



## **Thank You Mr. Abeel**

**By Andrew Stephenson, Principal, Franklin & Prokopik, P.C.**

When TIDA was founded more than 25 years ago, there was no official newsletter editor. At one of the first Board of Directors meetings, the urgency for a newsletter editor loomed high on the agenda. TIDA needed an exceptional leader to take the helm, that man was Timothy J. Abeel, Esq.

Tim was one of TIDA's founding members and he served as its President in 2000-2001. In addition to serving nine years as a Board Member, Tim held the position as TIDA's newsletter editor for another twenty-four year and only gave it up this past month to TIDA's third newsletter editor, Mark Perkins. This was a legendary run as our newsletter editor. Few associations across this great continent can boast that sort of continuity - an epic marathon of publications, one article, and one newsletter at a time. The newsletter is published electronically now and the paper copies are a distant memory but Tim certainly remembers the time he and his assistant used to be in charge of printing the newsletter, stuffing the envelopes, and sending them off in the regular mail to all TIDA members. Long nights were spent in Rawle and Henderson's Rotary Press Room with Tim cranking the cylinders after he complete the type setting. Oh how things have changed (that same rotary press currently serves as a decorative objet d'art in a hipster farm to table establishment).

Tim graduated, *magna cum laude*, from the State University of New York at Albany in 1972. He received his law degree from the Temple University School of Law in 1976. He is a recipient of the Associate Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. Award from the American College of Trial Lawyers and the Frank Edward Roda Memorial Award from the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association for Excellence in Advocacy. In 2005, TIDA presented him with the John T. Biezup Memorial Service Award for his dedication and service to the trucking industry. Mr. Abeel was selected as a Pennsylvania **Super Lawyer** for the 14th consecutive year in 2017.

Tim certainly isn't retiring or anything. He still has a full practice and devotes much of his time to defending the trucking industry from his headquarters in Philadelphia, PA, but he also has offices in NY, NJ, DE and WV. In addition to his busy litigation practice, he also serves on his firm's executive committee. Tim just felt it was time to hand on the newsletter editor baton (not that any explanation is even remotely required) so that someone who better understands the millennials can take over. Mark is a perfect candidate as studying and understanding millennials is one of his pet projects. It's not that Tim doesn't embrace the millennials it's just that he once worked eight years straight without a vacation so he sometimes feels like he's singing from a different hymnal. That said, he has recently purchased real estate in Naples, Florida, but he has asked me not to publish his exact address herein. He plans to try and spend a little vacation time over the next few years and we all hope he does as there's no doubt he has earned it.

Truly one of the great, thank you Mr. Abeel, we are all grateful for your service and wish you all the very best in your ongoing endeavors. Andrew Stephenson, Board Member and Chair of the TIDA Member Communication Committee.