

President's Message

JUANITA SALES LEE

Still Standing and Thankful

MANY OF YOU know of my travails with breast cancer. I was diagnosed in May and began chemotherapy in June. The last treatment was on Monday, Sept. 22, the day after the Federal Bar Association's Annual Meeting and Convention. I began radiation treatment in October. I would not be truthful if I told you I was stoic

upon learning of the diagnosis. I was shocked, filled with despair, and fearful. I have come to a realization and acceptance of my circumstances. That is not to say that all my days are filled with joy. One of the most difficult aspects of breast cancer—and its treatment—is the lack of energy and a constant feeling of fatigue (once upon a time, I considered myself a cousin of the Energizer bunny). The FBA family has been and continues to be very supportive. Thoughtful letters and cards are a mainstay. Telephone calls and e-mails of encouragement brighten my days. Even though life is not a promised prognosis, I am hopeful and thankful. And I am still standing.

This issue of *The Federal Lawyer* is the last for the year. Traditionally, the months of November and December are celebrated with family gatherings and gift giving. The end of each previous year has been a time for me to reflect on things accomplished and to begin planning for the new year. This year, with the diagnosis of breast cancer, I am marking the beginning of a new life.

The year-end tradition of giving has a special meaning to the members of the FBA. One way members of the association can give to the community is by donating to the FBA's charitable arm—the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association.

The Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization; it is unusual in that it was actually chartered by an act of the U.S. Congress. Although separate from the FBA, the Foundation's board includes many leaders of the FBA, including FBA Past President Bob McNew and national leaders such as Larry Thompson, senior vice president and general counsel at PepsiCo and former deputy attorney general of the United States. The Foundation's goals should speak loudly to the FBA's members and all persons interested in promoting the nation's justice system. The Foundation's mission is to—

- promote and support legal research and education;
- advance the science of jurisprudence;
- facilitate the administration of justice; and

- foster improvements in the practice of federal law.

Recent grants made by the Foundation demonstrate the importance of its efforts. The Foundation helped co-sponsor a national conference on judicial independence led by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. It funded the FBA's White Paper on Judicial Pay. Its Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Fund provided money to support legal assistance and professional support to those affected by the storm. The Foundation has provided numerous scholarships for law students and for children of federal lawyers.

Support for the Foundation has grown remarkably in recent years and has given the Foundation a basis to expand the projects that it funds. The Foundation's prestigious Fellows program—in which persons nominated and accepted pledge at least \$1,500 over 10 years—has now grown to more than 180, and the annual Fellows luncheon and the annual dinner programs have become greatly anticipated events. The Foundation's one percent set-aside program, only one year since its inception, now has a half-dozen local FBA chapters as participants, and the ranks are growing.

As we approach year's end, please consider the Foundation among the charities to which you will contribute. If your local FBA chapter is not yet a one percent set-aside participant, please urge it to participate. The cost to your chapter is low—just one percent of its revenues—but the combined strength of donations from many chapters will have the power to do much good. You can learn more about the Foundation on the FBA Web site (www.fedbar.org) or by contacting the Foundation's president, David Rosenbaum, at drosenbaum@omlaw.com. **TFL**



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