

President's Message

2020 is over! I hope that everyone is healthy, enjoyed the Holidays and that 2021 is off to a great start.

I am pleased to report that since I penned my last President's Message, the TLA can be proud of all we have accomplished. In November, the 53rd Annual Transportation Law Institute ("TLI") became the first major conference that the TLA put on via Zoom. Although I missed seeing everyone in person, I believe that the conference went well and 104 people registered and attended.

At the Executive Committee Meeting following the TLI, the TLA formally adopted a diversity statement which can be found on the website. The statement reads in full:

The Transportation Lawyers Association (TLA) fosters an organizational culture that is welcoming to transportation lawyers and that offers opportunities for networking and growth regardless of personal background or beliefs. This includes race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, military, or veteran status and more.

Diversity, equity, and inclusion are core values of TLA. Promoting these values are fundamental to the success and growth of the organization, and simply the right thing to do. To that end, the TLA is committed to seeking out diverse members of the transportation law community, who may not be aware of the benefits of membership, to join and enrich our organization with their professional experience and unique points of view. The TLA's mandate is for its members to actively work together toward these goals and embrace the benefits and contributions of such diversity.

To help put the diversity statement and policy into practice, on December 17, 2020, the webinar committee presented *Diversity, Inclusion & Equity – You Need to DIE on this Hill! Creating Change Agents One Person at a Time*. President Elect **Steve Canty** moderated the webinar and presenters **Elizabeth Griffin** and **Tolu Babade** gave an overview of diversity, inclusion and equity concepts, the value of those concepts to organizations and the legal implications for organizations when implicit bias, discrimination and harassment are left unaddressed. Despite the witty, albeit morbid title, attendees learned a great deal in this timely and thought-provoking webinar.

The 2021 Chicago Regional and Bootcamp was held on the afternoons of January 20-22. Again, due to COVID, we were forced to put on the program remotely. I am pleased that despite being in a virtual setting, we were able to get together for both a welcome reception and the Corporate Counsel/Young Lawyer Reception. I want to thank the TLI and Chicago program chairs, speakers,

moderators and the folks at Kellen for all of their help in pulling off these events and making the very best out of a difficult situation.

There has been a significant effort from the TLA committees to be more engaged with and add value to their members. Several of the committees have organized and held meetings, separate and apart from conferences, committed to contributing to TTL, made personal contact with new members and have increased their use of TLA Connect. Thank you for the good work!

I remain hopeful that the upcoming 2021 TLA Annual Conference and CTLA Midyear Meeting will be held in person. The conference is scheduled for May 19-22 in beautiful Olympic Valley, California. Olympic Valley was the site of the 1960 Winter Olympics¹ and will be the perfect place for TLA's first in-person event since January 2020.

The Annual Conference will be held at the Resort at Squaw Creek, which rests at the base of Squaw Valley, minutes from North Lake Tahoe. As noted on the resort's website, each room in this Hyatt property offers "sweeping views of the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, ancient Ponderosa pine forests and lush meadows." Attendees will enjoy the resort's championship golf course, heated swimming pools, 150-foot water slide, fly fishing center, private ice-skating rink, and, depending on the weather, skiing.

Between the Sierra Nevada Mountains and Lake Tahoe, attendees will have the opportunity to hike, bike and kayak to their hearts' content.

Co-Chairs **Bridgette Blich** and **Jeff Pincus**, along with Program Committee members **Melissa Richardson**, **Peggy Bush**, **Matt Barrette**, **Stephanie Penninger**, **Marshall Pitchford** and **Gordon Hearn** have planned an Olympic themed event which will keep us informed in all aspects of the rapidly changing transportation industry. Panels will include:

- Rooted in Survival—A Biathlon in the Trucking Industry Must have a Firm Grasp of the Rules of ABC's; Academics, Bots, and Clearing House Rules.
- The Thrill of Victory or the Agony of Defeat, Which Will It Be? (Casualty Litigation)
- Ski High (Marijuana Rules and Practices in the Transportation Industry)
- Perfect 10 (Food Safety Modernization Act and Cargo Claims)
- Land, Sea, Air: We All Arrived at the Games in Our Own Manner. (Multi-model)
- Toe Loop or Triple Lutz? Complex Maneuvers for Level One Roadside Inspections.



John Wilcox

- Plummeting Headfirst Down a Steep Track: When Cargo is Detained, Retained or Abandoned.
- On Ice: Curling with Russia and China (and other Teams): Trade and Transportation Collide at the Border.
- Putting Together a Dream Team—Formulating a Successful Strategy and Effective Team when your Driver is Criminally Charged after a Serious Accident.
- Mixed Relays on Ice: Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in Practice or Know Differences, Show Differences.
- There's No Protection in the Luge as Transportation Clients Hurtle Down the Slippery Track—Have You Secured Your Client's Trademark and Logo from Appropriation?
- Make Sure Your Clients have the Skills to Compete in the Nordic Combined Sport of Insurance and Business Law.

Please plan on registering to attend the 2021 Annual

Conference at Olympic Valley. More details regarding the conference can be found in this issue, which includes information regarding committee meetings, golf, tennis, and the Fun Run, as well as networking and social events including the time-honored Annual Banquet.

Finally, this issue of TTL contains the Report from the Nominating Committee. Pursuant to the TLA Bylaws, I had the responsibility for selecting Nominating Committee members and Immediate Past President **Jeff Simmons** chaired the Committee. The Committee consisted of **Stevan Baxter, Melissa Richardson, Clark Monroe, Frank Botta, Kathleen Jeffries, Gordon Hearn, Jeff Pincus, and Hillary Booth**. I thank Jeff and the Committee for their work. I congratulate **Louis Amato-Gauci** on his nomination for the officer position of Secretary/Treasurer and **Jeff Cox, Beth Lashuk, Jason Orleans, and Kim Stoll** on their nominations for Executive Committee Member-at-Large positions. The TLA remains in excellent hands moving forward.

¹ For trivia buffs, the medal count was: USSR (21), USA (10), United Team of Germany (8), Finland (8), Sweden (7), Norway (6), Austria (6), Canada (4), France (3), Switzerland (2), Netherlands (2), Poland (2), Czechoslovakia (1) and Italy (1).



TLA Mission Statement

The Transportation Lawyers Association ("TLA") is an independent bar association, comprised of in-house, government and private practice attorneys. Its members assist providers and commercial users of domestic and international logistics and transportation services, in all modes. TLA is dedicated to keeping its members ahead of the constant changes in the specialized legal environment governing all aspects of the supply chain and passenger travel. With commitment to excellence in continuing legal education, and a long tradition of collegiality and exchange of ideas, TLA is a collaborative resource for lawyers seeking to maximize the quality of the legal services they provide and enhance their professional lives.