Many Thanks!
by Hannah Laufe

I’d like to use this page to express my appreciation to the FBA and all of the lawyers who have put in their time to make the FBA an active and vibrant organization. For me, the FBA has been a great way to get involved in interesting legal activities and meet attorneys working in many areas of law.

I’m in the D.C. area and though I’m a member of the Capitol Hill Chapter, I’ve also been able to participate in the District of Columbia Chapter events. Activities the Capitol Hill Chapter sponsors include an annual Supreme Court luncheon at which a different justice speaks and responds to questions each year. The chapter has also sponsored luncheons with Pulitzer Prize-winning authors and journalists, such as David Broder, who wrote for the Washington Post, and David Shipler, who has written about the conflict in the Middle East, as well as with Marcia Coyle and Jan Crawford Greenburg, who report on the Supreme Court for the “PBS NewsHour” and CBS, respectively. The D.C. chapter has sponsored activities such as a small group meeting with D.C. District Court Judge Royce Lamberth in his courtroom.

As I participated in many FBA activities, I came to realize just how much attorneys like you and me are what make the FBA an organization that has meaning and relevance to its members and how it is able to provide a service to the legal community. I’ve seen how hard FBA members work to develop and organize chapter events, as well as FBA-wide events, including the International Conference on Legislative Drafting and Law Reform, which was developed by members of the Capitol Hill Chapter, and the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court competition, which is sponsored by the Younger Lawyers Division. I’ve acted as a judge in this competition, which brings together law students from around the country, and it is a highly professional event. And, as a newly appointed The Federal Lawyer editorial board member, I now see how the more experienced board members keep the magazine running like clockwork.

These are only a small sample of the responsibilities and activities of the FBA. However, whether you participate in the FBA by reading The Federal Lawyer, attending chapter or other FBA-sponsored events, or becoming more involved in organizing events or taking on a leadership role, I encourage you all to take the time to remember and appreciate all of the work and talent that has gone into making the FBA what it is today.

Hannah Laufe is the assistant general counsel for physical infrastructure at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. She is responsible for legal issues pertaining to surface and air transportation, federal facilities, and telecommunications.

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.