

The Tax Section started off its year, as it has for as long as I can remember, at the Omni Amelia Island Plantation over the Fourth of July. This is our organizational meeting and sets the tone and path for the entire year. We heard a great line up of speakers during the Ullman Year in Review CLE, which was chaired by Michael O'Leary, our chair-elect. We honored Christopher A. Pavilonis as the 2019-2020 Marvin C. Gutter Outstanding Public Service Award recipient. Christopher is an attorney in the Jacksonville office of IRS Chief Counsel and has been a great friend to the section for many years.

This year, we welcomed a new division to the Tax Section, the International Tax Division. During the section's long-range planning retreat in January 2018, the section identified the need to separate the area of international tax from the general federal tax division. The area of international tax continues to grow as is evidenced by the continued success of our largest CLE of the year, the International Tax Conference held in January in Miami. The event is held over three days with the first day consisting of a more basic-level CLE we have labeled the "boot camp." This year's event was chaired by Steve Hadjiligiou. Our new International Tax Division is co-chaired in its inaugural year by Jennifer Wioncek and Alfredo Tamayo.

Our fall meeting was held at the Don Cesar in St. Pete Beach. The highlight of the meeting was a CLE on estate planning, Best at the Beach, Sophisticated and Innovative Tax and Estate Planning After Tax Reform. The CLE was chaired by Cristin Keane and Paul Lee. The speaker lineup was top notch and included many national speakers. The CLE was well attended and received great reviews.

This year's Directors' Committee meeting was held at the Waldorf Astoria in Orlando. The meeting also included a mini long-range planning retreat, which continues the work of our formal long-range planning retreat from 2018. The mini retreat is to ensure that the section continues to follow the path laid out at the retreat. The mini retreat not only recognizes what we have accomplished as a section, but provides a time to review where we still need to focus our energies. The mini retreat was attended by members of the Directors' Committee, as well as several members of our new Tax Lawyer's Division. This year's mini retreat was chaired by Mark Brown and Shawn Wolf.

For the second year, the section partnered with the University of Florida in holding its Tax Moot Court Competition. The event was held in March in Gainesville. This year saw 14 teams from across the country compete for a chance to argue in front of U.S. Tax Court judges. The first two days of the competition are judged by local practitioners. There are awards for best brief and best individual oralist, as well as the team winner. The problem this year was an international tax question and was drafted by Daniel Hudson and Keith Hagan. The new International Division helped to review the problem. The Moot Court competition was chaired by Brian Howsare and Justin Wallace.

One of the challenges that continues to face the Tax Section is how to engage and involve its members at both its meetings and at CLE events. This year's co-directors of the Education Division, Christopher Callahan and Thomas Treece, have worked on different formats for our CLEs in hopes of determining what is drawing people and what the future of our CLEs should look like. The Tax Section continues to present hour-long free phone CLEs once a month. These are very well attended and provide valuable education to our members.

The section made the decision to hire a marketing specialist to assist the section with marketing our meetings and CLE events. She works closely with the director of marketing and membership, Dana Apfelbaum, as well as the heads of our different divisions to promote their events. She is also involved in

producing our monthly e-newsletter which has become a valuable resource for our members as well as a spotlight for our sponsors and a place to recognize members for their dedication and hard work.

Our annual meeting was set to be held in May in the Bahamas. This was to be our chance to recognize our Gerald T. Hart Tax Attorney of the Year, Cristin Keane. Unfortunately, this meeting is going to be canceled, and we will have to determine when the appropriate time is to celebrate Cristin's award. The annual meeting also was to include a CLE on international tax, which was chaired by Shawn Wolf.

This year would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our bar administrator Leslie Reithmiller. She keeps me and the section on track. She even managed to find the time to head up the Tax Section's first flash mob at our organizational meeting. Yes, tax lawyers can dance.

Janette M. McCurley, *Chair*