

Start a Bonfire

by Henry Quillian



A member of the FBA for all 26 years of his complex litigation practice, Henry Quillian has litigated construction, insurance, intellectual property, and commercial cases in 18 states, often in conjunction with fellow FBA members. Quillian has been the Atlanta Chapter's president, the chair of the Younger Lawyer's Division, and FBA's general counsel.

Consider the youngsters who you or members of your family may be teaching this summer to: serve a tennis ball, play guitar, water ski, rock climb, or perhaps light a bonfire. In 20 years, they will remember their first time out on the water on one ski; playing C, D, and G chords; or starting their first bonfire with just one match. And, hopefully, they will remember that *you* made that possible.

At the very moment that memory returns in 20 years, that very same person may be a novice lawyer with a great idea about how a Federal Bar Association chapter could come together to teach civics in junior high school, help former prisoners prepare for job interviews, or arrange a forum to address the ethics of bearing children in a space colony. That young lawyer will need not only mentors but also seed money to put her project on the map until the chapter has enough excited participants that the project becomes self-sustaining for years to come.

Reading this should bring to mind someone—someone in the past who did not even know your name, who made a major commitment to a responsible organization with a view toward paving the way for an unknown, unidentified person like you to make a world-changing difference in the life of another and in society. Well-conceived and prudent donations that will not deprive your family (but rather make them proudly muse) can be made to the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association (FFBA) to ensure that current youngsters—like the bonfire starter—will have the opportunity to change the world for others who, in turn, will make this nation hum.

Take first steps. Think of a very simple and painless way of leaving more than a modest gift to the FFBA. We do not make a habit of taking used cars or boats, but there are even easier ways to give. Think of that life insurance policy you purchased way back just because it was available and you wanted to make sure your now 40-year-old child received an education. Slice off a chunk for the FFBA—30 minutes and done! When it's time for your estate to manage the other \$3 million, the \$50,000 you designated for the FFBA will provide an exciting opportunity for your family and the FFBA to celebrate the wonderful parent or grandparent who they now know was forward-thinking, generous, principled, and concerned about the

rule of law. The step that you take now will teach them in the future, creating a cycle of philanthropic habits that will not only make their lives richer, but will also be healthy in mind and soul.

Of course, you can develop your own, creative plan: bequeath a gift, fund a grant, create an award, or sign a deed. Lawyers can make things happen for youngsters who want a new skill or an adventure. Lawyers can massively impact the future by facilitating that unknown person's launch into a career so that they can do the same for the next generation. ☺

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