

# Happy New Year

by Mark K. Vincent



**N**oted author Richard L. Evans wrote: “The moment we close the books on one year we open them on another. ... And no matter how good [or bad] last year was, there is this year now to consider. We have to keep at it, for life is a process, and not a finished product, and there is no moment at which we can say that the picture is completed.”

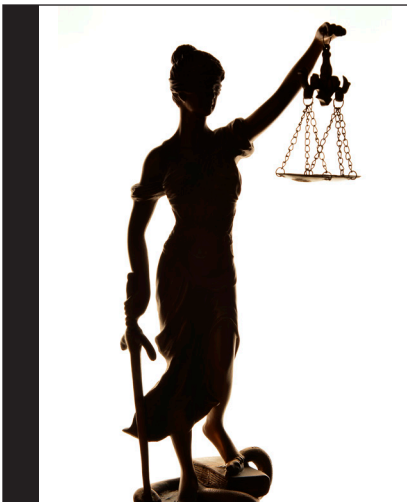
Not long ago, I was reminiscing with a fellow attorney about our respective legal careers and how years ago the practice of law seemed much more simple and civil. We commented to each other about how much more complex the practice of law is today. Both of us felt some regret that the profession has changed but understood its progress. Memories also flooded back as we recalled the brief moment of law school that provided us the training we needed to pass the bar and to be successful practitioners in the legal profession.

As lawyers, we have all experienced successes and failures. In every case we remember things we wish we had done a little better. But we need not become discouraged about our past mistakes any more than we should become too comfortable with our past accomplishments. As long as we keep moving forward and keep doing our best, no success or failure is final.

As we begin this New Year, let us renew and be more determined to do our very best as we practice our honorable profession. Additionally, as members of the Federal Bar Association, let us be resolved to appreciate our countless opportunities to be shining examples of professionalism. ☺

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark K. Vincent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mark K. Vincent, FBA President



## Foundation of the FBA Memorials and Remembrances Gift Program

With a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation of the FBA, members of the legal profession, the public, business organizations, charitable trusts, or other foundations may create a memorial to a deceased person. Gifts may also be made in honor of someone, an anniversary, birthday, or any other occasion. Your gift helps fund educational and charitable programs that promote public understanding of the law and enhance the cause of justice. Learn more and donate at [www.fedbar.org/Foundation](http://www.fedbar.org/Foundation).