

President's Message

FERN C. BOMCHILL

Meet the Search Committee

IT IS NOT a secret. We have a fabulous organization with wonderful members and energetic volunteer leaders. However, the Federal Bar Association works because it is operated on a day-to-day basis by our extremely competent staff, led by the FBA executive director.

Indeed, in many arenas, the executive director is the face of the organization. For the last 12 1/2 years, we have been privileged to have Jack Lockridge at the helm. He has taken us from a specialized Washington, D.C.-centric bar association to the national presence we enjoy today. We could fill pages with a listing of his accomplishments, and he certainly deserves the accolades. But that will be for another day.

As many of you know, at the end of 2012, as he approaches his 13th anniversary with the FBA, Jack will be retiring and embarking on the next phase of his life in New Mexico. (He no longer will have to deal with volunteer officers; he will have to report only to President Nancy, his wife.) As the consummate professional that he is, Jack gave us advance notice so that the FBA Board of Directors could take the necessary steps to find the best candidate for the position of executive director and to ensure a seamless transition.

Step 1 in the process was the appointment of a Search Committee. The board selected individuals who live and work in different locales; possess the requisite knowledge and experience with our national operations; and have the dedication, energy and commitment to get the necessary job done. I am proud of the committee that has been selected, and I so appreciate the work that the committee members have done and the results they have achieved. Each committee member reviewed more than 100 resumes and selected and interviewed a subset of that group. The Search Committee decided on four excellent candidates for the board to consider.

As they say, if you want something done right, give it to a busy person. I want to introduce the FBA membership to these committee members. In addition to our hardworking executive director, the members we need to thank are (drum roll please):

Bill LaForge, who served as chair of the committee, is a past national president of the FBA and has worked with the FBA in numerous capacities—he held various officer positions on the former Executive Committee (the predecessor presiding body of the organization), and he served as chair or member of numerous FBA committees, and was president of the Capitol Hill Chapter. He is currently an officer of the Board of Directors

of the Federal Bar Building Corporation, a Charter Life Fellow of the Foundation of the FBA, and a member of National Council. Bill has been an FBA member for 35 years and is in private practice in Washington, D.C.

René Harrod is currently the FBA's general counsel, the editor in chief of *The Federal Lawyer*, and a member of National Council, the Federal Litigation Section and the Broward County Chapter, for which she previously served as president. René has been a member of the FBA for nine years, during which she served on the national Board of Directors and on various FBA committees, including the Future of the FBA Task Force, the Constitution and Bylaws Review Task Force, and Website and Network Advisory Committee, the Audit Committee and the committee for the 2007 Annual Meeting in Florida. René works for the Economic Crimes Division of the Office of the Attorney General of Florida in Ft. Lauderdale.

Larry Thompson currently lives in Greenwich, Conn. and serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation of the FBA (of which he is also a sustaining Life Fellow), the Government Relations Committee, the Bench/Bar Committee, and the National Council. In addition to his distinguished careers as the former deputy attorney general of the United States, vice president and general counsel at Pepsico, and professor at the University of Georgia Law School, Larry has been an FBA member for 30 years and served on the board of directors of FBA's Atlanta Chapter.

Becky Thorson hails from the Eighth Circuit. During her 16 years as an FBA member, Becky was president of the Minnesota Chapter and a member of the Future of the FBA Task Force. She is currently the deputy editor of *The Federal Lawyer* and a member of the Intellectual Property Section and National Council. Becky is chair of the hiring committee of her Minneapolis law firm, has taught trial advocacy, and has extensive trial experience.



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Beth Smith has been an FBA member for 17 years. She has served in every officer position in her San Antonio Chapter, as vice president for the Fifth Circuit, and on various national committees—including the Membership Committee, Chapter Activity Fund, Budget Finance Committee, and the Task Force on Recruiting Judges. She is a member of the national Board of Directors and the Bankruptcy Law and Federal Litigation Sections. She practices in San Antonio and is active in various other bar associations as well as in a state education program.

Rob Clark, an FBA member for 16 years, is in private practice in Utah, specializing in complex litigation. He is a past president of his local chapter and a recipient of the prestigious FBA Kintner Award and the President's Award. Rob has been a substantial contributor to FBA leadership training for many years. He is a member of the national Board of Directors and has served the association in various ways—as chair of the Governance Review Special Committee; Future of the FBA Task Force; Constitution and By-Laws Review Task Force; and Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Resolutions Committee; and as a member of the National Council and the Bench/Bar Relations Committee, Bud-

get and Finance Resolutions Committee, and Professional Ethics Committee.

Les Horowitz is a past president of the Los Angeles Chapter, former vice president for the Ninth Circuit, and ad hoc member of the former Executive Committee. He is a past chair and member of the Bankruptcy Law Section, a Life Fellow of the Foundation of the FBA, a member of the FBA's National Council, and a member of the board of directors of the Federal Bar Building Corporation. During his 26 years as an FBA member, Les also served as chair of the Strategic Long-Range Planning Committee and was a member of the Audit, Nominations and Elections, Government Relations and Practice Area Directory Committees. He practices in Los Angeles and serves on boards of other bar associations and nonprofit organizations.

Jack and these dedicated, hardworking, and knowledgeable volunteers know what it takes to move this organization successfully into the future, and they have given us the best course to do so. Thank you, Search Committee. **TFL**

Kevin C. Bomchill

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professional conduct applicable in that state court. ..." *In re Snyder*, 472 U.S. 634, 645 n.6 (1985).

²Available at www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/publications/model_rules_of_professional_conduct/rule_1_1_competence.html.

³76 F.3d 132 (7th Cir. 1996).

⁴*Id.* at 134.

⁵Fed. R. App. P. 28, 32.

⁶127 F.3d 1145 (9th Cir. 1997).

⁷*Id.* at 1146.

⁸*Id.* Notably, and magnanimously, the Ninth Circuit nevertheless felt compelled to ensure itself that it was not dismissing a meritorious appeal. *Id.* at 1146–47.

⁹See, e.g., *Ten Pointers for an Appeal and Checklist for Briefs*, available at www.ca1.uscourts.gov/?content=rules.htm; *Brief and Appendix Requirements and Brief and Appendix Checklist*, available at www.ca4.uscourts.gov/Practitioner's_Handbook_Guidelines_for_Briefs_&_Other_Papers_and_Brief_Examples, available at www.ca7.uscourts.gov; and videos on how to perfect appeals, available at www.ca9.uscourts.gov/guides/perfecting_your_appeal.php.

¹⁰Available at www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/publications/model_rules_of_professional_conduct/rule_3_1_meritorious_claims_contentions.html.

¹¹*Id.*

¹²Fed. R. App. P. 38. See also 28 U.S.C. § 1912 ("Where

a judgment is affirmed by the Supreme Court or a court of appeals, the court in its discretion may adjudge to the prevailing party just damages for his delay, and single or double costs.").

¹³*Howard v. St. Germain*, 599 F.3d 455, 458 (5th Cir. 2010) (quotation marks and citation omitted).

¹⁴See, e.g., *Ruderer v. Fines*, 614 F.2d 1128 (7th Cir. 1980).

¹⁵824 F.2d 565, 566–67 (7th Cir. 1987).

¹⁶*Id.* at 567.

¹⁷986 F.2d 195, 200 (7th Cir. 1993).

¹⁸*The Hilmon Co. (V.I.) Inc. v. Hyatt Int'l*, 899 F.2d 250, 253 (3d Cir. 1990).

¹⁹Available at www.americanbar.org/groups/professional_responsibility/publications/model_rules_of_professional_conduct/rule_3_3_candor_toward_the_tribunal.html. The rule contains additional subsections less salient for purposes of this discussion.

²⁰983 F.2d 824, 833 (8th Cir. 1992).

²¹*Monee Nursery & Landscaping Co. v. Int'l Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150, AFL-CIO*, 348 F.3d 671, 678 n.4 (7th Cir. 2003).

²²*Lumaj v. Gonzales*, 462 F.3d 574, 576 n.1 (6th Cir. 2006).

²³Fed. R. App. P. 28(j).

²⁴*United States v. Collins*, 920 F.2d 619, 633 (10th Cir. 1990).