

## President's Message

by Robert J. DeSousa



### A Healthy FBA

**This issue of The Federal Lawyer is dedicated to** health law. This growing niche of federal law is one which the FBA Health Law Section, headed by Marlene Garvis, provides cutting edge CLEs and great opportunities to explore the law. The subject of health law also makes me think of the overall health of the FBA, which is good. One of the reasons that our association is in good health is because we are vibrant, growing, and adaptable to change. One of the big changes we have made this year is the hiring of our new executive director, Karen Silberman. This issue marks her six-month anniversary with the FBA. I thought it fitting to offer the rest of my column to Karen, so she can introduce herself and discuss her vision of working with the FBA to take us to the next level. Below are her remarks.



*It has been my pleasure to serve as the executive director of the FBA these last six months. I appreciate the warm welcome, help, and guidance the board of directors and members have provided to help make my transition smooth and successful. I have spent the last few months getting to know the association, board of directors, and volunteer leaders. My initial focus has*

*been reviewing all aspects of the organization—finance, operations, governance structure, staffing, membership, programs, and communication. I have concentrated on streamlining our work, leveraging efficiencies, growing our membership, enhancing member benefits, and improving customer service.*

*I am hopeful you have noticed some of our initial changes. In December, we debuted our electronic newsletter. It is published twice a month and includes federal and judicial content, as well as updates on chapter happenings and section and division news. In February, we began offering webinars on a wide variety of topics. The webinars are presented twice a month and are available for CLE credit. In addition, we have enhanced our website content, posting more regularly to our Facebook page and Twitter account, and encouraging members to connect with us via all these vehicles, and in an effort to maintain accurate member records, we have reached out to chapters and individual members to encourage them to review their member record to ensure their information is correct. We are rolling out a targeted membership recruitment and retention campaign focusing on three geographic areas where the FBA is under-represented. We have also been hard at work planning our upcoming national meetings, including Indian law, annual convention, labor and employment, insurance tax, and the midyear meeting. I hope that you will be able to join us for at least one of these events.*

*Our year is off to a strong start, and I look forward to growing the FBA membership, enriching our member benefits, and furthering our mission to strengthen the federal legal system and administration of justice. I hope to meet you at one of our upcoming meetings. In the meantime, if there is anything I can do to assist you or if you'd like to introduce yourself, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to serving our members and taking the FBA to the next level! ☺*

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