**Beaty Speech [EZ Speech No. 16158]**

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Incoming speech by Ms. Suzzane Beaty upon her election as President of the Houston Association of Legal Professionals.

WELCOME EVERYONE. PLEASE stop me if you’ve heard this one:

a paralegal, an associate, and a partner of a pres-tigious law firm in houston are walking through tranquility park when they stumBle upon an antique oil lamp. they of course give it a rub, and out pops a genie in a puff of smoke. the genie tells them that he usually only grants three wishes, so he’ll give each of the strolling party one wish apiece.

“Me first,” cries the paralegal — what else is new? — and she says, “I want to be in the bahamas in a fast speedboat with tom cruise driving and matthew mcconaughey in the back seat with me.” and poof! she’s gone.

“me next!” says the associate. “I want to be in hawaii, relaxing on a warm, golden beach, with a mai tai in one hand and a good cuban cigar in the other.” and poof! he’s gone.

“you’re next,” says the genie to the partner, “and what wish can i grant to you this afternoon, my good man?” and the partner replies, “I want those two HEDONISTS back in the office by one!”

but seriously, friends . . .

i feel so honored that you’ve elected me to serve as our association’s president FOR THIS TERM, and it’s wonderful to see so many of you here thiS [morning/afternoon/ evening].

you know, it’s often SAID IN THE BUSINESS WORLD that “if you’re not moving ahead, then you’re ALmost CERTAINLY falling behind.” i think this applies IN LARGE MEASURE to THE non-PROFIT WORLD AS WELL, for even the most stable and long-lasting 501(c)(3) faces, and must deal with, change on a regular basis.

change is inevitable. populations change. regulations and requirements change. professional networks break apart and get reconstituted. practices and processes change. and despite it’s rock-solid foundation of precedent and protocol, the legal profession is changing, in big ways and small, all the time.

the halp is no exception, and i’m happy to say that our association has not shied away from change, but instead has embraced it. as your new president, i hope to continue that practice and will seek to identify ways to make the halp even more responsive to our member’s needs.

it is with that goal in mind that i remind you of john f. kennedy’s famous and oft-quoted line: *“Ask not what your country can do for you, ask you what you can do for your country.”* well, if i may, i’d like to turn that ADMONITION on its head and ask you: *“don’t ask what you can do for halp, but rather ask what halp can do for you.”*

how can we serve you better? What new kinds of programs would you like to see your association OFFER? what kinds of educational resources would you like to see us bring on board?

i’d be *especially* interested in HEARING your ideas about how we might make The halp website better and more useful to you. so along these lines, i’ve HANDED OUT a little feedback QUESTIONNAIRE FOR YOU that I hope you’ll take the time to fill ouT before you leave this [m/a/e]. I CAN’T GURANTEE THAT WE’LL BE ABLE TO IMPLEMENT EACH AND EVERY SUGGESTION YOU MIGHT MAKE, OR EVEN JUST THE MOST POPULAR ONES. BUT I *CAN* GUARANTEE THAT WE’LL EXPLORE EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM AND THEN SEE HOW WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO RUSTLE UP THE RESOURCES TO GET IT DONE.

I’VE LISTED EIGHT POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS THAT I’VE THOUGHT OF MYSELF, BUT I’VE ALSO LEFT ROOM AT THE BOTTOM OF THE FORM WHERE YOU CAN ADD ANY IDEAS OF YOUR OWN. PLEASE DON’T BE SHY ABOUT SUBMITTING OTHER SUGGESTIONS, NO MATTER HOW “OFF THE WALL” THEY MIGHT SEEM. WE’RE COMMITTED TO DOING EVERYTHING PRACTICABLE TO KEEP OUR WEBSITE VIABLE, VIBRANT, AND VITAL, BUT WE CAN’T DO THIS WITHOUT YOUR CREATIVE INPUT. SO I THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS SURVEY.

GETTING BACK TO MY REWRITE OF JFK’S FAMOUS QUOTATION, I’LL CLOSE MY REMARKS WITH THIS CHALLENGE TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU: HAVE *YOU* TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF ALL THE THINGS THAT HALP CAN DO FOR *YOU*?

FOR EXAMPLE, ARE THERE ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS YOU’D LIKE TO OBTAIN? WE CAN HELP WITH TRAINING PROGRAMS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, PRACTICE EXAMS, AND LINKS TO A WIDE RANGE OF ONLINE EDUCATIONAL CERT-PREP RESOURCES.

ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE FOLKS WHO’RE ALWAYS LOOKING TO ENHANCE THEIR LEGAL EDUCATION? WE CAN HELP WITH A WIDE RANGE OF NON-CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAMS AND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES.

LOOKING TO EXPAND AND ENRICH YOUR PROFESSIONAL NET-WORK? WE CAN HELP YOU WITH THAT, TOO, BUT YOU’VE GOT TO DO YOUR SHARE BY ATTENDING OUR WORKSHOPS AND SEMIN-ARS, COMING TO OUR REGULAR SOCIAL FUNCTIONS, AND VISITING OUR WEBSITE TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH WHO’S WHO AND WHO’S NEW.

IN SHORT, THIS IS *YOUR* HALP. IF YOU WANT TO BE EVERYTHING YOU CAN BE IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION; IF YOU WANT TO GET AS MUCH OUT OF YOUR CHOSEN LINE OF WORK AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN; AND IF YOU WANTTO MAXIMIZE THE RETURN ON THE INVESTMENT YOU MADE IN YOUR HALP MEMBERSHIP: PLEASE GET INVOLVED! PARTICIPATE! AND BY ALL MEANS, LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN DO A BETTER JOB IN SERVING YOU.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION — AND PLEASE REMEMBER TO FILL IN OUR WEBSITE-IMPROVEMENTS QUESTION-NAIRE BEFORE YOU LEAVE.

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