

Real Estate Committee Task Force Meets with Recorder of Deeds

By **Marc D. Jonas, Esq.**, MBA Real Estate Committee Chair

The Real Estate Committee continues as one of the MBA's active and vibrant committees, thanks to the terrific support from its member attorneys. Except for the summer months, the committee meets monthly for lunch with CLEs and other programs of interest to its members whose practices include real estate, municipal, and land use law. If you are on the Real Estate Committee Listserv and have not attended any of our meetings, or if you are not currently a committee member, we invite you to join the committee at one of its lunch meetings for the information and collegiality.

The Real Estate Committee received a number of reports relating to the rejection of documents offered for recording at the Office of the Recorder of Deeds. Specifically, reports about a significant number of document rejections resulting in the imposition of rejection fees and inconvenience to the attorneys and their clients. In response, the Real Estate Committee invited our Recorder of Deeds, Nancy Becker, to join the committee at a luncheon meeting in January. Nancy Becker welcomed and graciously accepted our invitation.

At that meeting, there was an open and candid discussion about document rejection. It became clear that there was indeed an issue that warranted special attention and action by the Real Estate Committee.

As Chairman, I appointed a task force chaired by Carl Weiner, joined by Adam Bram and Ellen Enters. The task force immediately went to work

and met with Nancy Becker and her two chief deputies. This joint meeting followed Nancy Becker's own meeting with her staff in the effort to address concerns raised by the Real Estate Committee.

The issue addressed by the Real Estate Committee's task force is a significant one, since document rejections have been as high as 12% of the documents offered for recording.

Following its meeting with Nancy Becker and her deputies, the Committee Task Force reported back to the Real Estate Committee and was optimistic that they were well on their way to correcting a number of the practices that led to this high document rejection rate.

The discussion at the Real Estate Committee and the efforts of the committee members who volunteered for the task force are yet another example of how a Bar Association committee can work effectively on behalf of both practicing attorneys and the public, in this case, those who have the occasion and need to record documents at the Office of the Recorder of Deeds. ■



In an effort to whet your appetite, here is a list of the upcoming luncheon meetings and programs of the Real Estate Committee, all at noon.

Thursday, April 18th CLE on the use of Settlement Agreements in land use.

Friday, May 24th Judge Gary S. Silow; A View from the Bench of a Jurist and Professional Actor.

Thursday, June 20th Hot Planning Topics in Montgomery County presented by the Montgomery County Planning Commission.