

President's Message

by Hon. Gustavo A. Gelpí



The Federal Lawyer Provides Many Perspectives

As an attorney and a judge, I have had very little experience working on any specialized federal areas such as tribal law, maritime law, and veterans law, for example. As members of the Federal Bar Association (FBA), we gain access to unfamiliar areas through our national publication, *The Federal Lawyer*. One of our most important membership benefits, this excellent periodical educates FBA members about areas of the law they don't specialize in or rarely work on. For more than 20 years, I have been devouring the magazine's contents the very evening it arrives.

Besides discovering other areas of the law, I very much enjoy reading profiles of judges and learning about their varied careers, as well as the types of cases that predominate in different districts across the nation. The Book Review and Washington Watch sections are also a must, as is the cartoon on each issue's final page. Equally as important are the Sidebar and Chapter Exchange Sections, which keep me abreast of the activities of our 85 chapters nationwide, as well as those of our many Sections and Divisions, such as our Securities Law Section.

After reading *The Federal Lawyer*, I always feel like a connoisseur of federal practice areas. Upcoming issues next year will be devoted to interesting topics such as labor and employment law,

U.S. magistrate judges, Indian law and energy, environment, and natural resources law. *The Federal Lawyer* evidences that we, as members of a national organization, are as collectively diverse as can be, yet we share a common goal and vision to improve the practice of federal law, no matter what our particular niche may be.

At our recent National Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico, we did just this. Attorneys and several federal judges from our chapters (sandwiched respectively by Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean and Puerto Rico in the Atlantic Ocean) once again gathered for three memorable days to collectively educate themselves, share their distinct views and experiences, and fraternize. All of this in pursuit of improving the current fiscal conditions of our federal courts, fostering excellent bench-bar relations, and learning how to best serve the public represented by counsel in our courts and federal system.

I urge you—irrespective of your area of expertise and length of

tenure as a bar member—to contribute to *The Federal Lawyer*. It will certainly be to the best benefit of us all! ☺



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