

President's Message

LAWRENCE R. BACA

Bring Your Spouse, Build a House

SHRIMP AND ALLIGATOR sausage cheesecake at Jacques-Imo's Café, mufulettas at the Napoleon House, shrimp po'boys at Boudreaux's Backyard, and anything on the menu at Eat NOLA. I shouldn't have to say more to get you packing your bags for New Orleans for the



Federal Bar Association's Annual Meeting and Convention in September, but I will anyway.

The FBA's New Orleans Chapter is hosting the 2010 Annual Meeting and Convention. You saw the wonderful program they have put together in the June issue of TFL. I'd like to highlight some of the events (detailed information is included in the official convention program inserted in this issue). We will be housed at the Ritz Carlton, a wonderful hotel on Canal Street just a step away from famed Bourbon Street and right on the edge of the French Quarter. What more could you ask for in terms of ideal location?

CLE course offerings will include panels on international litigation, international arbitration, health care, and the implications of MRGO litigation. Also on the program are panels on veterans treatment courts and piracy on the high seas—both of which are important and timely issues. We will also hear about New Orleans "Rising from the Ashes" and the historic "Battle of New Orleans" and its implications on legal history and the development of civil law. Speakers include federal court judges, prominent attorneys, distinguished law professors, and a justice of the Irish High Court from Dublin, Ireland. These presentations, along with others on ethics and professionalism, will meet the CLE needs and interests of any attorney. There will be two great receptions that will provide many opportunities for networking with old and new friends, and the meeting will end with the Presidential Installation Banquet, at which New Orleans' own Ashley Belleau will be sworn in as the new president of the FBA.

New Orleans is a destination city. You'll want to come for more than the National Council meeting and the CLE courses. Recognizing that fact, there will be optional excursions in and around New Orleans. A tour of the Crescent City will include visits to the French Quarter, the Garden District, and one of the city's most historic above-ground cemeteries, which are often described as "cities of the dead." You may want to take an excursion to the New Orleans School of Cooking, where you won't just learn about delect-

able Louisiana cooking, but you'll get to eat the results of your lesson. One of my favorite tour offerings is the Honey Island Swamp Tour, during which, from the comfort and safety of a flat-bottom boat, you'll be able to get up close and personal with alligators and the many other animal species that inhabit the swamp. For photographers of animal life (including raccoons, owls, herons, turtles, and maybe an eagle or two) and moss-draped trees, the swamp tour is a must.

New Orleans is famed in music and movies—including "The Big Easy"; "Hard Target"; and, most recently, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"—which were all filmed, in part, in New Orleans with the city as their backdrop. Jazz music traces its roots to Congo Square in New Orleans. Where would the world of music be without Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, Wynton Marsalis, or Jelly Roll Morton? Who can forget "Walkin' to New Orleans" or any of a hundred other songs with New Orleans in the title or lyrics? If you like live music in lively places, the dueling piano bar at Pat O'Brien's and Preservation Hall for jazz are worth a visit.

Finally, it is particularly important to mention the opportunity to "bring your spouse and build a house" while you're in New Orleans for the annual meeting. The FBA will be working on a special project for FBA members and their families and friends to help construct a new home. This is a tremendous opportunity for the FBA to show support for New Orleans and the recovery effort that is still ongoing from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. I've written before about opportunities for members to volunteer their services for needy causes, and here's one that comes prepackaged. I hope to see you in New Orleans in September! **TFL**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence R. Baca". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "B".