

Reflections and Observations

As my term as President of The Kentucky Academy of Trial Attorneys draws to a close, I want to thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve. I want to express my appreciation to all those who gave of their time, talent, and resources throughout the year. I especially want to thank Charlie Moore, whose efforts as our past president inured much to my benefit.

My experience as KATA President has in many ways mirrored the practice of law and life in general, with moments of joy, sadness, success, and failure. I began the year with excitement and enthusiasm with the challenges ahead; however, the death in January of my friend, mentor, and law partner, Fred Dolt, left a profound sadness. Fred left our legal community, our organization, and me, better than he found us.

We persevered and experienced a number of successes during the year. Patients successfully kept the proponents of tort reform at bay by educating and informing our representatives in Frankfort. Our continuing legal education programs throughout the state were our most successful to date. We had more attendance, exhibitors, and advertisers than ever before. It was especially rewarding to see the quality of the speakers and presentations at the annual convention. Our convention speakers received the best reviews to date, and for this I am thankful to the convention committee for all its hard work.

The annual KATA golf scramble was the most attended and successful golf outing so far, and I appreciate the hard work the golf committee did to make it such a memorable event. Lastly, our KATA focus group service has become an in-

tegral part of what KATA has to offer and, thanks to Ellen Sykes, a success for our organization.

There were also some personal disappointments. Membership increased by only four percent over the past year, and one of our goals was a ten percent increase. I am confident in the coming year we can encourage and convince non members to join us and avail themselves of all KATA has to offer. I would also like to see us strengthen our relationship with state law schools.

We concentrated so much effort on educating our elected officials of the injustice of tort reform, we did not have the time or resources to focus on educating the general public. I am convinced the issue of tort reform will cease to exist only when the public is armed with the truth and understands the injustice wrought of tort reform.

In closing, I make these observations. We are extremely fortunate to have an executive director of the caliber of Maresa Fawns and a KATA staff so thoroughly dedicated and hard working. I have observed that one of our strengths as an organization is the sincere belief and passionate conviction of our staff that advocating for and protecting injured victims is noble, just, and worthwhile. Thank you to everyone at KATA headquarters for all you have done this past year.

I also observe we have many challenges ahead. Our past belief that tort reform for medical negligence was only a pretense by insurance companies to gain a foothold for advocating tort reform in all negligence cases has now proved correct with various bills expected to be introduced in our legislature advocating immunity for all manner of lawsuits, including automobile and products liability injuries.

Our incoming President, Steve Downey of Bowling Green, Ky., is more than capable of addressing the challenges ahead, and we are fortunate to have him assuming leadership of our organization. However, he should not have to labor alone. He deserves our assistance and I encourage you to serve when called and give as generously of



By Tyler S. Thompson
KATA President

Tyler Thompson, Barrister's Club member, is a partner in Dolt Thompson Shepherd & Kinney, located in Louisville, Ky.

your time and resources in the coming year as in the past.

Lastly, I have observed that strong leadership, hard work, and a just cause make for a powerful organization. Therefore, I am comforted in the knowledge that we have a strong incoming leader who not be deterred, hard working members, and a noble cause that champions justice for children, the elderly, and the infirm. Despite what obstacles may confront us, these strengths will persevere and our future remains bright indeed.



Announcements

GREGGY. NEAL, partner in Neal & Davis, PLLC in Shelbyville, Ky., has been approved for placement on the Kentucky Court of Justice Mediator Roster as a General Mediator. Neal received his certified mediation training at Duke University Private Adjudication Center and recently attended Mediation and Approved Arbitration Training with the Florida Dispute Resolution Center. Mr. Neal, past president of KATA, is licensed in Kentucky and Florida and is a certified court mediator in Florida.

Maurly D. Kommor & Associates, PLLC are pleased to announce **CORY W. MEADOWS** has joined the firm as an associate. His practice areas will focus on personal injury and civil litigation.

Corrections

JAY VAUGHN was co-author of "Using Demonstrative Evidence: Vehicular Collision Issues," in the Sept./Oct. issue of *The Advocate*. We apologize for omitting his name.

We also failed to add a new platinum sponsor, **COMPLETE MEDICAL SOLUTIONS**, to our sponsor page. Please see the complete sponsor list on page 17.

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