

President's Message

by Robert J. DeSousa



Thoughts of Summer (Or the End Thereof)


Is it too early to think of summer? No! I know the holiday season is upon us and I ought to be writing about that. Or perhaps I should be discussing the awesome articles on all the aspects of bankruptcy that are covered in this month's issue of *The Federal Lawyer*. Well, I am instead going to talk about that lovely time of year—the end of summer.

The best part of the end of summer is the Federal Bar Association's Annual Meeting and Convention. My family and I have been going, as a family, to the FBA conventions for many, many years! My kids have enjoyed visiting palaces as diverse as Huntsville, Ala.; Washington, D.C.; Chicago, Ill.; Oklahoma City, Okla.; and New Orleans, La. My eldest son and I were on the way to the Tucson convention on that dreadful day in 2001 when our nation was attacked in New York City, at the Pentagon, and in Shanksville, Penn.—a grim memory we both share. The two youngest kids are, however, still talking about what they saw and did while I was busy with continuing legal education (CLE) classes at the wonderful convention this past September in San Diego, Calif. I missed them when I went solo to Sacramento, Calif; Las Vegas, Nevada; Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio; and historic San Juan, Puerto Rico! Yes, they missed going to beautiful San Juan, Puerto Rico. They will NOT miss that again! More importantly, NOR SHOULD YOU!

Our national FBA conventions are jammed packed with first-rate CLE classes, magnificent social events, opportunities to mix with our federal judiciary, and simply good comradeship. I am urging each member of the FBA to consider attending the Sept. 26–28, 2013, convention when my good friend Hon. Gustavo Gelpi, U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Puerto Rico, will be

sworn in as national president. If you mention the FBA annual meeting, you can get a terrific room rate—\$175—which is available until Sept. 13, 2013. In my view one is hard-pressed to beat the central location and beauty of the Caribe Hilton (next to the historic ruins of a small fort, San Geronimo). The Caribe Hilton is less than a mile walking distance from Old San Juan, where there are historic forts, restaurants, museums, and shops. The hotel has the only private beach in Puerto Rico—a lagoon—which is safe for adults and children. I think at least two of our most active FBA members, Past President Kent Hofmeister and his wife FBA Convention Committee Chair Martha Hardwick Hofmeister, who got engaged on the beach in San Juan in 2001, would agree!

I am someone who likes to plan and think ahead. So while many of you are getting ready for a few snowflakes, I am already planning on spending some great days in Old San Juan next September. For the pure beauty of it, the first-rate CLE classes, the networking opportunities, the super parties, and great comradeship—won't you plan on joining me? See you in San Juan! ☺



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