



American College of Legal Medicine

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

July 11, 2024

Dear Distinguished Fellows and Members of ACLM,

As we revel in the midst of summer and enjoy its warmth and vitality, I hope this message finds you well and refreshed. Whether you are enjoying or enduring the summer heat, it is with great pleasure that I bring you updates and exciting news from the American College of Legal Medicine. Please take a moment to catch up on the latest developments within our esteemed organization.

Welcoming Dr. Hamid Latifi as Chair of the 2025 Annual Conference Planning Committee

I am thrilled to announce the appointment of Hamid Latifi, MD, JD, MA, FCLM, as the new Chair of the American College of Legal Medicine's 65th Annual Conference Planning Committee. Dr. Latifi, a distinguished Fellow of ACLM, brings a wealth of expertise as both a nuclear radiologist affiliated with Baylor University Medical Center and an attorney in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area, embodying the interdisciplinary spirit of ACLM. We are honored to have him lead our upcoming 2025 Annual Conference. Stay tuned for updates from Dr. Latifi soon!

Save the Date for ACLM's 65th Annual Conference in Houston

Here's another reminder to mark your calendars for February 28 to March 2, 2025, as we convene at the vibrant University of Houston for our 65th Annual Conference. Program planning is well underway, and we are excited for the enriching program being designed by Dr. Latifi and the Planning Committee. College Secretary Dr. Jan O'Dell, Chair of the Dental Conference, and Dr. Mert

Aksu are also organizing the Dental Conference. We eagerly anticipate events hosted by the University's Law Center and College of Medicine.

AMA Support for Merit-Based Selection of Administrative Law Judges: A Milestone for Legal Medicine

On behalf of ACLM AMA Delegate and Past President Richard S. Wilbur, MD, JD, FCLM, I am delighted to announce that during its Annual House of Delegate Meeting in Chicago last month, the American Medical Association amended and adopted the ACLM resolution supporting merit-based processes for the selection of all Medicare/Medicaid Administrative Law Judges. A merit-based selection process is important to maintain high standards.

Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Wilbur for representing ACLM during this meeting and for delivering an excellent presentation to the AMA about this resolution. Special thanks go to Dave Mullens, DPM, JD, FCLM, whose admirable initiative to advocate for this issue began this process, highlighted by his presentation at the ACLM 2023 Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. Additionally, thank you to Peter Rheinstein, MD, JD, MS, FCLM, for his support and updates on this issue. Dr. Rheinstein is the Chairman of the American Board of Legal Medicine and the Chair of the AMA Reference Committee B (Legislation).

We have more work to do to advocate for this initiative, including our continued collaboration with Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA) and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA). However, for now I want to congratulate everyone who helped make this milestone happen.

Supporting Australasian College of Legal Medicine's 2024 ASM

Our colleagues from the Australasian College of Legal Medicine will hold their 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM): "Expert Evidence & the Law" on September 7 and 8, 2024 in Queenstown, New Zealand & Online (Hybrid). ACLM Past President Jack Snyder, MD, JD, PhD, MPH, MBA, FCLM, our official representative, will speak virtually about *The Role of Experts in Toxic Tort Litigation*. American College of Legal Medicine members are eligible to receive their members' ticket pricing. Please select the ACLM ticket price when booking. For more information and to book, please visit their [website](#).

Upcoming Symposium on AI in Medicine

The American College of Legal Medicine, the American Board of Legal Medicine, and the Academy of Ethics & Legal Medicine are planning an online symposium on the legal and ethical implications of AI in medicine. This event is tentatively scheduled for six hours in November 2024. Stay tuned for further details!

Special Resources from Sandy Sanbar, MD, PhD, JD, FCLM

Dr. Sandy Sanbar has generously shared two valuable resources with ACLM members:

1. [Cannabinoids, Terpenes & Flavonoids](#): This is an excellent resource for current legal issues related to CBD and THC.
2. [Substance Use Disorders - Compliance with the Medication Access and Training Expansion \(MATE\) Act](#): This material is invaluable for staying updated on treating and managing patients with opioid and substance use disorders.

Thank you, Dr. Sanbar, for sharing these resources with our College.

Journal of Legal Medicine Update

JLM Editor-in-Chief Amir Pasha, DO, JD, FCLM, has been working tirelessly to keep JLM publications back on track. JLM's latest issue is now available online, with printed copies arriving soon. As active ACLM members, we get full copies of JLM articles. Simply sign in on the ACLM website, navigate to the publications page, and click "Read Journal."

Discount Code from Taylor & Francis

ACLM members now receive a 30% discount from the JLM publisher, Taylor & Francis. Visit this [website](#) and use promo code **ACLM24** to take advantage of this offer.

In Memoriam

With deep sadness, we remember three esteemed members of our College who have passed:

Monroe Trout, MD, JD, FCLM, 92, of Appleton, Wisconsin, died peacefully on March 4, 2024. Dr. Trout, a towering figure in the field of legal medicine, served as President of the American College of Legal Medicine from 1972 to 1974 and remained an active and influential member of the College for over two decades. He was honored with the ACLM Gold Medal in 1998, recognizing his monumental contributions. In a forthcoming letter, I will highlight Dr. Trout's achievements within ACLM and honor his illustrious career. For now, please visit this [website](#) for more information about Dr. Trout's distinguished career.

Burton Glass, MD, 78, of East Rockaway, New York, passed away on May 1, 2024. Dr. Glass, a general surgeon, was a member of the 2024 Annual Conference San Diego Planning Committee. He visited our San Diego conference site along with Dr. Richard Kelly and Mrs. Mary Kelly, prior to our conference to help ensure we get the best experience at the venue. His vibrant personality and contributions to our recent conference will be dearly missed.

Thomas John Smith, DDS, MS, JD, FCLM, 82, of Fort Laramie, Wyoming, passed away on March 3, 2023. Dr. Smith was a distinguished Fellow of the College and a tenured professor at the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry. His legacy in advanced general dentistry and clinical education will be fondly remembered. His obituary is available [here](#).

Reminder: Update Your Annual Dues

Your support through annual dues is crucial for our continued efforts in advancing legal medicine. Please ensure your membership is current to sustain our efforts in promoting legal medicine in our society, support ACLM activities, and for Fellows, to continue using 'FCLM' after your names. If you have not renewed your membership, please click [here](#).

Acknowledgments

A big thank you to the ACLM Executive Committee composed of President-Elect Dr. Jennifer Unis Sullivan, Treasurer Dr. Richard Kelly, Secretary Dr. Jan O'Dell, and Immediate Past President Dr. Eli Avila, as well as to the CMS team of Mr. Ted Kanellakes, Ms. Megan Whalen, and Mr. Patrick Derse. I also extend my gratitude to Dr. Rheinstein for informing me of Dr. Trout's recent passing.

Thank you to all our members whose dedication drives our mission forward.

I encourage each of you to take heart in our collective achievements and the vibrant society we've built within ACLM. Your dedication and passion are the foundation of our success. Let's look forward to the exciting developments ahead, including our upcoming conference and symposium, and the impactful initiatives on the horizon. Enjoy the rest of your summer, and I eagerly anticipate our continued journey together in advancing legal medicine.

Yours in leadership and service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Vinluan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Vinluan" clearly legible.

Michael Vinluan, MD, JD, FCLM
President