

Fellows Critical Piece of Foundation Vision

By Emily F. Franchina, Chair of The Fellows

When I was a youngster, our family had a card table in the den. It never saw much action for that particular function, but more often held a jigsaw puzzle with pieces piled high, or neatly sorted into piles with straight edges in one spot, colors organized in another. I would sit in that room, sometimes quietly alone for what seemed to be hours working diligently on my task. Or I might be

achievement, dedication to the legal profession, commitment to the organized bar and service to the public. Our thirteen districts are represented by district chairs. The question of what each might be able to do in their districts was addressed in the first meeting of the district chairs held in March. The conference helped to clarify the vision of The Foundation and the goal of

highlighting personal and professional accomplishments including: awards, honors and notable lectures or presentations.

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joined by my siblings who would compete to see who could connect more pieces most quickly. Of course we had a clear picture of what the finished puzzle would look like and guided ourselves with that image.

This past February, The Foundation embarked on its own creation of a vision of what we should look like to our colleagues and the public. In our second strategic planning session, we further refined the vision that we had so diligently worked on four years ago. Essentially, we have completed most of the straight edges of our Foundation puzzle and are now working together in breakout sessions on identifying how the various pieces of our Foundation will fit together.

The Fellows are a crucial section of The Foundation jigsaw puzzle. As many of you are aware, Fellows are nominated by their peers and recognized for distinguished

each chair. We agreed to hold one district event each calendar year. Given the fact that some districts are small, the benefit of partnering with neighboring districts was explored. The program will become an opportunity to interact with colleagues and enjoy programing that will further inspire the group.

The tenth judicial district has completed a program this past May 15th, hosting a cocktail party at the Muttontown club on the North Shore of Long Island. The speaker, Raymond J. Dowd gave a presentation entitled “Murder, Mystery & Masterpieces: Ethical Implications of World War II Stolen Art”, with almost fifty fellows and guests in attendance. Events such as these allow the Fellows to solidly friendships and enhance professional development. Part of our focus for the future is to improve our recognition of Fellows and their accomplishments by

circle, or “moving up” to a higher giving circle. The colorful ribbons that you proudly wear at association meetings are a tangible acknowledgment of your commitment to the work of The Foundation.

Though every element of the Fellows section of The Foundation jigsaw puzzle will ultimately fall into place, sustained efforts by each of us are necessary to accomplish this task. Please consider which piece of the puzzle will best highlight your talents: identifying new fellows, recruiting new fellows, inspiring current fellows to increase their giving, or creating and hosting an event in your district with the leadership of the district chair. Ideas and action are equally valuable components of our Foundation’s future. With a clear image of what our picture will look like, please join us, enabling the completion of ‘the puzzle’ through the application of your own unique gifts and talents.

