

President's Message

JUANITA SALES LEE

On Sections and Divisions

ON SEPT. 20, 2008, at the FBA Annual Meeting and Convention held in Huntsville, Ala., I was installed as the president of the Federal Bar Association. I want to thank the North Alabama Chapter; the chapter's president, Margaret Simmons; the 2008 Annual Meeting and Convention Planning Committee; Judge U.W. Clemon,

honorary chair of the planning committee; and all the speakers for their time and effort in making this a wonderful event for the FBA and a very special time for me.

I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to serve as the association's president for 2008–2009. In any given year, the president of the FBA may come face to face with only 10 percent of the membership. So to get us off on the right foot, allow me to tell you a little about me: I am a native Alabamian. I graduated from the University of Alabama with degrees in social work and law. I am employed by the U.S. Army in Huntsville and have been a federal employee for more than 25 years. My area of practice is mainly labor and employment law.

I first became active in the association through my local chapter, the North Alabama Chapter, where I took my first step on the leadership ladder in 1991. The chapter celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Fifty years ago, Francis Buckley, chief counsel of the U.S. Army Missile Command's Legal Office (and others) organized the North Alabama Chapter. His goal was to instill professionalism among the attorneys in his office and to provide service to the legal community of Huntsville. Mr. Buckley also encouraged attorneys to play an active role in the FBA, and his tradition lives to this day.

The chapter membership consists of attorneys from federal organizations in Huntsville and members of the downtown bar association. This year's officers hail from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Army Aviation and Missile Command, Marshall Space Flight Center/NASA, the Army Space and Missile Defense Command, and the Missile Defense Agency.

I loved my first stint in the chapter's leadership so much that I took a second tour. Soon thereafter, leaders in the national organization noticed my zeal, and Alan Harnisch, FBA president at the time, appointed me to the Chapter Activity Fund Committee. Subsequently, I became a vice president for the 11th circuit—an elected national office. In 2002, with a leap of faith and hard work on the part of many, I was

elected deputy secretary of the FBA under the old governance structure.

And now, 17 years after my first FBA leadership position, I am beginning my term as national president. If you are looking for an organization that serves the legal community and offers opportunities for meaningful leadership, I urge you to become actively involved in the Federal Bar Association.

Let me clear up some misconceptions that may be inhibiting some federal employees. Some federal employees think that being active in a nonfederal professional organization is prohibited by the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, 5 CFR 2635, and supplemental guidance issued by one's agency. This is not the case; the Standards and many agencies' supplemental guidance allow federal employees to participate in professional associations. The Standards prohibit the misuse of government property, but the Standards—and my agency's supplemental guidance, the Joint Ethics Regulation issued by the Department of Defense (DOD)—provide for the authorized use of government property. For example, an attorney may be permitted to use the office's word processor and the agency's photocopying equipment to prepare a paper to be presented at a conference sponsored by a professional association of which the employee is a member. 5 CFR 2635.704 and DoD 5500.7-R, Section 3-300b. This same section of the Joint Ethics Regulation also gives supervisors the authority to permit excused absences for reasonable periods of time so that their DOD employees can voluntarily participate in the activities of nonprofit professional associations like the FBA as well as learned societies.

I emphasize these authorities as a way to encourage federal employees to become involved in the FBA's activities. The many areas in which you can participate can be found on the FBA Web site, www.fedbar.org. One route is participation in chap-



MESSAGE *continued on page 4*

ter activities—the route I chose. Another avenue is through the association’s sections and divisions.

Our time is a commodity that we all value. We have to distribute our time carefully among many responsibilities: work, family, church, community activities, membership in associations, and ourselves. Nevertheless, at the end of the day (sometimes literally), we find time for everything that is so important to all of us. In my case, I am committed to giving FBA members the time that is necessary to have a president who will listen, ask for input, and seriously consider ideas that will help guide the FBA and its Board of Directors in its governance and decision-making on behalf of the membership.

A very important step in establishing communication from the “members up” will be a membership survey, which will be conducted during the first part of 2009. Watch for the survey and plan now to spend the time needed to give us your input and ideas. In the meantime, I would be delighted to hear from you at president@fedbar.org. **TFL**

Juanita Sales Lee

Please join the Indian Law Section of the Federal Bar Association, the National Native American Bar Association, and the Native American Bar Association of Washington, D.C., for the

**10th Annual
D.C. INDIAN LAW CONFERENCE**
OCTOBER 17, 2008 • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sessions include:

- ◊ Creative Strategies for Budget Politics: Meeting the Financial Needs of Indian Country in an Era of Shrinking Budgets
- ◊ Winning Over the Roberts Court in Indian Law Cases: A Continuing Dialogue.
- ◊ Luncheon Presentation from an Honorable Member of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs (TBA) Existing Disparities and New Opportunities: The Role of Tax Policy in Native American Economic Development
- ◊ Advocating Effectively Under New Lobbying and Ethics Rules

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Holland+Knight **AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP** **PATTON BOGGS LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW**
www.pattonboggs.com

SILVER SPONSORS

Homer Law **Pipestem Law**

HOBBS STRAUSS DEAN & WALKER **CROWE & DUNLEAVY** **pillsbury** **NORRIS CHAMBERS, SMITH, FERGUSON & FREED LLP**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.FEDBAR.ORG OR CALL THE FBA AT (571) 481-9100 TODAY

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation of *The Federal Lawyer*

This statement of ownership, management, and circulation as filed Oct. 1, 2008, is required by an act of August 12, 1970: Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code. *The Federal Lawyer* (ISSN: 1080-675X) is published by the Federal Bar Association (FBA); in calendar year 2008, *The Federal Lawyer* was published monthly with the exception of two bi-monthly issues in March/April and November/December. The annual nonmember subscription price is \$35 (\$14 FBA member subscription included in member dues).

The publisher’s general office is: 1220 North Fillmore Street, Suite 444, Arlington, VA 22201. The Federal Bar Association, Publisher; Craig Gargotta, Editor in Chief; Stacy King, Managing Editor: 1220 North Fillmore Street, Suite 444, Arlington, VA 22201. Owned and managed by the Federal Bar Association, 1220 North Fillmore Street, Suite 444, Arlington, VA 22201. Stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock: none. Bondholders, mortgage, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: none. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of the Federal Bar Association has not changed during the preceding 12 months.

Extent and Nature of Circulation	Avg. No. Copies of Each Issue During Preceding 12 months	Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date (September 2008)
A. Total No. Copies Printed	17,435	17,723
B. Paid Circulation		
1. Sales through dealers, etc.	N/A	N/A
2. Mail subscription	15,873	15,938
C. Total Paid Circulation	15,892	15,964
D. Total Free Distribution	1,193	1,222
E. Total Distribution	17,085	17,186
F. Copies Not Distributed		
1. Office use, leftover, etc.	350	537
2. Returns from news agents	N/A	N/A
G. Total	17,435	17,723