

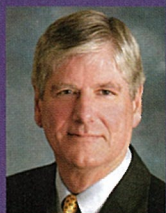
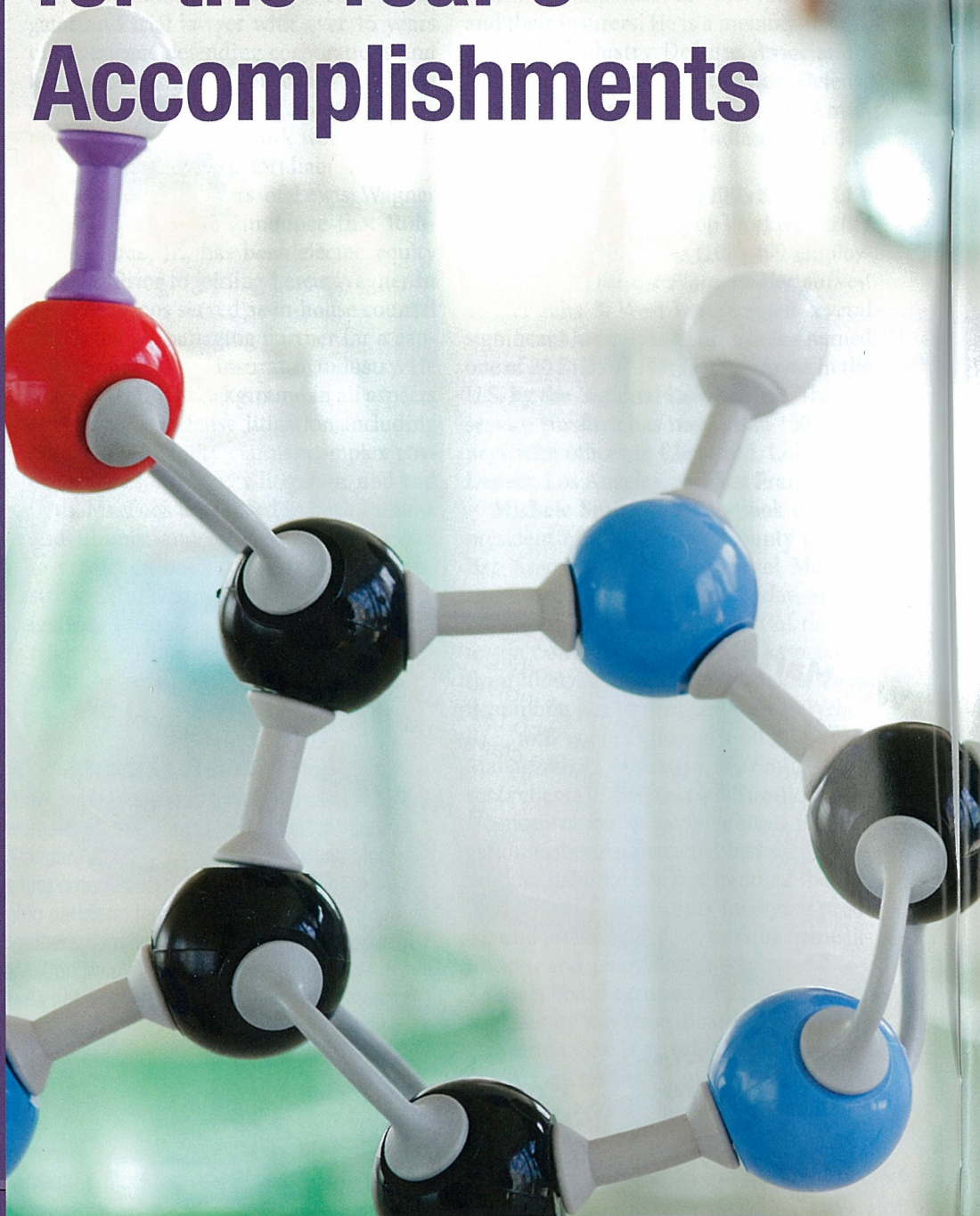


From the Chair


By Jack B. "Skip"
McCowan, Jr.

Our committee is always on the lookout for the leaders of the future.

Many to Thank for the Year's Accomplishments



■ Jack "Skip" McCowan is a partner in the San Francisco office of Gordon & Rees. He is a member of the drug and medical device and commercial litigation practice groups with more than 30 years of experience. His practice is equally divided between drug, medical device, and other product liability litigation and commercial litigation, including matters involving trade secrets and unfair business practices. Mr. McCowan has represented a wide variety of companies in trials in federal and state courts throughout the State of California as well as other states. He also has a substantial record of appellate success. His leadership at the firm includes serving as the chair of the Diversity Committee.



I have just a few months remaining on my second one-year term as chair of the Drug and Medical Device Committee, and I know that when my term ends at the DRI Annual Meeting in October, the change in leadership will ensure a seamless progression of

the achievements that members of our steering committee, and other members of the committee as a whole, have accomplished over the last year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Scott Saylor of Shook Hardy & Bacon, our committee's vice chair, for his assistance and wise counsel over the last two years. Jim Rogers of Nelson Mullins, as the committee's program chair, has spearheaded the work of our seminar planning committee, which has lived up to the high standards set for our annual seminars. Jim has been succeeded by Carter Thompson of Baker Donelson, after Carter spent two years doing outstanding work as our marketing chair. With the help of our newly appointed program vice chair, Sara Gourley of Sidley, I know our seminars will continue to be the best in the country. Succeeding Carter as our marketing chair is Gail Rodgers of DLA Piper, and she will be assisted by our recently appointed marketing vice chair, Sheila Boston of Kaye Scholer. Ed Gerecke of Carlton Fields has done an outstanding job of editing this edition of *For The Defense* and Dave Geiger of Foley Hoag was again in charge of assembling a great line-up of presenters for our Young Lawyers Primer, held last September in Chicago. Rick Richardson of GlaxoSmithKline has been the hardest-working in-house lawyer I have encountered in the many years I have been on the steering committee, working to ensure that our Diversity Luncheon was a reality and a success, and helping Tony Brazil of Morris Polich & Purdy with in-house lawyer membership. There are too many other members of the steering committee who have contributed over the last two years to name everyone, but I truly appreciate what they have done.

Our annual seminar in Chicago in May was another success, and we hope that everyone will join us next May 10–11 in the Crescent City, New Orleans, for a great program. Our hard-working planning committee is at work on the program, which will again showcase a number of trial demonstrations and other outstanding programs of interest to in-house and outside counsel. We appreciate having received program ideas and the names of potential presenters from

many members of the committee. Our planning committee takes all good ideas into consideration over a several month planning period, and our goal is to produce the best program on drug and medical device law in the country with the best-qualified presenters of diverse backgrounds who are eager to share their skills and knowledge with all the attendees.

In an effort to introduce new programs and projects, and to strive continually to improve all of our existing programs, including the annual seminar, the webcasts, the newsletter, this dedicated issue of *For The Defense*, or any other program, our steering committee is meeting in September in Chicago to spend time on all of these projects. It has been some time since our steering committee has met other than at our annual seminar, but we have committed this year to a second meeting to attend to all of the issues that warrant consideration. We are even taking another look at where our annual seminars should convene. We have been on a four-city rotation for a number of years, but we have recently sent a survey to all committee members asking them to weigh in on whether we should maintain our current rotation or make changes to the cities we visit. We felt that it was important to seek the input from our colleagues on this important subject before our steering committee and DRI staff make a decision on future meeting sites.

I have appointed two new members to our steering committee, Sarah Padgitt of Baxter Healthcare Corporation and Lana Varney of Fulbright & Jaworski, and we are constantly seeking to identify people who have an interest in working on the programs of the committee, in many different capacities. We are always on the lookout for the leaders of the future who will take us far beyond our 30th year of providing the high-quality continuing education to our members that gives us the skills and experience to provide the best legal services to our clients. Please join your colleagues next May for our 28th annual seminar to see old friends, meet new ones, and become invigorated, once again, in your practice. I hope to see you in New Orleans. Best regards. Skip