

## A Letter from the Executive Director

The economic downturns of the last few years have created a climate in which the legal community is re-creating the way it does business. Efficiency and productivity, coupled with the need for increased profits are the driving factors in this new era. Many legal professionals have been dissatisfied with the imbalance of work and personal life, creating a desire to obtain more control, flexibility and freedom in their lives. These factors, among others, have motivated action by a broad spectrum of legal professionals toward the independent career path of the Freelance Legal Professional. Today, there are more virtual professionals than ever, thanks to emerging technologies that are becoming commonplace and affordable, the use of which, allow the freedom of working from almost any point on the planet.

This movement toward freelancing is a win-win from whatever perspective it is viewed. Law firms and corporations win by reducing overhead expenses required for full time employees. The freelance professional wins by having the choice of a multitude of projects, greater income potential and the freedom to work flexible hours to balance professional and personal life.

Einstein said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge." I take the liberty of expanding the thought to say "Imagination stirs creativity which, coupled with knowledge, causes action resulting in profound change." Melody A. Kramer and Amanda Mineer imagined a powerful community of freelance legal professionals, one that would give one voice to the growing numbers of freelance legal professionals and that would shape the future of the legal industry. These two visionaries took decisive action and created NAFLP which has grown well beyond their initial imaginings.

We are committed to the vision of the founders of NAFLP; that this association become the internationally recognized authority and advocate for freelance legal professionals in the legal community. NAFLP is the leading provider of resources and benefits for its members, a one stop shop, if you will.

At the forefront of this movement is the mission of NAFLP:

- To promote, enhance, and create standards of practice for freelance legal professionals as mainstream of the legal industry
- To educate, inform and set standards for the legal industry on how best to utilize freelance legal professionals as a business model
- To increase the quality and integrity of freelance legal services through education, ethics and business training programs
- To create a powerful community of freelance legal professionals with one authoritative voice to optimize financial and personal success, work-life balance and to shape the future of the legal industry

We set our minds to building the National Association of Freelance Legal Professionals to a force of the highest integrity and to building a powerful community of freelance legal professionals of unsurpassed quality and cooperation. I am honored to be of service to our members, alliances and the legal community and dedicate my skills to your service.

Patricia Bilman is a successful business woman, CEO of PAB Freelance Legal Services, published author and educator.