

President's Message

FERN C. BOMCHILL

The Changing of the Guard

UNDoubtedly, the last column for every president begins with something like, “I can hardly believe that my term has come to an end.” It is true that this year has passed quickly; it has been a whirlwind of both expected and unexpected activities. I am



thankful for the opportunities and challenges that this office has afforded me. What an honor and pleasurable and broadening experience it has been to address and spend quality time with judges, practitioners, law professors and government officials. I have learned a great deal from our diverse membership; I am gratified that the pipeline of future leaders is filled with remarkable, energetic and committed professionals. I have had a terrific supporting cast of officers, board members, vice presidents and section, division and committee chairs, and I am comfortable leaving you in their experienced hands—especially as they are led by my favorite National Guard lieutenant colonel, Bob DeSousa.

I am also most fortunate to have had the support, instruction and friendship of our executive director, Jack Lockridge. As some of you may know, Jack came to the FBA in 2000 after 24 years in banking and 10 years of experience with the mandatory State Bar of Texas. Jack has the trust and confidence of each president with whom he has worked. He has steered the changing leadership down the path that best serves the interests of the FBA and has helped them to avoid the pitfalls and moguls along the way. Jack has supported every section and division, and his presence at national FBA conferences has ensured success. He is sincerely appreciated by all of the members he has touched throughout the years. As one example, the Indian Law Section honored Jack in 2008 with its Outstanding Service Award. The section surprised him at the annual Indian law conference with a presentation filled with thanks, warmth, humor and some very interesting pictures of little Jackie, the Indian chief, the horseman, the dancer, the athlete, the banker and the executive director.

The world outside the FBA has similarly recognized Jack's contributions. For example, Jack has been a member of the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) for many years. He served on many NABE committees and as its national president in 2009–2010. This August, he was awarded NABE's 2012 Bolton Award for his service to the organized bar and the bar executive profession for over 20 years. Indeed, one need not hear of the awards given to Jack to recognize the respect he has earned among his peers. In 2011,

Jack and I walked into a ballroom of bar association president-elects; within minutes, Jack was bombarded with handshakes, hugs and questions from other bar executives. Similarly, as I visited with judges and lawyers, regards to, and appreciation for, Jack were constant refrains.

As you know, Jack, who brought the FBA into national prominence, will be retiring at the end of 2012 after orchestrating yet another fabulous convention. But we are not letting Jack coast during his last few months. To the contrary, Jack has the crucial task of passing on his knowledge to Karen Silberman, who will assume the FBA executive director position on October 1.

Along with your 2012 officers and members of the Board of Directors, I am proud to introduce you to Karen. We are thrilled to have her picking up the ball. With the strong support and assistance she will have from our deputy executive director, Stacy King, and our outstanding FBA staff, we are confident that Karen will provide excellent bar administration and represent our organization with eloquence, dignity and verve, to which we all have become accustomed.

Karen comes to the FBA after various positions in the nonprofit sector and 14 years of service as an executive director—seven years with the Society for Human Resource Management Foundation, in which she was responsible for the operations and management of a multimillion dollar charitable foundation; three years with the National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity; and four years with the Association Management Group. Karen has a Masters of Public Affairs in Non-Profit Management from Indiana University's School of Public and Environment Affairs and is a Certified Association Executive. Your board believes that Karen is poised to help direct the FBA through its future growth and increasing prominence. Congratulations and best wishes to Karen as she embarks on her new challenge.

And congratulations to all FBA members. With Bob and Karen at the helm, continued success is inevitable. **TFL**

Fern C. Bomchill