



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

November 21, 2024

Dear Distinguished Fellows and Members,

As we approach the end of the year, I am pleased to share with you key updates and highlights about our College.

ACLM Board of Governors Mid-Year Meeting

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, the ACLM Board of Governors convened via Zoom to discuss key updates and initiatives. Annual Conference Chair Dr. Hamid Latifi, Dental Conference Chair Dr. Jan O'Dell, and Executive Director Mr. Ted Kanellakes, each gave updates about our upcoming 2025 Annual Conference in Houston. Among many items, the Board approved the budget for our 2025 annual conference. Another highlight of the meeting was when the Board voted to re-establish the ACLM Foundation (details below).

Re-establishment the ACLM Foundation

A major milestone from the mid-year board meeting was the unanimous approval by the Board to re-establish the ACLM Foundation, which was dissolved in 2019. Dr. Bob Buckman, co-chair of the ACLM Education Fund, along with co-chair Dr. Tony Quang, and Dr. Chandler May, outlined compelling reasons for re-establishing the ACLM Foundation. As Dr. Buckman emphasized, having a dedicated foundation will strategically enhance our efforts in legal medicine education and strengthen our ability to seek greater support for our educational initiatives.

An ad hoc ACLM Foundation Bylaws Committee has been constituted, with Dr. Tony Quang serving as Chair, to draft the foundation's bylaws. The re-establishment of the ACLM Foundation marks an exciting and pivotal step forward. We look forward to presenting the proposed foundation bylaws for board approval in Houston.

2025 Annual Conference in Houston

Dr. Hamid Latifi, Chair of the 2025 Annual Conference, has curated an exceptional lineup of speakers and topics for our upcoming conference in Houston. Dr. Jan O'Dell, likewise, assembled an exceptional list of speakers and topics for our Dental Conference. In July, Dr. Latifi and Mr. Kanellakes visited the conference venue and engaged with leadership from the University of Houston Law Center and College of Medicine, and the UT Health Houston School of Dentistry. This collaboration promises a dynamic and enriching experience for all attendees. Dr. Latifi will soon send an announcement with registration details, available through our website and Eventbrite.

Amirala Pasha, DO, JD, FCLM – Chair of the 2026 Annual Conference in Phoenix

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Amir Pasha has been appointed as Chair of the 2026 Annual Conference by President-Elect Dr. Jennifer Unis Sullivan. Dr. Pasha is concurrently the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Legal Medicine, and a member of the ACLM Board of Governors. Over the past few weeks, Dr. Pasha has been working closely with leadership at the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in Phoenix, Arizona to develop the partnership for our next conference, tentatively scheduled for March 6-8, 2026. I extend my sincere gratitude to Dr. Pasha for his dedication and efforts in securing ASU Law as our partner for our 2026 Annual Conference.

American Board of Legal Medicine Information Session

Individuals interested in American Board of Legal Medicine (ABLM) certification are invited to an informational session during our 2025 Annual Conference. ABLM Chairman Dr. Peter Rheinstein, ABLM Executive Director Dr. Sandy Sanbar, and members of the ABLM Board of Directors will discuss eligibility requirements and the certification process. After a brief video introduction, Board members will share their experience as ABLM Diplomates and will review some of the questions from previous ABLM certification exam. Detailed requirements are on the [ABLM website](#).

The [ABLM](#) was established in 1951 as a certifying body for physicians seeking recognition for special competence in health law. ABLM and ACLM have had a productive partnership since 1980. Dr. Sanbar, in addition to his current role as ABLM Executive Director, is a Past President of ACLM and the Immediate Past Chairman of ABLM. He is the Editor of all eight editions of our textbook *Legal Medicine*, the definitive legal medicine textbook published by Elsevier. He is also the author of The ABLM Board Review and Study Guide. The third edition titled: Law and Medicine: Over 2000 Qs and As, will be published in January 2025.

I would also like to recognize Dr. Rheinstein for receiving the 2024 President's Award from the Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research (APCR) on October 5, 2024, at the APCR Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas. Notably, Dr. Rheinstein also was honored with this APCR award in 2003, the same year he was awarded the ACLM Gold Medal.

National Health Law Moot Court Competition – November 1-2, 2024 at SIU School of Law

Congratulations to the team from Loyola University of Chicago School of Law, consisting of Caitly Greenspun (Best Oralist) and Garret Wolf, who took home the championship and Best Brief awards in the [National Health Law Moot Court Competition](#). I had the privilege of serving as Chief Judge alongside Professor and Acting SIU Law Dean Angela Upchurch and Professor Gene Basanta, a distinguished Honorary Fellow of ACLM. Their winning brief will be published in the *Journal of Legal Medicine*. A special mention also goes to the runner-up team from Texas A&M University School of Law, Michael Cooper and Savannah Wallace, for their exemplary advocacy.

Support for Medicare Reform – AMA Federation Sign-On Letters

The ACLM Board of Governors voted to approve sign-on to two American Medical Association (AMA) letters to Congress to address ongoing challenges in Medicare reimbursement. These letters urge Congress to reform the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) and prevent detrimental cuts to Medicare physician payments. These efforts are essential to ensure physicians can continue providing quality care to Medicare patients.

AI in Medicine Online Symposium

On Saturday, October 26, 2024, ACLM, along with the American Board of Legal Medicine and Academy of Ethics and Legal Medicine, hosted an online symposium on the use of AI in Healthcare. I would like to thank Dr. Richard Kelly for serving as the Chair of this conference. I would also like to thank our excellent presenters: Dr. Sandy Sanbar, Dr. Michael Brooks, Dr. Jan O' Dell, Dr. Mark Sanders, Dr. Gabriel Adam Carillo, III, Dr. Richard Kelly, Dr. Elizabeth Valencia, and Dr. Christopher Meredith. The symposium was a timely and important forum on a rapidly evolving topic, and it was a resounding success. The insights shared were invaluable, and we're grateful to all involved for making it such an engaging and informative event.

Discount Code for Taylor & Francis Publications

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

Legal Medicine 8th Edition Textbook Discount Code from Elsevier

As you may know, the latest edition of the *Legal Medicine* textbook was published last September. The new edition features 82 chapters that address key advancements in legal medicine and remains as a treatise in legal medicine. Edited by ACLM Past President Dr. Sandy Sanbar and the Editorial Committee, this edition provides comprehensive discussions on a wide range of topics in legal medicine and health care law. I encourage ACLM members affiliated with medical, legal, or academic institutions, to request your institutions to purchase copies of this textbook. To purchase as an ACLM member, please visit the [ACLM website](#) and use the discount code **ACLM24** to receive a 25% discount.

Email Preference

We encourage you to consider updating your ACLM profile with your personal email address. We've had members who missed ACLM updates because they no longer have access to their school or former employer's email account. Please sign in to your ACLM account, click "Renew," and click "Edit Profile" (light blue box).

Reminder: Update Your Annual Dues

The activities and initiatives shared in this letter are only possible because of your continued support. We ask you to take just a moment to renew your annual dues, as your membership is essential to sustaining the success, growth, and impact of ACLM. Your involvement directly fuels our mission to advance the field of legal medicine and empowers us to make meaningful strides in legal medicine scholarship, advocacy, and professional development. Together, we can achieve even greater things.

Thank You for Your Continued Support

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing engagement with ACLM and our shared mission. Your support makes all the difference in our collective work, and I look forward to the exciting opportunities ahead. Here's to a holiday season full of thanks, good company, and great opportunities!

Warmest regards,

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