



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

LOS ANGELES, July 31, 2009 – The Los Angeles County Medical Association (LACMA) welcomed its new President Robert Bitonte, MD, a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist in Los Angeles. Dr. Bitonte’s year-long term began on July 1, 2009. During his tenure, Dr. Bitonte will focus on furthering the ability of doctors to provide unhindered, quality care for their patients.

"I am grateful to have the opportunity to pay down a debt of gratitude that has been accruing since 1992," says Dr. Bitonte. "When my practice was destroyed in 1992 during the Rodney King riots, only the Los Angeles County Medical Association came to my and my patients' aide," he continues. "I am looking forward to serving the organization with energy and enthusiasm."

"Dr. Bitonte certainly has started his term with great enthusiasm, making several important strides already," adds Sean O'Brien, Interim Executive Director for LACMA. "He's already produced several grant proposals and written legislation to be submitted to the California Medical Association's House of Delegates in October."

Dr. Bitonte has been a member of LACMA since 1987 and has served in a variety of capacities, including secretary, treasurer, and most recently president-elect. He received his MD from the University of Miami in 1973, his JD from Southwestern University School of Law in 2000, and his LLM degree in Health Law in 2003 from the University of San Diego Graduate School of Law.

About LACMA

The Los Angeles County Medical Association is a professional association representing physicians from every medical specialty and practice setting as well as medical students, interns and residents. For more than 100 years, LACMA has been at the forefront of medicine, assuring that its members are represented in the areas of public policy, government relations and community relations. Through its advocacy efforts in both Los Angeles County and with the statewide California Medical Association, physician leaders and staff strive toward a common goal—that doctors may spend more time taking care of patients and less time worrying about the hassles inherent to dealing with third-party payers, administrators, regulators, reviewers and anybody or anything else that intrudes upon the physician-patient relationship.