

Midyear Meeting 2024: A Premier Opportunity

First, I would like as many of you as possible to reach out to George Moore and thank him for his service to your Association over the last five years. George accomplished much, including writing a wonderful succession planning book for New Hampshire lawyers, keeping the Bar budget well under control (no Bar Association fee increase since 2009), and providing steady, resourceful, and directed leadership to Bar staff and Bar leaders. George well deserves a healthy and full retirement after his service to the Bar and his long service to Devine Millimet. We wish George and his wonderful wife, Ellen, all the best.

George has also been terrific at guiding and directing the presidents of the Bar in putting together programming for the Midyear Meeting. This year, I think we can offer a home run of a program, which is made up of two parts: The morning will be focused on lawyer wellness and the afternoon on artificial intelligence and the law.

I am personally most excited about the talk we will be having with Dr. Larry Richard of LawyerBrain, LLC. Dr. Richard is a former big-city civil litigation lawyer who turned to the study of psychology – specifically of lawyers. Dr. Richard knows who we are, where we come from, and what makes us tick. In knowing what makes us tick, he has a particular expertise in why so many lawyers develop the wellness issues they carry with them.

Additionally, we have Chris Newbold, the chief operating officer of ALPS. Chris oversees malpractice claims nationally, many of which involve lawyers who are in personal crisis due to wellness issues. We also have the Chief Justice Beth Walker of

President's Perspective



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the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, who has done extensive work in attorney well-being. What these folks have to say will, I promise you, be very valuable.

The afternoon is full of AI. That's right: The future. But the future is now. Joshua Weaver, director at the Texas Opportunity & Justice Incubator, will address the existing potential of current AI programs for lawyers, and what the future (and even near future) will hold. This will be followed by a panel discussion with Colin Zick of Foley Hoag and John Weaver of McLane Middleton, moderated by Bob Lucic of Sheehan Phinney, chair of the Bar Association's Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence. Ethics credits will also be provided in discussion of the perils of AI, and the ethical responsibilities each of us faces when we use AI.

The cost for the Midyear Meeting cannot be beat. It is only \$125 for a full day of CLEs, with lunch, and the premier opportunity of the entire year to see colleagues and friends. Sign up now and come on out.

Finally, as you look at your 2024 calendar, please block out the weekend of June 7-9 for the Annual Meeting. This year, the event will be held at the Grand Summit Hotel at Attitash in my beautiful Mount Washington Valley.

The Valley offers a wonderful variety of family-friendly and adult-friendly activities. One primary reason we chose the Grand Summit this year, rather than one of the old grand hotels, is affordability. It is a completely different cost structure. We want young families to venture up, enjoy the season, get their kids outdoors on a hike, a bike ride or walk on the tame Mount Washington Valley Rec Path, or some of the gnarliest mountain biking around.

For adults, get out on a golf excursion, shop at our famous outlets, and visit local distilleries or breweries with live music in the afternoons (inside and out). If Old Man Winter sticks around, you might even be able to venture up to the base of Tuckerman's Ravine and watch the skiers take on the headwall.

An aside: My professional future changed 25 years ago, when in the lobby of the Grand Summit, I was saying goodbye to then-Bar President Randy Cooper, following a Bar leadership retreat. I commented to him how lucky he was that he didn't have to travel home:

"You are lucky you don't have to go home," I said. "You are home."

A couple of weeks later, Randy called and asked, "could we ever get you to come up here?" And I did. And so should you.

Come on up! My life was made better by that weekend, and so too may yours. Take care all. ♦

Hon. Gary Hicks Elected President of Children's Law Center Board

The Children's Law Center of New Hampshire, a legal services nonprofit dedicated to improving outcomes for at-risk children, is exceptionally proud to announce that Hon. Gary Hicks has joined its board of directors and was promptly elected to serve as board president.

Justice Hicks retired from the New Hampshire Supreme Court as its senior associate justice on November 30, 2023. He was a Superior Court judge before his 17 years on the state's highest court, and before that a commercial



litigator with Wiggin & Nourie – then one of New Hampshire's largest law firms – for 23 years. Justice Hicks is the former chief of the American Inns of Court Leadership Council and the recipient of many awards, including the New Hampshire Access to Justice Commission's Civil Justice Award in 2021

and the New Hampshire Bar Foundation's Frank Rowe Kenison Award in 2023.

On January 24, 2024, he will receive the first Judicial Excellence in Gender Equity award from the New Hampshire Women's Bar Association.

A Colebrook native, Justice Hicks is a member of the Advisory Board of the St. Paul's School of Advance Studies. He is also actively engaged in recruiting private and public-school students from diverse, multicultural backgrounds to pursue careers in the law. ♦

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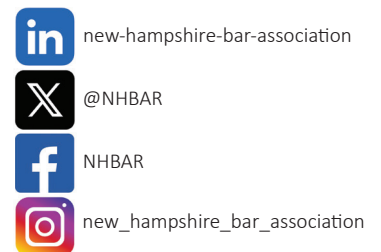
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