

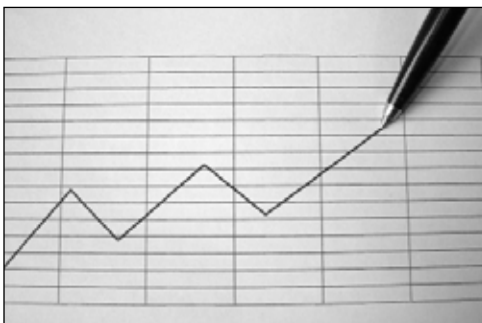
## President's Message

by Robert J. DeSousa



### What Gets Measured (Part Two)

**The FBA is perhaps the most dynamic, most flexible, and most cost-efficient bar association of its kind.** It is amazing how much we achieve in light of the reasonableness of our dues. We are nationally respected by the bench, have considerable clout on Capitol Hill, and provide invaluable support to our members through our chapters, sections, divisions, national programs, website, Facebook, LinkedIn, and e-newsletter, and of course *The Federal Lawyer*. As this issue shows, we have numerous areas, such as Indian law, where we lead the pack! We are the number one source for members looking for the most current news regarding Indian law. With this being said, the question then begs itself: how do we measure how good we are? Do we measure it by a great edition of *The Federal Lawyer* covering the wide range of current criminal issues or perhaps by how much we learn or how much fun we will have at the Annual Convention this September in beautiful San Juan, P.R.?



Measuring these types of things can be valuable yet they are not overarching. There is one sure way to know if a product is successful and desirable—through membership! Fast approaching 17,000 members, the FBA's membership is on a steady climb. We are growing because we are using membership as our gauge on everything we do: from a section program, to visiting the Hill, to addressing key judicial and legislation issues. The best way to see if a chapter is succeeding and its programs are working is to examine its growth or lack of it. Currently, we have a task force under the leadership of Judge Gus Gelpi (assisted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Vincent, Federal Public Defender Geoff Cheshire, and new Board of Directors

member Hank Eagles) looking at reaching out to aligned bar associations. We also have a task force headed by Board of Directors member Kip Bollin examining all aspects of the FBA to see if each segment provides value to members and therefore enhances membership. The past presidents, under the guidance of Joyce Kitchens, are volunteering to mentor chapters to help them grow. Board of Directors member Professor Elizabeth Kronk and Dean Jim Rosenblatt are fleshing out the new Law Student Division so we can make law students a more robust part of the FBA family. Of course the Membership Committee

led by Jon Hafen, the circuit vice presidents led by Ray Dowd, the Young Lawyers Division led by Kelly Scalise, and the sections and divisions led by Judge Michelle Burns are working in a coordinated effort, as never before, to push a unified membership plan. All of this will make our 100th anniversary celebration in 2020, which Past President Kent Hofmeister and his task force are beginning to plan, all the more important. With your help, we will meet

our goal of 20,000 members by 2020!

In short, we are measuring all we do by how it impacts membership. If the barometer shows that membership is growing, then we are doing it right! Membership is what is being measured and the increase in better programming and services is what is getting done. Enjoy this issue of *The Federal Lawyer* focusing on Indian law, and assist our efforts by asking a friend to join the FBA online today! ☺

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