

As My Year Ends . . .

By MAGGIE CASTINADO

Wow! That year went by fast! It has been my absolute honor to have served as your 100th president and the FIRST Hispanic president!! While it certainly was not an easy unpaid job (lol), I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and pride. It was a remarkable journey. We have navigated several challenges, celebrated significant achievements, and worked tirelessly to uphold the values and integrity of our profession. Having said that, I beg your indulgence as I reflect on my experience of the past year and my thoughts on how we might contribute to the enduring legacy of the CBA that we continue to build together.

The 2023-2024 bar year saw much change. The integration of AI and technological advancements is reshaping how the legal profession operates while also raising concerns about job displacement as well as competency. With increasing cyber threats and AI, ensuring the security of client data has become paramount. The demanding nature of the legal profession continues to impact attorneys' mental health and well-being and the stigma attached to this.

In 2024, climate change continues to be a critical global issue, with both progress and challenges. The year has already seen record-breaking temperatures, with World Meteorological Organization (WMO) projections suggesting that at least one of the years between now and 2028 will exceed the crucial 1.5°C temperature limit set by the Paris Agreement, highlighting the urgent need for enhanced climate action. This year is

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expected to be the hottest year on record with an increase in extreme weather events, including severe storms, an above-normal hurricane season, massive floods, violent tornados, and ferocious wildfires, to name a few.

While the division in our country worsens, as wars rage on, as hatred remains an issue, as Diversity Equity and Inclusion remain under threat, and as November approaches, it is inevitable that discord has reached our profession and law schools. We, who have long dealt with issues of civility, are particularly poised to take action and continue to have a profound impact on the practice of law and foster a culture that is respectful of the Rule of Law, is willing to address inequities and injustices, and yet, still sees the value of supporting DEI initiatives.

As to the future, the CBA and its members are resilient in the face of change, prudent in addressing the critical issues of our time and steadfast in its commit-

ment to advancing the legal profession and the principles of equity and justice. I look forward to the completion of the CBA's new location, to the implementation of a new strategic plan, to supporting efforts to improve the legal profession, our communities, and our organization. I hope that the CBA will follow the ABA's lead in its unyielding fidelity to diversity. ABA President Mary L. Smith reminds us that, "The legitimacy of our profession depends on our ability to ensure that the law, which touches every aspect of our society, reflects and serves the diverse fabric of that society."

As I conclude my term as president of the Connecticut Bar Association, I am deeply appreciative of the support and dedication each of you has shown. Our achievements are a testament to our collective commitment to justice, access to justice, excellence, and service. I do not doubt that the CBA will continue to thrive and excel under the leadership of Tim Shearin as we continue to contribute to the better-

ment of our profession, our communities, and our world.

Final food for thought:

- ◆ Be sincere—know your motive and be pure and authentic;
- ◆ Be a student, someone who is always learning and growing;
- ◆ Perceive your life through the lens of love;
- ◆ Do things that bring you joy;
- ◆ Maintain healthy boundaries to stay balanced and grounded;
- ◆ Be of (selfless) service to others;
- ◆ Honor all living beings by treating them with respect and dignity;
- ◆ Protect the planet;
- ◆ Practice gratitude, kindness, and compassion.

Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

I look forward to our continued journey together as proud members of this esteemed association. Namaste. ■

“A woman in harmony with her spirit is like a river flowing, she goes where she will without pretense and arrives at her destination prepared to be herself.”

—Maya Angelo



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