

President's Column

by Hon. Myron F. Mackoff

Please enjoy this speech, delivered at the annual installation dinner.

Good evening. Welcome to the Decalogue Society of Lawyers 88th annual installation dinner. When I look over all we have been through in the last year, I am amazed at the resilience of our board, our executive director, and our membership. We've experienced an actual plague. We have a war in Eastern Europe and famine in other parts of the world because of that war. We have seen our long held civil rights eroded and we have seen assaults on our democracy like never before. We have seen a rise in antisemitism. Yet, we never faltered in our mission.

Despite these challenges, our members have never stopped pursuing justice. We zealously advocate for clients. We equitably decide cases. We serve in government positions to make sure those guilty of crimes are held accountable and those wrongly accused are not. Or we protect consumers and the environment. Our pursuit of justice has not been stopped or even slowed down.

Logistically, we transitioned almost seamlessly to online events and meetings thanks to a lot of hard work behind the scenes. Over the last year, we attended CLEs remotely, had a remote Chanukah party and judicial reception, and matched up 15 law students and young lawyers with mentors.

Now we have the opportunity to meet again in person. I want you to think of all that had to happen to get us here today and in person. I want to thank all of you who got vaccinated, who socially distanced, and who quarantined if they were unsure of their COVID status. We are all here because of our sacrifice.

So enjoy your evening. You've earned it. Thanks to our sponsors who made it financially possible to meet in person and congratulations to all of our honorees. As the new president, I look forward to a year of in person CLEs, events, and meetings.