

## President's Letter for December/January

Dear Esteemed Colleagues,

I hope this email continues to find you recovering from the holidays, thriving in your unique roles as the nation's leading legal medicine experts, and preparing for the numerous legal medicine conquests that await us in 2024.

### 64th ACLM Annual Conference

Registration is open. Please visit our website at <https://www.aclm.org/event/64th-annual-conference-2/>. The in-person 64th ACLM Annual Conference will take place on March 1-3, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina in San Diego, California. The theme is, "**Navigating the Nexus: Exploring the Intersection of Law, Medicine, and Dentistry in an Era of Technological Advancements.**" I think you will be delighted with the speakers and relevant topics, which are so relevant to the practice of legal medicine. There will also be a pre-conference seminar regarding the "Scientific Evidence and Experts in Litigation" on February 29, 2024. This was well-attended last year and was one of the best presentations I have heard in my career. Former ACLM President - [Jack Snyder, MD, JD, PhD, MFS, MPH, MBA, MSIS, FCLM](#) will again be the lecturer. Steering the charge are [Dr. Richard Kelly](#) (Co-Chair), [Dr. Jennifer Unis Sullivan](#) (Co-Chair), and [Dr. Jan O'Dell](#) (Dental Chair).

Additionally, this year the College is open to Conference sponsorship. Please let the Co-chairs know if you or your practice is interested in sponsoring the Conference by emailing them here: [conference@aclm.org](mailto:conference@aclm.org).

The student writing and poster contest formats for the [Orr Post-doctoral Writing Competition](#), [Hirsh Student Writing Competition](#), and the [Basanta Poster/Abstract Competition](#), have been revised and updated to make them more attractive and less complicated for participants to enter. The poster contest has been updated to include an electronic submission. The Annual Conference Committee respectfully requests that any of our ACLM colleagues who practice or teach in an academic setting, or who mentor medical, dental or law students, to please display the flyers in areas where interested students can view and apply. Please encourage students, who show interest, to submit entries to these competitions. I want to thank Governors [John \(JD\) Daniels, JD, DO, MBA, MPH, MT \(ASCP\), FCAP, FCLM](#) and [Adam McLaughlin, MD, JD, FRCSC, FCLM](#) for reviewing abstracts and manuscripts submitted to the writing competition for several years now.

### My Thoughts - Academic Regalia

In 2008, the ACLM leadership requested that I research academic regalia for our College. At that time, I interviewed physician executives from The American College of Surgeons, The American College of Physicians, The American College of

Cardiology, and The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. I joined [The Burgon Society](#) – “the learned society for study of academical dress and regalia – design, history and practice around the world”, which is registered in England & Wales. I purchased numerous books and treatises on the subject and spoke with representatives of the Inter-Collegiate Code, which dictates the uniform standards of American academic regalia.

I am proud to share that during the 2023 Mid-year Board Meeting, the Board of Governors approved the official ACLM academic regalia I designed for the Fellows, President, and Past Presidents. During the 2024 San Diego Conference, the Board of Governors will don this academic regalia during the ceremonial induction of new ACLM Fellows. Tradition will be established. Additionally, I encourage any ACLM Fellow to order their own official ACLM academic regalia to wear during these ACLM induction ceremonies or during other academic ceremonies. When I am invited to speak at convocations or commencement ceremonies, I choose my Brown Medical School regalia for medical school or public health school ceremonies. For law school ceremonies, I wear my St. John’s University School of Law regalia. Now all of us have the opportunity to display our dual fields with the ACLM regalia. It is my hope that the regalia initiates discussion among our peers and further cements our presence in academia.

The academic regalia vendor has created a website to order the ACLM academic regalia. Eventually, the link to this website will be permanently placed on the ACLM website. For now, you may visit [here](#). There are also discount codes, which are:

1. Doctoral Set discount code: **acImdoctoral11**
2. Presidential Set discount code: **acImpresidential4**

Please note that the Fellow’s regalia is different from the Presidential regalia and the Beefeater cap is only for the Presidential regalia. Therefore, interested Fellows should order the eight - sided Tam. They should also order their hood from the drop-down list (i.e. Medicine - Hunter Green, Dentistry - Lilac, Pharmacology - Gold and Podiatry – Olive/Nile green). Also, keep in mind that it may take up to eight (8) weeks to receive your regalia.

### **2023 National Mid-year Meeting of the ACLM and ABLM**

On October 27 – 28, 2023, the National Mid-Year Conference of the ACLM and ABLM, “A Day with the Judges”, took place at the Samis Education Center of the University Hospitals Authority and Trust of the University of Oklahoma. This was the 32<sup>nd</sup> year that Former ACLM President, [Sandy Sanbar, MD, PhD, JD, FCLM, DABLM](#), organized this important meeting with the Oklahoma Supreme Court. I had the privilege to attend and co-moderate. The meeting was well attended with also almost thirty judges participating. The link to the program videos may be found at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL85yBU3O1woRXp2Li6lgQ-Gxpk8KCyHla>. On Saturday, October 28, 2023, the ACLM Board of Governors convened for the Mid-year Board Meeting in Oklahoma City, which went well

convened for the mid-year Board meeting in Orlando, Florida, which went well.

### **Journal of Legal Medicine**

[Amirala Pasha, DO, JD, FCLM](#), who is the Editor-in-Chief of our Journal informs us that the next printed issue is due in January and that there will be another printed issue in February. Dr. Pasha will carry on Dr. Piorkowski's JLM duties and both will be Editors-in-Chief on the next issue.

### **Webinar Committee**

[Ellia Ciammaichella, DO, JD, FCLM](#) is the Chair of the Webinar Committee. Dr. Ciammianchella is in the process of putting together a schedule of webinars which will resume this month - January 2024. Anyone who is interested in presenting a webinar may submit a title and abstract for consideration to Dr. Ciammaichella at [ellia@ciammaichella.com](mailto:ellia@ciammaichella.com).

### **Membership Committee**

Our Membership Committee, led by [Jennifer Sullivan, DMD, JD, FCLM](#), has continued to process new Fellows and members to our College.

### **Education Fund Committee**

[Tony Quang, MD, JD, FCLM](#), the ACLM Immediate Past President, is serving with [Dr. Bob Buckman](#), and transitioning as the Chair of the Education Fund Committee, as Dr. Buckman retires from this important fiduciary role. The Board is confident that the Education Fund is safeguarded and is encouraged that it continues to grow despite the current markets.

### **ABA's Washington Health Law Summit, Washington DC - December 11 - 12, 2023**

I attended this informative conference. Many speakers were senior attorneys with the HHS - OIG and partners from the largest health law firms in the country. I found that many health law firms are interested in the ACLM and have inquired about potential collaboration with the Fellows of the College given our dual professional specialties. I am currently in talks with the incoming ABA Health Law Committee Chair about future collaboration and dual membership between our organizations. Hence, I encourage the College to collaborate with the ABA's Health Law section and to participate in their [future meetings](#).

With warmest regards,

**Eli N. Avila, MD, JD, MPH, FCLM, DABLM**

53<sup>rd</sup> President, American College of Legal Medicine

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