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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

## “Boston Strong”

Who would ever have thought that this year’s NCBE Annual Bar Admissions Conference in Boston would be memorable for so much more than just the excellent program? After the bombings at the finish line of the Boston Marathon three days before the start of the conference, NCBE had to make a decision as to whether to pull the plug on the conference or proceed as planned on Thursday evening. As is so often the case during the immediate hours following such horrific events, it was difficult to determine from the news accounts what was actually transpiring in the city. In spite of my inclination to meet this act of violence with determined defiance, we had to better understand the situation before making a decision. On Wednesday morning, the hotel, the Boston mayor’s office, and the officials at Logan Airport all assured us that all was safe and that Boston was “open for business.” The decision was made to proceed with the conference as planned.

Those of us who arrived in Boston on Thursday found the city fully functioning but with a large police presence. President Obama had just left after flying in to attend a service for the victims of the bombings. Law enforcement vehicles, including those from adjacent jurisdictions, were seen everywhere. The Copley Square and Boylston Street areas were cordoned off. There was a Humvee from the Cape Cod SWAT Team parked at the entrance to our hotel.

After the shootings on Thursday night of one of the suspects and of a police officer, the situation intensified. The “sheltering-in-place” of Boston on Friday was a surreal experience. No public or private transportation was running. All businesses, restaurants, and stores were closed. Except for law enforcement, which clearly had control of the city, the streets were empty.

With the arrest of the second suspect on Friday, the city came back to life. I saw outbursts of spontaneous applause for first responders as I walked around the downtown area. Everyone was relieved and proud that the bombers had been identified and found so quickly. In living through these events, we had all become Bostonians.

The Red Sox won the game at Fenway that Saturday afternoon, but the celebration of Boston Strong at the game is what all will remember. It was an emotional

celebration honoring those who had been killed or injured and recognizing law enforcement personnel and Boston Marathon runners and volunteers. Special recognition was given to those ordinary citizens who had ignored danger to themselves and unselfishly rushed to the injured to give them comfort and aid. Tears flowed. Cheers erupted. And, if the crowd had not already experienced enough, Neil Diamond himself stepped out onto the field during the eighth inning to lead the crowd in Fenway's traditional singing of "Sweet Caroline"!



With another Annual Conference concluded, I find myself reflecting on what will soon be the completion of my year as NCBE Chair. I don't know what it is—probably global warming—but the years keep getting shorter and shorter. I will move into the "almost a has-been" slot of Past Chair this August. It is impossible to put into words the pride and satisfaction I have felt serving for the past eight years on the NCBE Board of Trustees. Erica Moeser has put together a very competent and dedicated group of professionals that make up the NCBE family in Madison. I don't know where she finds these folks, but they are all gems who rightfully take great pride in their role in bar admissions.

It is difficult to calculate the considerable amount of time—whether in the form of lost billable hours, lost time with families, or other sacrifices—that is contributed every year by the volunteer members of the Board of Trustees and of the Conference's many committees. These volunteers share a love for our profession and the belief that through a fair and efficient admissions process we can further strengthen it. I also offer a special thanks to all of these volunteers' colleagues, who wouldn't have put up with the time out of the office if they had not also been true believers in the future of our profession.

When I reflect on NCBE's accomplishments over the past year, several come to mind. Earlier this year, NCBE launched a relationship with a different testing agency, the Law School Admission Council, for the delivery of the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination. As part of that

transition, NCBE assumed responsibility for MPRE score reporting and—in what proved to be a challenging undertaking—processing all ADA accommodations requests for applicants taking the MPRE. As always, the NCBE staff, through long hours and determination, made it happen. Special thanks go to LSAC President Dan Bernstine and his staff for their help and cooperation during this transition.

The Long Range Planning Committee has spent this year intensely digesting the results of the job analysis that NCBE commissioned as part of the Content Validity Study launched in 2011 related to its testing program. The committee, which is charged with making recommendations for the future of NCBE's testing program in light of the job analysis results, will present its recommendations to the Board of Trustees at the Board's next meeting in August.

The MBE Committee has been putting the final touches on the Civil Procedure questions for inclusion on the February 2015 Multistate Bar Examination. Civil Procedure will become the seventh content area covered on the MBE, culminating an endeavor that began in 2008.

In August, Margaret Fuller Corneille of Minnesota will succeed me as the next Chair of the Conference. Peg (as we all know her) has a depth of knowledge and experience in bar admissions that is shared by few. I look forward to working with her in the coming year.

Thank you all for your support and enthusiasm this past year. I have truly enjoyed every minute of it. 📧

Best regards to all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "F. Harrison".

Franklin R. Harrison