



March 24, 2020

A Message from the MSBA Council:

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Just like you, we're trying to figure out what to do -- -- and what to think, and how to keep our balance. Lawyers that we are, we struggle to gather information, find the levers and gears of control, and develop the logistics to employ and deploy. We're especially thankful to our remarkable MSBA staff for being able to assemble and distribute so much helpful information during these recent days, on our website and especially in the recent Legal News Digest special editions. Along the way, though, we've also reached for the "pause button." It's right there on the remote, as we all go remote. So we've asked ourselves three questions, in particular. Hard to know where this is going to go. For the moment, here are a few of our thoughts. We're eager to hear yours; it's a good time to share.

(1) Our Collection of Adjectives (How do you describe our current "situation"?): Weird. Disturbing. Disorienting. Dangerous. Unpredictable. Disconcerting. Sur-real. Scary. Ever-changing. Un-charted. Disruptive. Frightening. Maddening. Strange. Distracting. Un-nerving. Discouraging. Unprecedented. Anxiety-provoking. Challenging.

(2) Gestures of Gratitude (To whom and for what are we grateful?): Law enforcement. Healthcare workers. E/R and hospital workers. Pharmacists, including drive-by druggists. Supply chain truckers and railroad personnel. Tech teams. Postal employees and newspaper delivery teams. Cashiers. Grocers. Plumbers and electricians, and other on-call repair people. Totally great MSBA staff. Air traffic controllers. Farmers. Pilots and flight attendants. Food shelves. Reporters and journalists. Restaurant owners, caterers and all those in hospitality. Garbage truck haulers. Newspaper and flower delivery people. Laid-off employees. Shuttered shop owners. Mass transit operators and bus drivers. Soldiers and sailors and veterans. Fire fighters and first responders. Court personnel (still handling important and unavoidable matters that matter). All those on whom we depend, but sometimes seem to take for granted. Day-care and home-care providers. Kids (keeping us on our toes even when we're stepping all over each other). Family! Friends!

(3) Tips (How do we cope with being cooped up?): Cruising through our contact sheets and sending notes to folks, maybe even by snail-mail. Calling a neighbor. Sending a day-brightening video or column or TED Talk or cartoon. Dropping a tip in a tip jar. Buying a

gift card from a local merchant (on line). Surprising someone with an unexpected pat on the back. Maintain a "normal routine." Exercise. Walks in the park. Walks anywhere. Contact/contact/contact (telephone; Zoom; e-mail; FaceTime; Skype; whatever). To-do Lists! Clean those closets; organize those photographs; learn that language; read that book; write that blog; lift that barge. Don't watch "too much news" (hard to control, but that's what the remote control is for). Slow down. Set up a "normal" work station at home. Separate work from life. Check in on neighbors. Delete those e-mails. Check out non-CoronaVirus news. Fresh air. Chalked messages at the end of the driveway to those walking by. Virtual museums tours.

One more note. Let's remember how lucky we are; some are not so lucky. There are those amongst us who, when told to "stay home," can't. And there are those amongst us who can't go online to order pick-up groceries and supplies. Maybe an unsolicited gift to those who struggle to help those who struggle. Money matters; and giving is good for the giver, as well as the receiver.

Stay "in touch" (at least virtually), and "reach out" (at least electronically).

Sincerely,

The MSBA Council

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