



From the Foundation

by Martha Hardwick Hofmeister

Take a Closer Look at the Foundation of the FBA

The month of September feels like the start of a new

year to me. As summer fades away, many of us welcome cooler weather and begin settling back into regular routines. Children head back to school with brand new notebooks and freshly sharpened pencils, eager for new adventures. Even for those without school-aged children at home, there's a sense of excitement and possibility.

At the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association (FBA), September is giving us the feeling of excitement and possibility as well. As the chair of the foundation's board of directors, I am especially enthusiastic about the future of our organization, which builds on nearly 60 years of history. The Foundation of the Federal Bar Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, chartered by Congress in 1954. It has current assets of nearly \$1 million and raises close to \$150,000 annually through fundraising to support our programs.

Looking ahead to 2015 and beyond, we are working to ensure the foundation's continued financial stability and growth by enhancing our relationships with stakeholders and growing our annual giving. We are also beginning the process of reviewing our current programming and identifying new initiatives that will better help us reach our mission to:

- Promote and support legal research and education;
- Advance the science of jurisprudence;
- Facilitate the administration of justice; and
- Foster improvements in the practice of federal law.

In the spirit of the fresh start in September, it's my pleasure to announce the kickoff of the foundation's new campaign called **Take a Closer Look**. We are inviting FBA members to "take a closer look" at the Foundation of the FBA—learn more about our work and how your financial support can make a difference!

This month, the foundation is introducing new marketing materials, fresh content on our website, and a new column and series of advertisements in *The Federal Lawyer*. And, if you will be in attendance at the 2014 Annual Meeting and Convention in Providence, R.I., you may have the opportunity to hear me speak about the foundation's support of the following programs and initiatives:

- **Chapter Community Outreach Grants**—The Foundation of the FBA provides funding to support community service projects and *pro bono* activities that involve FBA chapter participation.

- **Scholarships**—The Foundation of the FBA provides funding for its Public Service Scholarship, awarded annually to a graduating high school senior (son or daughter of a current FBA member) who is planning to attend a four-year college or university.
- **Judicial Research and Education**—The Foundation of the FBA funds and supports analytical research, educational programs, and activities related to the federal courts and federal jurisprudence, and the Thurgood A. Marshall Memorial Moot Court Competition, sponsored by the FBA's Younger Lawyers Division.
- **Awards and Recognition Opportunities**—The Foundation of the FBA funds the Elaine R. "Boots" Fisher Award to recognize exemplary community, public, and charitable service by FBA members; the Ilene and Michael Shaw Public Service Award, which encourages FBA chapters to provide service to their communities; and the Ilene and Michael Shaw Younger Lawyer Public Service Grant, which enables FBA chapters to develop and implement public service projects and *pro bono* law-related services, administered by a chapter's Younger Lawyers Committee.

In Providence, and in future columns in this magazine, I will share some of the stories behind these bullet points—the many ways that FBA chapters across the country are positively impacting their communities because of the support provided by foundation grants; the outstanding young people who have received well-deserved scholarships and awards from the foundation; and the reasons that FBA members just like you are motivated to make support of the foundation a part of their personal philanthropy.

The work of the foundation is made possible by charitable gifts from FBA members like you. To the nearly 2,500 FBA members who have donated to the foundation over the past year, thank you. To those of you who have thought about making a gift but have not yet done so, or to those who are not yet familiar with our work, I encourage you to take a closer look at the foundation. ☺