

## Letter From The President

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As the years have passed, I have watched with profound gratitude as the work of the Other Bar, the ABA Commission on Lawyers Assistance, and the International Lawyers in Alcoholics Anonymous, and many others, have fostered the inception and growth of lawyers assistance programs across the United States and Canada. Each month I read of the birth of a new program in yet another state or province, and it fills me with such hope knowing that each day more lives are saved, careers are salvaged, families are restored. In California, we are especially blessed to have guiding our own state's LAP program many women and men who are peerless in their commitment to cause of the recovering legal professional. As time marches on, I am utterly confident in strength of the partnership between our two organizations and our ever-expanding ability to carry the message.

A few final words about Jim Heiting: I recently had the opportunity to be interviewed by a reporter from The Recorder about Jim's approaching term, and was asked what I thought it meant to the legal community at large. My response was that it is to me almost inconceivable to comprehend how far the cause of recovery has come in the last decade. To have a recovering attorney - an openly recovering attorney - at the helm of our statewide organization, sends a message that there are no limits to what can happen when one embraces a program of spiritual growth and service. As have we all, Jim had to hit bottom before he could begin to begin to climb back up the mountain. To now see him at the pinnacle is a success we all can appreciate and share.

I know, as do we all, that we fight a relentless foe. Our work is never done. And each day, there are those of us who do not make it. Their fate is one of despair, insanity and death, the path each one of us may yet tread if we forget how got to where we are today. For the Other Bar, the challenge - and the opportunity - is to not forget that there are still hundreds, thousands of men and women who have not shared the gift of hope and sobriety. We must do more, much more, to reach out to the communities of minority lawyers, gay and lesbian lawyers, and to continue the progress we have made in reaching out to women lawyers. I am indebted to

the other officers and directors of the Other Bar who work daily to expand the growth and diversity of our organization. In addition, I am profoundly grateful for the tireless work of our statewide consultants for the invaluable contributions they make daily to the cause of recovery. Finally, I thank each member of the Other Bar for carrying her or his own message of hope to the still suffering alcoholic and addict lawyer, judge, and law student.

In sum, my many fellows, the state of your Other Bar is strong. And I know and believe it will remain strong so long as we each remember the message that embodied the theme of this year's International AA convention in Toronto: Whenever anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. - and the Other Bar - always to be there. And for that, I am responsible.

Yours in service,

**Brian A. Ripley,**

**President The Other Bar of California**

### NEWSLETTER DEDICATION

*This edition is dedicated to the memory of Carol Wynn, the founder of many AA meetings in Los Angeles who helped generations of attorneys and lawyers facing issues of substance of abuse. Mr. Wynn was a tireless and effective advocate for many, and his contributions to those meetings and to the Other Bar are in living memory and truly appreciated.*