



## **Critical Issues Summit**

### *Equipping Our Lawyers: Law School Education, Continuing Legal Education, and Legal Practice in the 21st Century*

#### **Welcome from the Honorary Chairs**

Abraham Lincoln supposedly once said of a court appointee who had limited legal experience, that “he would pick it up, just as we all did.” “Picking up” knowledge of the law, and the skills necessary to bring it to bear on behalf of clients or on the bench, might have been feasible in Lincoln’s day, but it certainly isn’t today. The vast expansion of the law and the complexity of the modern technological and commercial world in which it operates, not to mention the recent economic upheaval, have made lawyer training and development more important than ever. Those charged with the education of lawyers—law schools, continuing legal education providers, law firm professionals, mandatory CLE regulators, and the bench—are all struggling with how best to respond to lawyers’ needs in a rapidly changing world.

Improving how lawyers are trained has been the mission of the two organizers of this conference—American Law Institute-American Bar Association Continuing Professional Education (ALI-ABA) and the Association for Continuing Legal Education (ACLEA). Four years ago, in 2005, these two non-profit entities joined forces to begin planning this conference. Each came to the task with a long history in this area. From its inception immediately after World War II, ALI-ABA was seen not just as a CLE provider, but also as a “think tank” that would assist the entire profession in developing new models for training lawyers. ACLEA, an international organization of CLE providers founded in 1964, has been responsible for the professionalization of the field of CLE and has helped all its members improve the quality and sophistication of their offerings.

The result of the collaboration between ALI-ABA and ACLEA is this Critical Issues Summit, which all concerned see as just the beginning of an effort to bring the best thinking and practices to bear on the entire spectrum of lawyer training and development in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We thank the two organizers and with them, the many members of the profession who have helped plan this conference, its speakers, its participants, and not least, the many sponsors whose financial contributions have made this conference, and its follow-on works, possible.

Thomas Z. Hayward, Jr.  
Of Counsel  
K&L Gates LLP



JoAnne Epps  
Dean  
Temple University Beasley School of Law

