Recollections from **Past Presidents**

**Arthur H. Bernstein**  
*Year of Service: 1980-1981*

**Q** What leadership positions have you held in the American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA) or its predecessor organizations, the American Academy of Healthcare Attorneys (AAHA) and/or the National Health Lawyers Association (NHLA)?

**A** President and all other offices and chairs of the AAHA.

**Q** Please recount a favorite memory, humorous anecdote or a vignette of interest from AHLA or a predecessor organization.

**A** I was the creator of the American Society of Hospital Attorneys, the original organization, when I was house counsel of the AHA; first meeting in Chicago in 1968. We had fun because of the very different personalities of the founding members.

**Q** What significant friendships and/or professional opportunities do you credit to contacts that you have made through AHLA or a predecessor organization?

**A** The early members were a cohesive group, loved their colleagues in the small group of the hospital attorneys in the U.S. and Canada, met their families and watched them grow up. This crowd, if alive are in their 70s and 80s now. I have been out of touch since 1985!

**Q** What distinguishes AHLA from other legal trade associations and makes our Association unique?

**A** The members in my year really liked each other and knew their spouses and even children.

**Q** What challenges do you face in representing healthcare clients?

**A** No longer active.

**Q** What do you perceive the future of health law to be?

**A** I’m afraid it will no longer be recognizable as health law. Rather, it will be just a branch of commercial law among healthcare institutions.

**Q** How has AHLA enhanced your health law practice, and how can the Association continue to be an essential resource to health law practitioners in the future?

**A** My own career was not enhanced by my AAHA activities but I did derive further education at AAHA meetings. This, I suspect, is what the AHLA can best offer its members now and in the future.