

# Message from the Chair of the Labor and Employment Law Section

By José R. González-Nogueras

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As the chair of the Labor and Employment Law Section, I am proud to present to readers this issue of *The Federal Lawyer*, which focuses on labor and employment law. The heart and soul of our section are its members and this issue is a perfect example. The issue was made possible by the members of our section, who contributed the articles that you will surely enjoy. On behalf of our section, I want to thank each of the contributors for investing time to share their knowledge and experience in federal labor and employment law with all members of the Federal Bar Association. Our section is driven by dedicated volunteers who are committed to serving federal practitioners and the judiciary in advancing labor and employment law. Karleen Green, our section's secretary and chair of the section's Standing Committee on Publications and Public Relations, and Craig Cowart, chair of the section's Standing Committee on Legislation and Congressional Relations, are the best examples of our exceptional volunteer team. This special issue is a product of their hard work and dedication.

Last year, our section had great accomplishments under the leadership of James Hammerschmidt, the immediate past chair of the Labor and Employment Law Section. James, who is also the chair of the FBA's Maryland Chapter, brought the talents and diligence that distinguish him as an excellent attorney and litigator to raise the section to new levels of success, including a very successful 4th Biannual Labor and Employment Law Conference held in San Juan, Puerto Rico. His service to the section and the FBA were recognized during the FBA Annual Meeting and Convention held in Chicago on Sept. 10, 2011, when he was presented with a well-deserved Outstanding Service Award.

This year, our team is eager to work to achieve another successful year. We will continue initiatives to increase the visibility, relevance, and value of our section to our members. To this end, we will build the synergy with chapters and other sections designed to present new CLE programs for the benefit of federal practitioners at a more local level while at the same time presenting those programs in a webinar that can reach individuals who cannot physically attend. We will also continue to produce the *Circuit Updates* that have received excellent reviews from our members. In addition, we will revamp our section newsletter for your benefit. Last, but certainly not least, our section will present its 5th Biannual Labor and Employment Law Conference in New Orleans, on May 2-3, 2013, at the Westin New Orleans. This conference will be cosponsored by the FBA's Corporate and



Association Counsel Division and will have the support of the New Orleans Chapter of the FBA. (More details will be announced soon.) We hope that all of you can join us in New Orleans to learn from leading attorneys in different areas and also to enjoy the world-acclaimed New Orleans Jazz Fest.

Our section is fortunate to have a balanced board composed of experienced professionals from varied locations across the United States and different practice areas within labor and employment law representing the plaintiff bar, the defense bar, and the government. Our diverse team is undoubtedly the secret to the section's success. We welcome the active participation of our members in all areas covered by our section. Another goal for this year is to increase the numbers of members contributing in all our committees and on the section's board of directors. If you want to join the section's board and committees or have ideas, comments, or suggestions on how to improve our section, do not hesitate to contact me. Your participation will benefit you and the members of our section. We also encourage members to submit articles for the Labor and Employment Law Corner column in *The Federal Lawyer* and for our section newsletter. Anyone interested in having an article published should contact Karleen Green.

For those of you who are members of our section, thank you for your membership and support. If you are not a member of our section, we invite you to join and take advantage of all its benefits. **TFL**

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*José R. González-Nogueras is a partner in the law firm of Jiménez, Graffam & Lausell in Puerto Rico, where he represents employers in all areas of labor and employment law, including training, collective bargaining, and counseling as well as litigation in local and federal courts and government agencies in Puerto Rico. He also assists clients in drafting commercial agreements and litigates in several other areas, such as copyright law, environmental law, and product liability, and helps clients with distributorship and sales representative agreements.*