

President's Message

by Robert J. DeSousa



The Federal Bar Association and Military Lawyers: A Perfect Match

The FBA is the natural home for military lawyers, both civilian and uniformed. The FBA's key strength is the three-for-one nature of our membership: for the most economical price of any national bar association, the FBA gives you membership in a chapter; the ability to belong to one for more sections or divisions; and the benefits of a national association. While, in my view, this threefold nature is a great benefit for every one of our members, it is a key benefit for our military members.

Every lawyer in uniform knows that he or she will be mandatorily retired and will be transferred many times over a career. As to the fact that the military has mandatory retirement ages, membership in the FBA means that a military lawyer builds a network of professional friends on the "outside." These are professional relationships that can be called upon when the military lawyer is searching for a post-retirement job. Add to this the Legal Career Center on our national website (www.fedbar.org/careers), and the benefit for the retiring military officer is huge.

As to being transferred numerous times over one's career, our chapter and section/division systems are key. In almost every place where there is a U.S. military installation, there is a nearby FBA chapter. Transferring from chapter to chapter means being

welcomed to a new community with a set of similarly oriented lawyers. Being active in a section and/or a division means that no matter where you are, the section and division stands to support you.

Speaking of sections and divisions, you will see in this issue that our Military and Veterans Law Section has a great number of lawyers with wide expertise in the various areas of law concerning those in the Armed Forces. We have the whole gamut—from those currently serving to those working to protect the benefits of those who have served.

On a personal note as a lawyer who also happens to serve in the Guard, the FBA provided strong support to me when I was deployed overseas. It was strong because we have a strong association, with a solid relationship with all aspects of federal practice—including the body of law surrounding our Armed Forces! Enjoy this special issue, thank a vet when you see him or her, and reach out to the military lawyers in your community to

have them join the FBA! ☺



Friend Us. Follow Us. Join Us.



www.fedbar.org