

## President's Message

JUANITA SALES LEE

### Saddle Up and Head for Oklahoma City

**W**HEN MOST OF us think of Oklahoma City, the images of a bombed federal building come to mind. Indeed, prior to Sept. 11, 2001, the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995, was the most significant act of domestic terrorism in the history of the United States.

Although people from Oklahoma City do not shy away from the topic of the Oklahoma City bombing, they truly want to discuss the development of the city since that fateful day. There is much more to Oklahoma City than the Murrah building bombing.

Since 1995, Oklahoma City has become a dynamic and diverse city that is rich in arts and culture. The fateful event in April 1995 is somewhat of a line of demarcation in the city's history. Following the bombing, the residents of central Oklahoma made a concerted effort to develop the city into a destination for travelers, both business and recreational. Oklahoma City is now home to a National Basketball Association franchise (the Oklahoma City Thunder), cultural museums, and significant annual events. The people of Oklahoma City are intensely proud of their city and state (as evidenced by the resounding rendition of "Oklahoma!" by the convention co-chairs at last year's National Council meeting). All of us have a great opportunity to share in and see the advancement of Oklahoma City during the Federal Bar Association's Annual Meeting and Convention there in September.

The FBA convention is an important event for our organization, and I strongly encourage all members to attend. Not only will you be able to satisfy your CLE requirements, but you will also enjoy social events that will allow you to network with other attorneys from across the country. The convention is also the time much of the business of the association is transacted. The Board of Directors will meet during the convention and the National Council will meet on Saturday, Sept. 12. For those of you holding offices in the FBA as chapter leaders, section and division officers, or committee chairs, the National Council meeting is your meeting. All these meetings, with the exception of certain executive sessions, are open to all association members, and you are invited to attend and observe the association's governance at work. The Foundation of the FBA will also hold a meeting at the convention; the meeting is open to all members and provides insight into the operations of the Foundation.

The stunning Skirvin Hilton Hotel ([www.skirvinhilton.com](http://www.skirvinhilton.com)) in downtown Oklahoma City will be the center of activities that are part of the convention. The Bricktown Entertainment District ([www.bricktownokc.com](http://www.bricktownokc.com)), an exciting recreation area that includes many restaurants, shops, nightclubs, and a canal, is just blocks away from the Skirvin. The Oklahoma City Museum of Art ([www.okcmoa.com](http://www.okcmoa.com)) is two blocks away from the Skirvin and is a world-class art museum that houses, among other things, the most comprehensive collection of Dale Chihuly glass. While we are in Oklahoma City, the Museum of Art will be hosting an exhibition entitled "Turner to Cézanne: Masterpieces from the Davies Collection, National Museum of Wales." Quite simply, there is a lot to do and see in Oklahoma City.

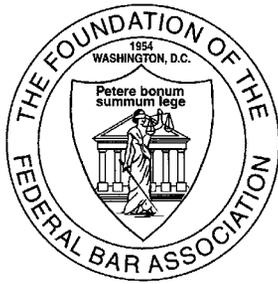
The convention planners—led by Will Hoch and Sandy Coats, the co-chairs—have put together what will be outstanding CLE programs for lawyers practicing criminal, civil, and Indian law. The convention will begin on Thursday, Sept. 10, with an opening plenary session featuring renowned Harvard Law Professor Charles J. Ogletree Jr., who will speak on the ethical challenges facing a lawyer president. The remainder of Thursday will include additional CLE programs for practitioners of civil, criminal, and Indian law and will feature a panel discussion with Professor Ogletree and Chief Chad Smith about the Cherokee Freedmen as well as a two-hour program entitled "Issues and Ethics for Lawyers Working with Corporate and Tribal General Counsel."

On Thursday evening, there will be a reception at the beautiful new Oklahoma History Center ([www.oklahoma-historycenter.org](http://www.oklahoma-historycenter.org)), which is located just across the street from the Oklahoma State Capitol. The center boasts a stunning rotunda that looks directly across to the Capitol dome. Many exhibits featuring Oklahoma's history will be available for your viewing during the reception.

Friday morning, Sept. 11, will begin with eligible



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## Memorials and Remembrances Gift Program

*With a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association, members of the legal profession, the public, business organizations, charitable trusts, or other foundations may create a memorial to a deceased person. Gifts may also be made in honor of someone, an anniversary, birthday, or any other occasion. Your gift helps fund educational and charitable programs that promote public understanding of the law and enhance the cause of justice.*

**Given by**

David Franklin Valerio

**In Memory of**

Giovanni Valerio and  
Hossack Franklin Ellerbe

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### Foundation of the Federal Bar Association Memorial/Remembrance Gift Program

PLEASE DETACH AND MAIL THE COMPLETED FORM TO:

Foundation of the Federal Bar Association  
1220 N. Fillmore St., Suite 444, Arlington, VA 22201

*In Memory of*

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*Date of Death*

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lawyers being sworn into the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, which will be followed by another plenary session, entitled “Enhancing Government: Federalism for the 21st Century,” featuring Dean Erwin Chemerinsky of the Donald Bren School of Law at the University of California, Irvine. The CLE sessions on civil, criminal, and Indian law will continue on Friday morning and will include a panel discussion led by Dean Chemerinsky, entitled “Homeland Security and Civil Rights,” as well as a program entitled “Bankruptcy: Creditors’ Rights and Fraud.”

On Friday afternoon, the venue will shift to the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum ([www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org](http://www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org)) and the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism ([www.mipt.org](http://www.mipt.org)) for tours and programs on the Oklahoma City bombing. First, Ed Kelley, editor of *The Oklahoman*, Oklahoma’s largest newspaper, will moderate a panel discussion that will include Judge Ronald Howland, the judge that arraigned Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber; Bob Dennis, clerk of court for the Western District; and Terri Watkins, former investigative reporter for KOCO-TV, the Oklahoma City ABC affiliate. You do not want to miss this program! Second, FBA members and guests will have an opportunity to meet and hear from the couple who are the architects of the memorial. They will discuss this beautiful venue and how their design was selected from several hundred submissions.

There will be a dinner and reception on Friday night at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center ([www.nationalcowboymuseum.org](http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org)). This is a magnificent museum that highlights the culture and development of the western United States, and the permanent gallery houses an amazing collection of art from this region.

Activities of the chapters and other FBA entities will be recognized at luncheons during the convention. The Foundation of the FBA will induct its 2009 Fellows during the Thursday luncheon. At Friday’s luncheon, the Younger Lawyers Division will honor outstanding younger federal lawyers and present awards to young lawyers who have been nominated by their agencies for their accomplishments. At the Saturday luncheon, the association will present awards for excellence in leadership and newsletters as well as in section, division, and chapter activities.

Please plan to join us in Oklahoma City for this year’s exciting Annual Meeting and Convention. The Federal Bar Association is your organization, and we are only as strong as the participation of our members. Register today by going to [www.fedbar.org/OK09\\_home.html](http://www.fedbar.org/OK09_home.html), or you can mail in the registration form included in this issue of *The Federal Lawyer*. I look forward to seeing you in Oklahoma City in September! **TFL**

*Juanita Sales Lee*