

President's Message

by Matthew B. Moreland



Thank You to Public Sector Attorneys

I wanted to assert my presidential privilege in this

edition of *The Federal Lawyer* to thank all of the public sector attorneys and judiciary for their dedication. I would be remiss if I did not extend thanks to the wonderful support staff of judicial assistants, paralegals, and administrators keeping the administration of justice and the operation of the public sector running. All of these amazing employees dedicate their time to keep the system moving and provide the public sector legal support and advice. Whether it be as a court administrator or someone providing a public service or answering the questions of the public, I not only thank you as a former servant but also as a recipient of such support.

I, like many college students, worked my way through college with traditional jobs in the service industry from bellman and valet to waiter. It was only after I was admitted to law school that I thought as a lawyer I would be done with working in the service industry. Little did I realize I was only changing from one way of serving the public to another. It was almost 20 years ago when I finished the bar exam on a Friday and reported to work on Monday in federal court as a law clerk in the Eastern District of Louisiana. I walked into the courthouse complex in New Orleans for my first day as a public servant and enjoyed every minute of the wonderful opportunity from there forward. During my two years in the court system within the "New Orleans federal court family," I was reminded that I was there to serve at the discretion of my judge to serve the law, and to serve the public who were so dependent on the many pending motions before the court. There were many long days, but in the end being able to serve and fulfill my duty was very fulfilling. As I am being called to my first federal court jury duty in the courthouse where I cut my teeth as a young lawyer, I long for the days when I worked in the courthouse. While I could take credit for not trying to escape jury duty, it gives me an opportunity to see my court family and to thank them for showing up every day to fulfill

the duties of a public servant.

Public sector attorneys often do not get glory with their job, but instead are required to deliver the bad news or administer decisions or processes that, while not ideal, are necessary to continue in our civilized society. It is this perspective that allows the public sector servant to continue to do his or her tasked job efficiently and without finality in sight. Occasionally, you have the opportunity to perform a very rewarding task, whether it be helping someone complete a final step in an application process or informing someone that his or her request no matter how small or large, has been granted. It is these opportunities that make the continued effort all the more gratifying.

It is well recognized that public servants do this work for significantly less pay than those providing similar support or services in the private sector, and this is all the more reason to be appreciative. I think about a good friend of mine who works in legislative support on Capitol Hill. He will go unnamed, but I must note he has an amazing job of educating and supporting the lawmakers of our great country while still maintaining the role of the unsung hero. Being able to explain in detail the many facets of issues of potential legislation and how it can affect many, or sometimes just a few, is a large task and requires a great deal of analysis. Through people like him, I do feel that we are in good hands with our public servants.

I wish I could thank all of the different persons who work in the public sector and serve to make our communities and country move forward, but I am sure I would miss many whole departments if I tried to name them all. So please let this serve as a resounding thank you for all your hard work and dedication from those you serve! ☺

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew B. Moreland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "B".

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