

## **Message from 2022-23 NCBP President, Joe Sullivan**

### **Our Future's So Bright... (we gotta wear shades)**

As this year began, we were coming out of the Pandemic. There was a continuing need to address serious social issues. More than ever, we needed to protect and defend the judicial system, the rule of law, and democracy as a whole. Overall, there was a level of uncertainty permeating everything we did as leaders in NCBP, in our bars, and in our practices.

To address this uncertainty, I championed the concept of Hope Based Leadership. There is a field of study called Hope Based Science. It addresses what the impact of Hope is on everything we do. Applied to how we lead, you have Hope Based Leadership.

Hope Based Leadership is an intentionally uplifting approach to leadership which involves empowering those around you to achieve common goals. It includes being optimistic about the future; focusing on what is best in people you are working with; never being satisfied, but always being content; accepting of change; addressing failure as an opportunity to improve; being inclusive (not exclusive) in sharing one's vision of the future; personally investing oneself in that vision; delivering – doing what you said you would do; and creating/striving for excellence.

NCBP integrated the concepts of Hope Based Leadership into our programs this year. If you found this uplifting approach to leadership something that was practical and usable in your roles as leaders, we achieved our goal.

Nothing done by NCBP this year could have been achieved without the hard work of the NCBP Officers, Executive Council, Committees, and, especially, its staff. I am indebted to all of you. It is impressive and humbling to see the dedication and hard work of all these remarkable individuals.

As we move into this next year, I foresee a continued growth and expansion of NCBP's role in leadership development of bars. Robin Wolpert, as this next year's NCBP President, will guide us toward an exciting future as we develop the next gen bar and several other areas.

While we have had to address uncertainty over the last few years, there is one thing of which I am certain – NCBP will continue to teach leaders how to lead in an uplifting and positive manner which will bode well for a bright future for us all. As such, I say with confidence, "The future's so bright, I gotta wear shades." (Timbuk 3)