

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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The Path to Growth Starts Here



No lawyer is an island. Especially in this time of remote work, virtual meetings and court appearances, and less daily interaction with colleagues in general, we must all look for ways to find connections.

The skills, experience and network you need to build a successful practice can take decades to cultivate. These skills are built in pivotal moments across a career—on the courthouse steps, during a high-stakes deposition, with a brief handshake at a networking mixer. You never know what interaction will introduce the next tool to your legal toolkit, or when a new opportunity will propel your career forward. But one thing is certain—no one achieves success alone—least of all lawyers.

With the New Jersey State Bar Association, you have a partner every step of the way in your professional life. Steve Jobs once described computers as a “bicycle for the mind”—a tool to increase your potential. If I may borrow that analogy—the NJSBA is a bicycle for your legal career. Through its many offerings and opportunities, the Association multiplies your ability to grow your skills, expand your professional network and strengthen your personal brand. It gets you where you need to go, but faster.

Every attorney can find value in bar membership, regardless of their firm size or practice area. It is a common misconception that big-firm lawyers have little to gain from the state bar. They may view fellow New Jersey lawyer members as competitors who will not help them generate business, and instead focus on groups like the American Bar Association where out-of-state referrals are a possibility. While many lawyers focus on several organizations to build networks, there is no doubt that the state bar association is a fertile ground for business. Indeed, I have received countless referrals from members of the state bar which has helped me grow my business and enhance my professional profile.

There is no question that building business is important. More than boosting your originations, however, the state bar also helps you grow in ways that strengthen both the impact and purpose of your work. For example, consider the NJSBA's

over 80 practice-oriented sections and committees. The sections and committees are the lifeblood of the NJSBA—our go-to source for expertise, insight on legal developments, legislative updates and the trends shaping the practice. Each group represents a unique facet of law, ranging from criminal law, family law and many other legal specialties. By joining a section or committee, you not only expand your network, but you are able to delve deeper into specialized legal areas, elevating your legal knowledge and skillset. And most important, the sections and committees provide opportunities for members to take on leadership roles where you can spearhead initiatives and shape policy recommendations. No organization can thrive without strong leaders. Whatever stage of your career, we welcome those ready to step up and help guide the future of the NJSBA.

There are also plenty of opportunities to build your biography and professional profile. Lawyers spend their careers speaking, usually for their clients, but less often for the benefit of their peers. NJICLE, a division of the NJSBA, provides plenty of opportunities to lead educational panels. It is the ideal way to give back to the profession while highlighting your expertise and knowledge. We invite attorneys to submit proposals for webinars, seminars, panels and other educational programs. Similarly, the NJSBA engages in various types of advocacy on behalf of the legal profession. The Association maintains a robust amicus practice, intervening in cases that raise critical issues affecting the practice of law, New Jersey attorneys and the state's most vulnerable residents. We invite lawyers who are interested in arguing before the courts in these important matters to get involved.

If the written word is your forte, consider submitting an article to *New Jersey Lawyer*, the Association's flagship publication issued six times a year. Each edition centers on a specific legal theme, featuring articles written by NJSBA members and edited by volunteer attorneys on the magazine's editorial board. It's a great way to showcase your expertise, build credibility and shape the conversation within the legal community. And it's not just for scholarly articles—we also welcome submissions such as practice guides, short features and timely

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Innovation: Navigating the Patent Eligibility of AI Music Generation Tools,” where Jayla E. Harvey takes a view of AI’s growing influence in music. This issue is full of thought-provoking pieces that should make for better reading than that 40-page response brief under the stack of files on your desk.

So please, take a moment and enjoy this issue of *New Jersey Lawyer*, celebrate the many ways lawyers have influenced society outside of the courtroom, and stay away from anyone named Dick the Butcher. ■


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legal updates. Many sections and committees have their own newsletters as well. Contributing an article is another chance to enhance your own legal profile and at the same time give back to the profession.

Many of us were fortunate to have strong mentors during the formative years of our careers. They taught us the rules of the road, how to succeed and what it takes to be a good lawyer. The NJSBA is the largest network of attorneys in New Jersey—with 16,000 members—offering opportunities for professional growth simply by learning from the lawyer next to you. If you’re looking for mentoring or just some guidance as to next steps in your career, joining the NJSBA is a great place to start. In my years with the Association, I have connected with lawyers who I now consider trusted advisers or my personal “kitchen cabinet.” Knowing they are just a phone call away is comforting and a huge advantage as we all navigate our careers.

Over time, every lawyer builds their own path, but none of us ride alone. Feeling stuck? You can always ride with us. ■



**Join the NJSBA
Member Assistance Program
for virtual sessions to help
you navigate your busy life
and career.**



Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2026

Effective Strategies for Assertive and Mindful Communication

In this webinar, participants will gain knowledge of applying principles of mindfulness to the way we correspond with others in order to foster and sustain positive relationships.



Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Stress Management: The Importance of Breath

This installment will discuss practical ways of managing stress with a particular focus on the importance of breath. Participants will learn, demonstrate, and hopefully incorporate several different breathing techniques that can significantly create wellbeing in body, mind and spirit.

**All webinars are Noon-1 p.m.
FREE for NJSBA members | \$49 for non-members**

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