

President's Message

By Ellen B. Flynn



Take a minute to look at your “to do” list. If it is like mine, there is a list of names representing a case, each underlined, with 5-10 starred “tasks” under each name that range from meeting with clients, drafting pleadings, research, depositions, preparing chronologies, obtaining experts

and drafting openings. I get great satisfaction from putting x's through each task to signify on paper its completion. If you have a list like I do, probably several pages long, it can be daunting. What motivates you to tick through the things on that long list? Probably many things. But take a minute to distill out the noise of the tasks on your list and think instead about the people whose names are on the list. They have real problems, and they need and deserve inspired representation.

That is where MAJ comes in. MAJ has recently engaged in a very thorough strategic planning exercise led by a professional consultant, that included member focus groups, surveys, stakeholder interviews, and a full day of Board and staff workgroups, and a strategic planning committee. We went through this process to gather as much information as possible to prepare a strategic plan to carry this association forward for the next several years. It required us to look at the needs of our members in their practice areas, learn about what has worked and what has not and review our basic mission and vision. The number of people that are deeply committed to making this association better than ever before is awesome. Through this process, we confirmed that MAJ provides much more to its members than education and legislative



support. It also provides a platform for passionate and insightful exchange of ideas and support among comrades fighting for justice. Our members value not only the education we provide, but also the inspiration they receive from other members and leaders striving to make our legal system work for those who need it most.

I am excited for the strategic plan to be completed and implemented. I expect the plan will be finalized by November after the strategic planning committee meets again, and it is approved by the Board. Thank you to all who helped, for your ideas and personal commitment to our goals.

Ellen B. Flynn, in addition to being the current President of the MAJ, is an attorney at Dugan, Babij, Tolley Kohler, LLC with 20 years of experience litigating complex personal injury, medical negligence and commercial cases in the state and federal courts of Maryland, the District of Columbia and Connecticut. She is currently on the MAJ Board of Governors, serves as the co-chair of the Nursing Home Section and the Trial Reporter Committee.