

## President's Message

ASHLEY L. BELLEAU

### Roaring Into Chicago

**N**EXT MONTH WE will gather in Chicago for our Annual Meeting and Convention. Chicago, the birthplace of the modern skyscraper, is a trendsetter in urban architecture and a must-see destination for people interested in 20th century urban architecture.

One of the highlights of this year's Convention is an architectural boat tour on Friday afternoon. The Official Chicago Architectural Foundation River Cruise, planned by Chief Judge James F. Holderman, the Honorary Host Committee Chair; Maria Vathis, the Chicago Chapter President and Host Committee Chair; Paul Freehling, the Host Committee Co-chair; and the Chicago Host Committee, will describe the architecture and design of over fifty buildings throughout downtown Chicago, including the Sears Tower (now known as the Willis Tower), the John Hancock Center and the Tribune Tower.

But the Windy City offers a lot more than fascinating architecture. It is a bustling city, with a vibrant nightlife and great museums. The Host Committee will lead us on Thursday evening to the Art Institute of Chicago, founded in 1879 as both a museum and school. The museum initially housed a collection of plaster casts and had a visionary purpose: to acquire and exhibit art of all kinds and to conduct programs of education. The collection now encompasses more than 5,000 years of human expression from cultures around the world, and the school's graduate program is continually ranked as one of the best in the country.

On Friday night, we will visit with friends at a reception at the John G. Shedd Aquarium located at the Museum Campus just south of Grant Park. The campus, which also comprises the nearby Field Museum of Natural History and Max Adler Planetarium, is one of Chicago's major tourist draws. The aquarium's founder, John G. Shedd, retired President of Marshall Field & Company, gave a total of \$3 million dollars to start the aquarium. It began with a large freshwater pool featuring fish, reptiles, and amphibians, and over the next year, more than a million gallons of sea water were shipped by rail from Florida to fill new galleries. When the aquarium officially opened on May 30, 1930, it housed the greatest variety of sea life under one roof. The aquarium first expanded in 1971 when the Caribbean Reef was added and in 1991 the magnificent oceanarium – the world's largest marine mammal habitat – opened, doubling the size of the aquarium. Other exhibits, Amazon Rising opened in 2000 and the

Wild Reef opened in 2003.

CLE course offerings during this year's Convention will include panels on renewable energy policy, vintage film-clips and interviews of Clarence Earl Gideon, his Supreme Court counsel, Abe Fortas, counsel for Florida, Bruce Jacob and retired counsel W. Fred Turner. Participants will be introduced to key issues that affect healthcare providers in both transactions and litigation, and learn about human trafficking issues, and class action developments in the U.S. Supreme Court, including the recent *Wal-mart* case. Also on the program are panels relating to diversity in legal education and the legal profession, the judicial vacancies crisis, and how social networking impacts the practice of law. If you filed your application timely, you will have the opportunity to be sworn-in to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit by Chief Judge Frank H. Easterbrook.

In addition to the CLE course offerings and great evening receptions, on Friday we will be inspired by the Younger Federal Lawyers Award Luncheon at which outstanding federal attorneys are recognized. Then, on Saturday, the FBA Awards Luncheon will recognize the outstanding service and achievements of members, sections, divisions and chapters.

The meeting will culminate with the Reception and Presidential Installation Banquet. The banquet will feature the presentation of the Ilene and Michael Shaw Public Service Award, the President's Award, the Sarah T. Hughes Civil Rights Award and the Earl W. Kinter Award for Distinguished Service. The evening will end as I bid adieu and pass the gavel to Chicago's own favorite daughter, Fern Bomchill, who will be sworn in at the end of the evening as the 84th President of the Federal Bar Association.

Chicago is a destination city. You will want to come for more than the National Council meeting, the CLE courses and the wonderful reception venues. Chicago is hailed as the center of authentic blues and jazz recordings. In the 1920s, Chicago became the



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defend those same principles of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution that America as a nation holds precious and who serve under a commander in chief we have no right to elect.

Mr. President, we, the people of Puerto Rico, welcome you to our island. We appreciate your taking an interest in solving many of the problems that we face. But, more important, we invite you—urge you—to also take steps to remedy an anomaly that cannot continue to be justified under 21st-century American constitutionalism. If you can rectify this injustice, perhaps the next time you visit us, we, the people of Puerto Rico, can feel that we have a say in electing the representatives whose decisions have such a significant impact on our lives and futures. Only then will we, the people of Puerto Rico, be able to stop feeling like second-class U.S. citizens. **TFL**

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*Héctor L. Ramos-Vega is a supervisory assistant federal public defender for the District of Puerto Rico and a member of the TFL editorial board.*

#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>*Yick Wo v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356, 370 (1886).

<sup>2</sup>See *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 555 (“[T]he right of suffrage can be denied by a debasement or dilution of the weight of a citizen’s vote just as effectively as by wholly prohibiting the free exercise of the franchise.”).

<sup>3</sup>18 T.M. COOLEY L. REV. 429 (2001).

<sup>4</sup>*Igartua-De La Rosa v. United States*, 32 F.3d 8 (1st Cir. 1994); *Igartua-De La Rosa v. United States*, 229 F.3d 80 (1st Cir. 2000); *Igartua-De La Rosa v. United States*, 417 F.3d 145 (1st Cir. 2005); *Igartua-De La Rosa v. United States*, 626 F.3d 592 (1st Cir. 2010).

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center for hot jazz and cool blues music. Well-known Chicago blues players include singer/songwriters such as Muddy Waters, Junior Wells, and Howlin’ Wolf, and their songs, “Hoochie Coochie Man” (Number 8 on the R&B charts), “I Just Want to Make Love to You” (Number 4), and “I’m Ready.” Since then Chicago has remained a center for jazz and blues making it a place that any music aficionado must visit.

You and your friends may want to walk the Magnificent Mile, the northern part of Michigan Avenue between the Chicago River and Lake Shore Drive, which is Chicago’s version of the Champs-Élysées: a grand wide boulevard with exclusive shops, muse-

ums, restaurants and ritzy hotels. All the big names of shopping are present there, from Disney, Apple and Niketown to Bloomingdales and Saks Fifth Avenue. The wide streets, often adorned with well-maintained flowerbeds, are always crowded. The areas around the Magnificent Mile are some of Chicago’s wealthiest.

So pack your bags for Chicago and join your friends and colleagues at the 2011 Federal Bar Association Annual Meeting and Convention in September. See you in Chicago! **TFL**

*Ashley L. Belleau*

## FBA Board of Directors Members Attend Second Circuit Admission Ceremony in New York



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On June 23, 2011, members of the FBA Board of Directors were on hand as the Second Circuit was in session to entertain a motion sponsored by the Federal Bar Association and co-sponsored by the Network of Bar Leaders, New York City Bar Association, New York County Lawyers’ Association, the New York State Bar Association, and the Connecticut Bar Association to admit new members. A reception followed the swearing-in ceremony.

Chief Judge Dennis Jacobs and Judge Denny Chin of the Second Circuit are profiled in this issue of *The Federal Lawyer*, beginning on page 16.