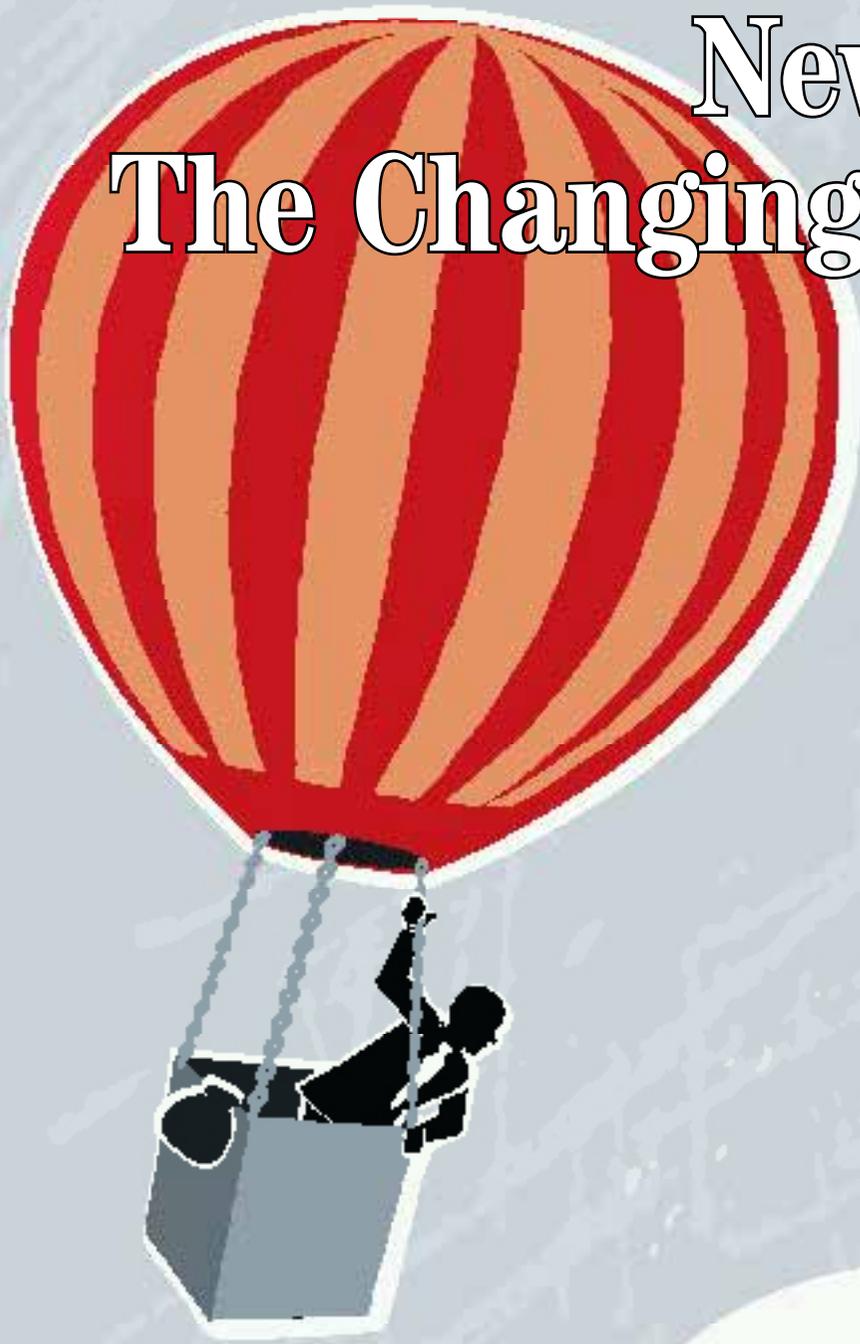


New Horizon: The Changing Nature of



BY HON. ELIZABETH ANN KRONK WARNER

Warner is an associate professor of law at the University of Kansas School of Law, where she serves as the director of the Tribal Law and Government Center and as an affiliated professor of indigenous studies. She also is currently the acting chief judge for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Court of Appeals in Michigan. She is a member of the FBA Board of Directors and the Editorial Board for The Federal Lawyer and was integral in creating the FBA Law Student Division.



Legal Education and the Practice of Law

This issue of *The Federal Lawyer* examines both the changing nature of legal education and the overall practice of law. Given recent technological, environmental, and economic changes and stresses, the legal community is forced to re-evaluate its method of educating future lawyers and the norms of the practice of law.

This issue, therefore, focuses on impacts to law students and newly minted legal practitioners. Although these two groups may be most affected, the reality is that every attorney either has been or will soon be impacted by these recent changes. Accordingly, the issue calls attention to these changes that challenge every member of the FBA to consider the best way forward in light of the potential new legal horizon.

The focus on issues particularly impacting law students and newer lawyers is also designed to highlight the recent launch of the FBA Law Student Division and the ever-expanding nature of the existing Younger Lawyers Division (YLD). Within the past two years, the FBA formed a division focused on reaching out to law students, the future of the FBA. This past year, President Bob DeSousa appointed a Law Student Division Task Force to help launch the newly formed division and also reach out to FBA chapters, divisions, and sections. At the same time, the existing YLD has worked hard to expand its presence within the FBA by spearheading numerous events and promoting the interests of newer lawyers within the FBA. Through the combined efforts of the FBA Law Student Division and the YLD, the FBA will remain focused on issues affecting these groups, whose ranks are the future of the FBA.

Six articles in this issue highlight the topics raised above. First, Professor J.B. Ruhl examines the challenges facing law students, law schools and newer lawyers in the new millennium in his article, "Preparing Law Students for the Big Reinvention of Law." At its core, Professor Ruhl's article challenges both existing and soon-to-

be lawyers to reconsider how they approach the practice of law in light of emerging trends, such as economic downturns, technology, and climate change. With Professor Ruhl having identified the "new horizon," Professor Ronald J. Scalise Jr. helps us to better understand the scope of the challenges and opportunities facing the legal profession by examining the origins of legal education in his article, "Legal Education in the 21st Century: Looking Backwards to the Future." By illuminating the genesis of many modern trends in legal education, Professor Scalise helps frame the discussion of how the profession might adapt to the changes highlighted in Professor Ruhl's article. In light of the changes facing the profession, Professor Christine Carniglia Brown then closely examines one tool, experiential learning, that many law schools are increasingly turning to better prepare law students for the practice of law in her article, "Is Experiential Education Simply a Trend in Law School or is it Time for Legal Education to take Flight?" Not only does Professor Brown examine the many benefits of experiential learning, but she also challenges existing lawyers to actively participate in experiential learning as well. On the administrative side of legal education, Scott Warner, Pete Land, and Kendra Berner dissect one of the most anticipated U.S. Supreme Court decisions of this term in their article, "The U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*: What It Tells Us (and Doesn't Tell Us) About the Consideration of Race in College and University Admissions and in Other Contexts."

David Mills slightly shifts the discussion, focusing on newer lawyers in "Writing the Holistic Brief: Making It More Than the Sum of Its Parts." Mills provides practical tips from his experience, including arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court. Finally, Karin Ciano's article, "Finding a Mentor in Six Simple Steps" encourages all lawyers to either seek out or become mentors, providing a helpful guide to mentoring.

In sum, the articles in this issue take a critical look at the legal landscape, identifying challenges and potential opportunities. Readers should gain a better understanding of the issues affecting the legal profession and where the "new horizon" for the profession may exist. ©