



## At Sidebar

by René D. Harrod

# To Becky! To Sarah! And to the New *Federal Lawyer*!

**This month The Federal Lawyer proves true the** proverb that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Five years ago, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Craig Gargotta turned over the responsibilities of *The Federal Lawyer* to me with a column titled, “To Rene!” Like Judge Craig before me, I tried to remain true to the core of the magazine while trying out some new ideas and tinkering around the edges a bit. Now, five years later, I am pleased and honored to introduce Becky Thorson as the new editor in chief of *The Federal Lawyer* and Sarah Perlman as its new managing editor and to announce the new layout for the magazine.

Becky Thorson brings a wealth of skills and a genuine passion for the magazine and the FBA. An intellectual property litigator with Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, where she runs the firm’s hiring committee, Becky is also a member of the Minnesota Chapter of the FBA, has served faithfully in many aspects of the FBA including most recently on the search committee for our new executive director, Karen Silberman, and has been a long-time member of the Editorial Board of *The Federal Lawyer*. Do not be fooled by her calm demeanor and gentle manner: Becky is a force to be reckoned with. Her kind, gentle, and persistent attention to detail and her insightful analysis will reckon to our collective benefit as she guides *The Federal Lawyer* into its next generation.

Becky will be ably assisted this year with several veterans of the Editorial Board of the magazine, as well as some new faces. The men and women who serve on the Editorial Board are volunteers who contribute their time and wealth of talents to bring substantive and informative articles to our readers. They run the gamut of practice areas, private and government practice, young and veteran lawyers, but each brings a commitment to the quality work product you see each month in the magazine. A big shout out to our FY 2012 Editorial Board: James Briggs Jr., Sarah Buthe, R. Johan Conrod Jr., Thomas Donovan, Rachel Hughey, Robert Kohn, Kim Koratsky, Elizabeth Kronk, Michael McGlone, Bruce McKenna, Hector Ramos, Philip Savrin, Philip Schatz, Drew Sorrell, Michael Tonsing, and Vernon Winters. And even that list is not complete without our faithful Judicial Profiles editor, Magistrate Judge Michael Newman, and book review editor, Henry Cohen. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your service, and it has been my privilege to work with each of you!

Along with welcoming our new editor in chief, it is also my pleasure to introduce you to our new managing editor, Sarah Perlman. Sarah is on staff with the FBA and has gradually transitioned into the managing editor role over the past few years, as her predecessor, Stacy King, has stepped into her new responsibilities as deputy executive director. While the Editorial Board works hard to compile quality articles, Sarah is the one who makes the magic happen. She keeps the magazine and all of its components on schedule and transforms black and white print into a work of art: something that is both informative to read and a pleasure to behold. The fact that she does her magic behind the scenes and is a true, hard-working, humble soul only makes her all the more commendable.

Finally, it is also my privilege to introduce our readers and members to the new layout of the magazine. The new layout is the result of the combined hard work and creative design of Becky, Sarah, Stacy, and both former and current executive directors Jack Lockridge and Karen Silberman. The hours they have put into finessing the fonts and a myriad of other nuances is a true testament to their commitment to the magazine and the FBA. Let me walk you through a few of the more obvious changes. First, on the cover you’ll see a new nameplate (*i.e.*, the title “The Federal Lawyer”) as well as convenient references to titles and pages of the feature articles, announcements and columns. Next you’ll notice a new, more modern layout to the contents page and a cleaner, more streamlined masthead. For each of the articles, you’ll still find the same great substantive content—just with a little more color and a few more pictures. My favorite change is one of the least noticeable—but I trust you’ll check it out: the Member Spotlight at the back is now organized by FBA Chapter, so you can see who joined or became a sustaining member in your own backyard. Take advantage of this by reaching out and welcoming the new members and congratulating the sustaining members in your chapter—you’ll be surprised how much difference a phone call can make and the surprising opportunities that may result.

In addition to the print differences, we’re also bringing more to you online. This month’s cover story and several of the major articles are available online at the FBA website ([www.fedbar.org](http://www.fedbar.org) and click on “Publications”). One of the projects that I’m most excited

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about is the Judicial Profiles initiative for the website: the FBA is putting all of the past Judicial Profiles on its web page so that members can access the profile archives. Click on the “Judicial Profiles” link on *The Federal Lawyer* web page and you’ll see more than a hundred profiles that are currently available online and more are coming! Particularly for those FBA members whose practice brings them before a variety of districts and judges, these profiles—often written by their former clerks or practitioners who have practiced in front of them—are an invaluable insight.

But the proverb is proven true: despite all these changes, the core of *The Federal Lawyer* remains the same. The magazine is committed to providing quality, informative articles, to communicating the vision, activities, and accomplishments of the FBA, and contributing to the improvement of the federal practice of law. We, the members of the FBA, are particularly blessed to have Becky and Sarah, as well as the rest of the Editorial Board and the FBA staff, leading *The Federal Lawyer* toward these objectives. Lead on! ☺

