

President's Message

By Ellen B. Flynn



Many of us chose to be attorneys because we are motivated to help others, finding honor and fulfillment in the representation of people who need us to be their voice to overcome injury and injustice. As advocates, we literally armor-up with our case theories, legal arguments, and trial preparation. We stand firmly on the foundation of our principled and

compassionate presentation of evidence. We require control of our cases and our surroundings. As I write this message, however, the world is changing by the hour. COVID-19 is threatening our communities, overrunning our hospitals, closing our court houses, spreading anxiety and changing our lives.

While we are certainly challenged physically, emotionally and financially, I see amazing examples of resilience and resolve among our MAJ community. There is no doubt we are going to be struggling through some very difficult times ahead. But WE must continue to be the calm voices of reason for our clients, for our communities, and for each other. We do this better, together. We must continue to respect and honor the basic core principles that made us want to be trial attorneys to begin with, and to protect and advocate for the individuals, workers, and families we represent. They need us more now than they ever have.

The support, exchange of information and concerns that have been expressed and shared throughout our membership and through the programs that MAJ has been offering is beautiful. I am so impressed and proud of the MAJ staff and Board for how they are pulling together to support our membership during this difficult time. I am also in awe of the comradery that I have seen among MAJ members as we figure out how to practice in this environment and keep each other and our community safe.

When the Maryland legislature is back in session, and as our government regroups, we will need the Maryland Association for Justice to help us continue to advocate for our members and our clients, keeping our civil justice system accessible to those that need it. Before COVID-19, MAJ was embroiled in preserving foundational principals of civil justice against large insurance lobbies and hospital systems. There is no doubt that there will be a rush of legislation, of all types, that will change Maryland law when a legislative session reconvenes in Maryland. MAJ is the voice for many that would not otherwise have a voice. We must continue to support MAJ with our LLC memberships, by showing up in Annapolis to help our legislators reason through legislation for the interests of all Maryland citizens, big and small, and the future of Maryland.

Every reason that you had to be supportive of MAJ's Legislative Leaders' Circle before COVID-19 still exists and will continue to exist after the crisis is over. In fact, the need to support the core principles of MAJ will take on a greater urgency. More than ever, the civil justice system and the citizens it protects will need us to be their champions. The stress and pressure of navigating this new normal is higher than most of us have ever experienced. But we are all capable of doing hard things. We prove it in every one of our cases in one way or another. And we are proving it again and again now, together.

Biography

Ellen B. Flynn is a partner in the law firm of Dugan, Babij, Tolley & Kohler, LLC, in Timonium, Maryland. She received a BS in Business Administration from the University of Richmond and obtained her JD from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. She is admitted to practice law in Federal and State Courts of Maryland, Connecticut and the District of Columbia. Her primary practice area involves representing those injured by medical negligence.