

President's Message

ASHLEY L. BELLEAU

Why Join a Section or Division?

ALL OF THE segments of the FBA—the Chapters, Sections, Divisions, the Vice Presidents of the Circuits, the National Staff, your Officers and Directors—work together to ensure that the FBA is the premier national bar association of lawyers and judges.

Our Sections, Divisions and Chapters are the backbone of this Association and our members are its heart. Our mission to strengthen the federal legal system in the administration of justice is accomplished by serving the interests and needs of the federal practitioner. Our Sections and Divisions promote professional and social interaction among our members and keep our members informed of developments in their respective fields of interest. Our Sections and Divisions are a relevant and valuable component of your membership. If you are not already a member of a Section or Division, I encourage you to join one today. Here are just some of the benefits our Sections and Divisions provide to our members.

We currently have eighteen active Sections and four Divisions. These Sections and Divisions are focused on practice areas important to our members such as Immigration Law or Labor and Employment Law. Divisions are tailored to members either who practice in specific sectors or who are at a common stage in their career. For example, the Younger Lawyers Division is comprised of active members of the Association who are 36 years or younger or who have engaged in the practice of law for fewer than three years. Similarly, the Senior Lawyers Division consists of active members of the Association who are age 55 years or older. Members within these divisions share common concerns. The Federal Career Services Division includes members who are or have been officers or employees of the United States or the District of Columbia. The Corporate and Association Counsel Division includes members of past or present corporate or association counsel staff. The intent of this Division structure is to provide for professional development and networking opportunities for members with common interests without regard to geographical location.

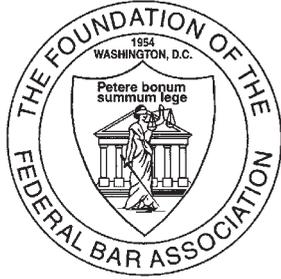
Our Sections have developed outstanding and high profile national programs. The Indian Law Conference will host its 36th Indian Law Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico in April, 2011. The Labor and Employment Law Section's Bi-Annual Program held in Puerto Rico continues to be one of the top labor and

employment law programs in the country. In 2011, the Section on Taxation hosts its two signature continuing education programs for tax attorneys and accountants in Washington D.C. The 35th Annual Tax Conference addresses federal and international tax issues and the 23rd Annual Insurance Tax Seminar addresses insurance tax issues. The Immigration Law Section co-sponsors its 8th Annual Immigration Seminar with the FBA Mid-South Chapter in Memphis in May, 2011. Happily, the seminar coincides with the Memphis BBQ festival. These Sections provide more than just outstanding continuing legal education programs. They also provide great opportunities to network with colleagues from all over the country in fun venues.

Most Sections also provide substantive newsletters regarding specific practice areas. Those newsletters include the ADR Section's "*The Resolver*," the Bankruptcy Section's "*Bankruptcy Briefs*," the Criminal Law Section's "*In Hot Pursuit*," the Environment, Energy & Natural Resources Section's "*EENR Pursuits*," the Federal Litigation Section's "*SideBAR*," the Indian Law Section's "*The Federal Indian Law Newsletter*," the Intellectual Property Section's "*The IPC Legal Browser*," the Senior Lawyer's Division's "*The FBA Senior Lawyer*," the Section on Taxation's "*The Tax Report*," and the Transportation and Transportation Security Law Section's "*TransLaw*." Each of these newsletters provides timely updates on developments in and news items relating to members' practice areas and profiles of section members. Members can access these newsletters on our website at www.fedbar.org.

Several Sections have filed or joined amicus briefs to the United States Supreme Court. In 2010, the Veterans Law Section joined in an amicus brief filed in *Henderson v. Shinseki* in the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the time limit for a veteran to seek judicial review of a final agency decision denying the veteran's claim for disability benefits. In 2011, the Indian Law Section plans to file or join an amicus brief in *United States of America v. Jicarilla Apache Nation* in the U.S. Supreme Court asserting the fiduciary





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	In Memory of
The Officers and Directors of the FBA	Stanley Fisher
Jack and Nancy Lockridge	Stanley Fisher
Robert A. McNew	Stanley Fisher

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

Date of Death

In Honor of

Occasion

Please send acknowledgment to:

Name

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exception to the attorney-client privilege and addressing issues under the 1994 Indian Trust Fund Management and Reform Act.

Our Sections and Divisions add value to your FBA membership. Your Board of Directors continues to work to improve the Sections and Divisions so that they can provide even more value to our members. In that regard, the FBA is considering the creation of a Law Student Division. Such a Division could be structured to include a Board composed of Law Students from all circuits. By engaging student members, the FBA will increase retention of student members after graduation. Further, the FBA is studying how to make the Younger Lawyers Division more of a national body within the Bar. The YLD Board structure could be altered to include representation from across the country with at least one person from each circuit. This would involve more young lawyers from across our membership and expand Division activities. The Board is also considering the feasibility of bringing YLD membership dues in line with other Sections and Divisions.

Our strategy to support and develop the Sections and Divisions has been an ongoing process for the last three years. Kent Hofmeister, past President of the FBA, was appointed Chair of the Sections and Divisions by then President, Juanita Sales Lee. His assignment has been to study the entire structure of the Sections and Divisions and make a comprehensive report at the September, 2011 Board Meeting in Chicago. His report will include a top to bottom evaluation of all Sections and Divisions, including but not limited to the status of their finances and activities. The Chair will also make recommendations to the Board regarding the oversight of Sections and Divisions going forward. This report should provide the substantive information needed to help strengthen our Sections and Division so that in turn they will provide even more value to our membership.

One of our 2011 Board initiatives is the institution of a "Board Liaison Program" to ensure our Sections and Divisions, Circuit Vice Presidents, and committees have Board Liaison representation. Each Board member has been appointed to serve as a Board Liaison to one or more Sections and Divisions. The goal of the program is for each Section and Division to have a personal contact with a member of the Board with whom the Section or Division can raise issues of interest or concern. That Director can then bring that issue immediately to the Board's attention. Further, the Board Liaison Program provides an opportunity for the Director to be a resource for the Section or Division.

If you have an idea for a Section or Division, please let the FBA leadership know. We are continuously striving to increase the value of FBA membership, and welcome your suggestions. **TFL**

Ashley L. Belleau