

FROM THE CHAIR—LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW ABA YEAR

Charles L. Franklin

This is my last opportunity to write to the committee members as chair of the Pesticides, Chemical Regulation, and Right-to-Know (PCRRTK) Committee. In August 2012, Alex Dunn, the incoming chair of the Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources (SEER), will bring in a new leadership team, including new committee chairs with fresh ideas for serving the Section membership. Without disclosing the name of the incoming PCRRTK chair (not my prerogative), I can say the new chair will bring tremendous knowledge, experience, and thought to the position, ensuring that the committee will continue to provide unique opportunities for dialogue, scholarship, information exchange, and career development to its members. So, along with wishing my successor the best of luck in the coming American Bar Association (ABA) year, here are three broader wishes for the entire committee.

- 1) That the outstanding and committed attorneys and law students who participated in the leadership of the committee over the last two years will continue to dedicate their time and effort in the coming year. The people that volunteered their time as vice chairs, as planners and participants for programs and special projects, and as sounding boards and implementers for new ideas, are what make the committee a success.
- 2) That, with the help of ABA and SEER leadership, the committee can continue to make good on its efforts to increase the cultural, professional, and regional diversity of its membership. Pesticide and chemical control law are truly multiregional, multinational, and multisector practices, and increasing the range of viewpoints, backgrounds, and professional affiliations represented in the committee will only increase its value and relevance going forward.

- 3) That the committee's mission and focus continue to evolve to reflect the changing landscape of pesticide and chemical law and policy, including the blurring line between substance and product regulatory policy and even between product and media-related policy. Over the last several years, Congress, the administration, courts, state governments, environmental advocates, and industry have all offered policy ideas that would radically reshuffle the way the United States regulates pesticides, chemicals, and the consumer, industrial, commercial, and agriculture products and services they enable. The PCRRTK Committee is the natural home to follow and debate these ideas.

In short, I hope that the PCRRTK Committee will provide to all of you the value, insight, and support it has provided to me. Best wishes for a great summer to all.

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