



A Chapter of the Association of Legal Administrators

## Chapter Update – Quarter 3

### HELLO'S and GOODBYE'S

2018 was a GREAT year for our membership but, alas, we must say farewell and best wishes to those who won't be joining us in 2019. Congratulations to those members who retired at the end of 2018 including Linda Siebert of Heslin, Rothenberg, Farley & Mesiti; Jorge Valero of McNamee, Lochner, Titus & Williams, P.C.; and Linda Haskell of Couch White, LLP. They will all be missed. We must also say goodbye to Rose Lyons of Cioffi, Slezak, & Wildgrube who announced her resignation from the firm in early 2019, and of course we said a tearful goodbye to our friend Laurie Springer Brandon of O'Connell and Aronowitz, PLLC, who passed away in December following a battle with cancer. Our condolences were sent to her husband and a donation was made in her name to the Northern Rivers Family of Services.

On the contrary, we're happy to welcome many new members to our chapter! If you haven't already had the opportunity please be sure to introduce yourself to our new members: Tracy Mabb of O'Connell and Aronowitz, PLLC, and Daphne Combs of the Herzog Law Firm, as well as to Bridget Cummings and Sam Duro, both of Heslin, Rothenberg, Farley & Mesiti. Welcome to the Albany ALA!

We also said hello to some new Business Partners at the end of 2018 including Toshiba Business Solutions, and Cresa, a firm who specializes in representation for occupiers of commercial real estate. Additionally, we welcomed back two of our former Business Partners, National Business Equipment & Supply and Stored Technology Solutions, Inc.

### A LOOK BACK AT 2018



*Chapter members mingle with Business Partners at the BP Expo in November*

It was a busy autumn season at the Albany ALA. We had great educational luncheons on forensic accounting, our annual healthcare update, and a memorable presentation on Communication presented by Dale Carnegie of Northeastern New York. Our Business Partner Expo in November was a huge success with all but a small few of our Business Partners in attendance. We also increased our time spent at the South End Children's Café for the ALA's Community Challenge by providing not one, but two volunteer sessions by members of our chapter at the Café. We wrapped up the year with our annual Holiday Luncheon where we collected several bags of toys to be donated to the Café. For those who

couldn't attend here is a recap of the "awards" (I use the term loosely) that were given at the luncheon. To Lisa Thomas, our Past President, the "Weird Things Always Happen to Me" award, because if you've ever met Lisa then you know it's true; to Sue Weidman, our President Elect the "Lightbulb" award for always coming up with relevant and engaging session topics and speakers; to Richard Lauricella, our Vice President, the "It's Five-o-Clock Somewhere" award for his success in planning wonderfully fun happy hour events for our Business Partners; to Kelly Richards, our Secretary, the "Welcome Back!" award for jumping back onto the board upon Linda

Haskell's retirement mid-year, and to Cheri Bardin, our Treasurer, the "Almost Always" award for almost always remembering to bring the checkbook to pay the venue at our events; and who, in true "almost-always" fashion, managed to skip out on the bill, again, at the holiday luncheon. Great job Cheri (LOL!), and to everyone on the Board! Your loyalty and commitment to the ALA is what makes our chapter so successful!



Albany ALA members Cheri Bardin (left) and Allison Mapoy (right) donate their time at the South End Children's Cafe as part of our Community Challenge



Albany ALA President Sarah Caciola mans a table at the ACBA CLE on Jury Selection in December

Later in December we were excited to partner with the Albany County Bar Association by stationing a table near registration at their Jury Selection Master Class CLE where we met many attorneys and were able to introduce the Albany ALA to anyone unfamiliar with our association. After which a few of our members had the opportunity to participate in the CLE by acting as "jury members." What a great experience! Thank you to ALA member and ACBA Executive Director Marquita Rhodes for helping to coordinate that.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019



If you're not already convinced that your Board Members maintain a high level of involvement with our Chapter, then hold onto your seats because there's still plenty more to come! There's a lot to look forward to in the coming months including our educational luncheon on January 24<sup>th</sup> covering the latest Sexual Harassment policies and requirements, a session on Performance Reviews scheduled for February 27<sup>th</sup>; and our annual Board Elections and Roundtable Discussions scheduled to take place on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars now and save those dates everyone!

We're also looking forward to the National Conference & Business Expo in Grapevine, Texas in April. Congratulations to Eileen Lang who won this year's scholarship to attend the conference. Yee-haw!! We're excited to see if your President will take home this year's Quest Award; cross your fingers...and your toes! Early bird registration for the conference ends February 4 so don't wait and register early if you're planning to attend!

### *Mission Statement*

*ALA is the undisputed leader for the business of law, focused on the delivery of cutting-edge management and leadership products and services to the global legal community.*

*We identify and provide solutions to the most strategic and operational challenges our members and customers face today, while we prepare them for the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow.*

## TOOLS AND RESOURCES

There are many valuable tools and resources available to all of you as members of the National Association. A few of them are listed below for your convenience. Additionally, ALA's Antitrust Guidelines and Code of Professional Responsibility can be found on our chapter website at [albanyala.org](http://albanyala.org).

ALA's Legal Marketplace can be found at <http://legalmarketplace.alanet.org/>



ALA Online Communities can be found at <http://community.alanet.org/>

ALA's brand-new Job Description toolkit is now available at no cost for ALA members! It's specifically designed to assist YOU in in drafting job descriptions using the ALA Uniform Process Based Management System (UPBMS) taxonomy classification/ codes. You can find it here:



<https://my.alanet.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=JOBDESCCTOOLKIT&Category=JOBTOOLKIT>



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