

To: Tompkins County Bar Association

Re: 2021 President's Report

From: Kevin Kelly

"I'm not a cat." However, I can relate to the attorney having technical difficulty while attempting to video-conference a court appearance, appearing as a kitten when he could not remove the filter. Luckily, our new Secretary Kirstin Tiffany from the Crossmore Law Office demonstrated more technical savvy as she assumed and simplified some of our duties.

The Executive Committee successfully conducted all of our monthly meetings by Zoom thanks to Past President Michael Perehinec's leadership last year, when this was a sudden change for us all. 2021 has been a slightly different tale with vaccines rolling out, weekly emails about positive cases at certain courthouses, and a confusing hodgepodge of appearance policies from court administration. I was excited to get back to in-person social events this year until the Delta-variant forced us to adjourn for yet another year. Fortunately, our continuing Social Chair, Judge Scott Miller was able to save us from lost deposit costs on our cancelled Summer Social, and keep memorial services going for our colleagues who passed away during the pandemic.

We remain in good financial shape under Treasurer Hayden Brainard, who continues his many years of outstanding service and mentorship to TCBA's Executive Committee. His dedication and reliability have been crucial to keeping us going as we adjust to meet our institutional requirements and commitments. Previous president, and continuing Executive Committee Member, Carla McCain's foresight to new bylaws approved in 2019 helped make these adjustments practical and more convenient for us. Executive Committee Member, and Chair of Continuing Legal Education, Joe Kirby, has been instrumental in keeping our CLE offerings and certification without some of the blueprints available under variable COVID restrictions.

We look forward to Teresa McNamara rising to President for 2022, and her proven passion to public service at Legal Assistance of Western New York (LawNY). Between her and Carla being members of the Equal Access to Justice Committee, we were able to offer education and dialogue between attorneys working with struggling Tenants and Landlords during the Eviction Moratorium. It has proven to be a win-win for people in poverty, or people near poverty on one side, as well as practitioners developing strategies to keep the rental and housing market moving and profitable for our clients under the difficult and unpredictable circumstances we face.

I want to conclude by welcoming new TCBA members, and thanking all of our loyal TCBA members for your patience and support while we deal with strategically healthy social restrictions. Hoping to see everyone in person next year!

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Kelly
2021 TCBA President