

July 2010

Dear Fellow Members,

Welcome to the 2010-11 Association year! It is a great honor and privilege for me to serve as President of your Association. I look forward with joy and enthusiasm to the challenges and opportunities that the Association will face during this time.

In light of my practice being in Connecticut, my installation marks a tribute to the geographical reach of our Association - a footprint that, although centered in Manhattan, extends beyond New York to New Jersey and the districts covered by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Last month, the "changing of the guard" for the Association took place at the Annual Meeting and Dinner held at the Union League Club. At the gathering, we marked the end of two decades of service by Michael Isaacs as our Association's Executive Director. I presented Michael with a plaque, on behalf of the Officers and Board, as a token of our appreciation for his many years of dedicated service.

Our new Executive Director is Robin Rolfe of Robin Rolfe Resources. Those members practicing in the trademark field may remember her from INTA events. Hopefully each of you will have an opportunity to meet Robin, and her colleague Feikje Van Rein, in the days ahead.

As we begin the new Association term, it can be a worthwhile exercise to reflect on past leaders of our Association. Past Presidents Giles Rich and William Conner come foremost to mind, as does Past Board Member Pauline Newman.

Judges Newman and Conner have been formally recognized by our Association as recipients of our Association's Outstanding Public Service ("OPS") award presented at the annual Waldorf Dinner in honor of the Federal Judiciary.

What about similar recognition for Judge Rich? As you may recall, he was a primary architect of the 1952 Patent Act during his tenure as NYIPLA President. Later, he sat on the bench of the Federal Circuit, and

its predecessor court, the Court of Customs & Patent Appeals, for many years. Judge Rich's service to our profession is a lasting reminder of the best that we can hope to achieve individually and collectively on behalf of our Association going forward.

As it turns out, Judge Rich was formally recognized by our Association, albeit before the time of the formal establishment of the OPS award. Back in 1998, then-President Ed Filardi presented Judge Rich with a Steuben glasswork sculpture entitled "Partnership". It bore the following inscription:

The Honorable
GILES SUTHERLAND RICH
United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
In honor of your years of service to the
Partnership of the Bench and Bar
New York Intellectual Property Law Association
76th Annual Dinner
March 27, 1998

It is only fitting that our Association paid him this tribute for public service of the highest order. Thankfully, Judge Rich was able to receive this award during his lifetime.

Before long, we'll be considering who will receive next year's OPS award. I welcome your thoughts and suggestions as to appropriate candidates to consider.

In the meantime, please consider not only joining, but becoming an active participant on, an NYIPLA Committee. Active participation is valuable for each member since it builds professional

character, and establishes business relationships among colleagues that can last a lifetime. Such participation is important to the Association for the simple reason that it is the engine that drives our collective contributions to IP law and to our chosen profession. As an added plus, committee work is its own reward since it helps you grow in your knowledge of the law. Lastly, it can serve as a stepping-stone to a higher office in the Association, and perhaps even a future seat on the federal bench.

With kind regards,
Dale Carlson

