

by Matthew B. Moreland



There's Something for Everyone at the 2015 FBA Annual Meeting and Convention in Salt Lake City

During a break at the 2015 FBA Immigration Law Conference in Memphis, Tennessee, I was researching Salt Lake City for this column when I came across some relevant and interesting information: the city has an unexpectedly large refugee population spanning many cultures.¹

The International Rescue Committee (IRC),² among other advocacy groups, brings thousands of refugees into the United States annually—hundreds through Salt Lake City alone. Founded in 1933 at the request of Albert Einstein, the IRC provides services in areas such as resettlement, health care, education, legal representation, and economic empowerment to those displaced or removed from dangerous situations, including victims of human trafficking and sexual violence.

Immigration and civil rights are hot-topic issues, so it is not surprising that they are featured in several of the CLE sessions at this year's FBA Annual Meeting and Convention. Sessions such as "Obama's Immigration Executive Actions: What It Will Mean for Employers and Anatomy of a Pro Bono Civil Rights Trial and Appeal: Why FBA Lawyers Should Litigate Pro Bono Prisoner Rights Cases" aim to address these issues as they relate to the attorneys who practice in these fields—and any attorney who wants to stay abreast of the hottest federal legal topics. Marriage Equality and New Frontiers in Equal Protection and New Developments in Federal Indian Law: Tribal Court Jurisdiction Over Non-Indians and Violence Against Women's Act Implementation take a deeper dive into specific areas of the civil rights legal landscape.

But these aren't the only areas of focus. There truly is something for everyone at the Annual Meeting and Convention each year. Antitrust, bankruptcy, federal litigation, employment, and patent laws are all represented; sessions will also discuss the Affordable Care Act, unpublished appellate decisions, and avoiding malpractice claims. (For a full listing of the CLE sessions planned, visit www.fedbar.org/FBACon15.)

While the CLE sessions provide a wealth of topical updates, there are also many opportunities to network with other FBA members: luncheons celebrating the best and brightest chapters, sections, divisions, and programs; superstar younger lawyers; the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association; evening receptions, including one at the Natural History Museum of Utah; and of course the Presidential

Installation Banquet, where incoming President Mark K. Vincent of Utah will be installed and the FBA's highest awards will be bestowed.

My personal favorite part of the Annual Meeting is the FBA business meetings. It is so inspiring to see leaders of the different sections, divisions, chapters, and other FBA entities come together and make positive changes toward the betterment of the organization. I began my FBA involvement with the New Orleans Chapter and became involved at the national level through the Younger Lawyers Division. The activities and work that I was a part of both at the chapter level and through the national YLD led me to seek a larger role on the national board of directors and finally as national president.

If you have never attended an Annual Meeting, I strongly encourage you to attend. These meetings are not just for established leaders—every FBA member is welcome to attend the National Council meeting and participate in continuing the FBA's reputation as the premier association for federal judges and attorneys!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew B. Moreland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Endnotes

¹matadornetwork.com/trips/20-things-you-didnt-know-about-salt-lake-city/.

²www.rescue.org/.