



From the Chair

By Michelle L. Alamo

“Y*our true worth is determined by how much more you give in value than you take in payment.”*



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If you've ever read *The Go-Giver* by Bob Burg and John David Mann, you recognize the quote to the left as the First Law of Stratospheric Success. Touted as "A Little Story About a Powerful Business Idea," *The Go-Giver*

was recommended to me by a good friend who has been in sales his entire life. Although not directly related to the practice of law, the book was so highly recommended that I decided to pick up a copy. Admittedly, I have only made my way through the first three of five total Laws of Stratospheric Success discussed in the book. But, as I began crafting my first *For The Defense* contribution as chair of the Intellectual Property Litigation Committee, I thought about the time that each of the contributing authors dedicated to their contributions to this edition of *FTD*. This in turn, brought me back to the First Law of Stratospheric Success. For surely, each of the contributing authors have given much more in value than they have taken in payment.

I then started thinking about the Intellectual Property Litigation Committee and others that have given much more in value than they have taken in payment by serving the committee and its members. As many may know, the Intellectual Property Litigation Committee is a relatively new committee, having broken out from underneath the umbrella of the Commercial Litigation Committee in 2013. These past four years have been an exciting time for the committee and have presented terrific opportunities for our members as our committee continues to develop its own structure, leadership, and "brand." During these past four years, I have served as program chair, committee vice chair, and now committee chair. Along the way, I have had the pleasure of working with many talented DRI members from across the United States, Canada, Spain, Europe, and Asia. I have especially found personal fulfillment in mentoring new members who are eager to get involved with the committee, by finding them roles that fit their goals and passions and watching as they take on more and more responsibility and become the future of the IP Litigation Committee.

It hasn't always been easy, and yes, we've often had to rethink the way we do busi-

ness as a committee, cast aside old ideas, and invest our time and energy in new ones. Thanks to the continued dedication of our committee leadership, we now have monthly leadership calls, quarterly steering committee calls, and regular subcommittee and substantive law group calls. We often have more proposed articles than we can accommodate in our committee publications thanks to our publications committee, led by Patricia McCrory. When that happens, Pat works hard to find a home for the articles in another DRI publication to maximize the exposure of our committee members.

Thanks to our program committee, led last year by Clinton Brannon and Brian Brookey, we hosted a successful IPL seminar in Chicago this past May, offering not only terrific CLE but also a vast array of networking opportunities, all garnering rave reviews from the seminar attendees. And thanks to our 2018 program committee, led by Brian Brookey and Rachel Rodman, in conjunction with DRI, we will host our 2018 seminar next April in a new and exciting location—Denver! Our program committee is already knee deep in the planning process and I have no doubt that they will outdo themselves again next year. These are just a few examples of those committee members who have given much more in value than they have taken in payment.

In closing, I leave you with the words of Pindar, the enigmatic mentor and business consultant in *The Go-Giver*, as he explained the First Law of Stratospheric Success to his ambitious mentee, "All the great fortunes in the world have been created by men and women who had a greater passion for what they were *giving*—their product, their service, their idea—than what they were *getting*." I thank every committee member who has given his or her service, time, and ideas to the Intellectual Property Litigation Committee and look forward to working with each of you this next year as we continue to grow and develop our own unique brand.

