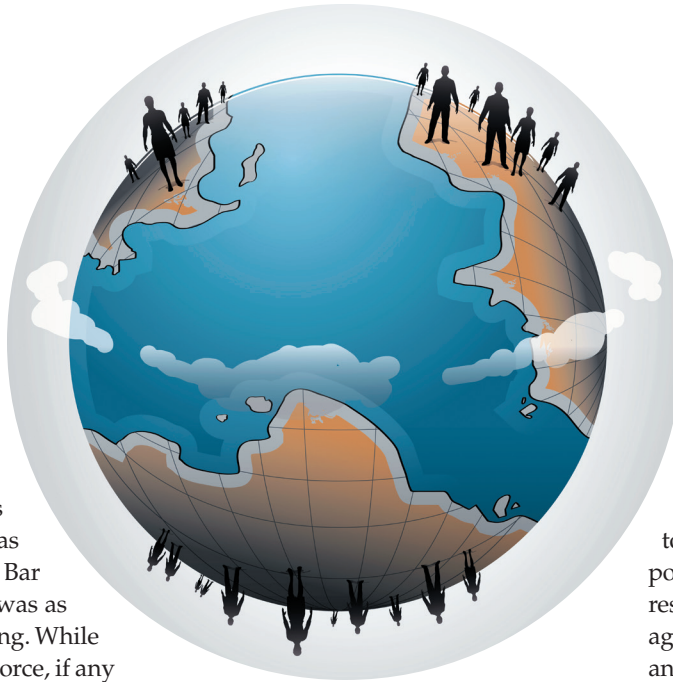
“The interrelationship that exists among us means that we are much stronger together than we could ever be apart, and that if we learn to harness our resources, energy, voice, skills, and creativity, we can change the world.”

entity we could not see and could not combat. To survive this pandemic, we have not only been asked to sacrifice our individual freedoms in the name of a larger “good,” but we were also told that the mechanisms that would be employed to achieve this “good” were untried, unproven, and in the end, may be

less, spiritually and emotionally bound in this together.

With these tenets in mind, the Connecticut Bar Association, along with several local and specialty bar associations, professional organizations, corporations, government agencies, and legal

aid organizations, pooled our resources to form the **2020 COVID-19 Pandemic Task Force**. With no play-book in hand, and with little time to create one, these organizations with various missions made a conscious effort to forego their individual interests to work towards collective goals. Serving as president of the Connecticut Bar Association during this time was as empowering as it was humbling. While I officially convened the task force, if any accolades are due for the success of our initiatives, they are attributable to the selfless acts and unyielding devotion of task force members, who were supported by the dedicated staff of the Connecticut Bar Association. The task force

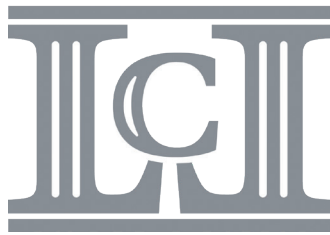


walked in the shadows of our leaders in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches as they forged ahead, on a journey of faith, with the sole goal of protecting the people of Connecticut. Their ef-

forts ensured the bravest among us, including healthcare workers, first responders, janitors, grocery store employees, gas station attendants, and others on the front lines, did not toil in vain.

When we recall the pandemic that rocked our world in 2020, I hope that we will devote more attention to the lessons we learned about the importance of collective work and social responsibility. I hope that we pay homage to those who dedicated their time and lives to provide us all with a cloak of comfort and security during a time of turbulence and uncertainty. To them we owe a debt of gratitude, which can only be repaid with a promise to remember that together we are more dynamic than we could ever have been apart. ■

**LAWYERS
CONCERNED FOR
LAWYERS
CONNECTICUT INC.**



Serving the Needs of the Connecticut Legal Community

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers – Connecticut, Inc. (“LCL-CT”) is a Connecticut non-profit corporation created to provide assistance to Connecticut lawyers, judges and law students who experience substance use disorders, mental health issues, stress, age-related problems or other distress that impacts the individual’s ability to function personally and professionally.

LCL services are available at no cost to all attorneys, judges and law students in the State of Connecticut.

All LCL services are strictly confidential and protected under C.G.S. §51-81d(a), as amended.

Visit our website: www.lclct.org

**Contact LCL today for FREE, CONFIDENTIAL support
HOTLINE: 1-800-497-1422**