



Dear Bar Leader:

On behalf of American Bar Association President H. Thomas Wells, Jr. and my colleagues on the Planning Committee, I extend a personal invitation for you to join us for ABA Day in Washington. ABA Day 2009 will be held April 21-23, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. The ABA Section Officers Conference, the Young Lawyers Division, the National Conference of Bar Presidents and the National Association of Bar Executives cosponsor ABA Day. We urge you to [register now to participate](#).

**It is very important that bar leaders come to Washington.** This year more than ever before it is crucial for Congress to hear directly from bar leaders as constituents. The Obama Administration and the 111th Congress are considering legislation and policies of great importance to the nation and the justice system. With a new Congress and Administration, this is an important time to establish relationships with new members and staff, so that we can continue to advocate to restore funding for the Legal Services Corporation and to help Americans, struggling through this economic crisis, to address their legal needs.

**Just one example: the recent bar association victory to persuade the FDIC to provide full insurance coverage for IOLTA.** The ABA Governmental Affairs Office (GAO) works with Congress on a daily basis. But contacts by ABA members and state/local/specialty bar officers, as community leaders, lawyers and constituents, are essential to effective lobbying efforts. This issue arose quickly and was resolved swiftly because lawyers built and maintained relationships with their elected officials. Connections established through ABA Day with congressional representatives and their staff assured the access that resulted in our success.

**Most important, participating in ABA Day is fun, personally satisfying and will be a highlight of your bar year.** On Tuesday morning, April 21, the first 12 applicants will be admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court. At the Tuesday night Welcome Dinner we will honor, for their specific contributions to improving the justice system: Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) and Representatives Spencer Bachus (R-AL) and Mel Watt (D-NC). **The ABA Day lobbying workshop and issues training session (attendance required) begins at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 22.** Wednesday hill visits are capped off by our Congressional Reception at the Library of Congress, where we will honor bar leaders for their grassroots advocacy. We start Thursday morning at breakfast in the fabulous [new Capitol Visitor Center](#) joined by invited leaders of Congress and representatives from the President's staff, followed by more hill visits.

The headquarters hotel (the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill) offers rooms at a substantially reduced rate to ABA Day participants; these rooms will be held until March 15, 2009. Please [register for the meeting online](#) through the GAO website and [make your hotel reservations now](#). The ABA Day website also includes a [detailed meeting schedule](#) and all the information you need to fully participate in ABA Day.

Please contact Julie Strandlie, Planning Committee Counsel and Director, ABA Grassroots Operations, at [jstrandlie@staff.abanet.org](mailto:jstrandlie@staff.abanet.org) or (202) 662-1764 for additional information about ABA Day.

I look forward to walking the hill by your side. There is nothing more exciting than being in Washington when the ABA marshals its force for the protection of American ideals and takes action to assure access to justice for all.

Sincerely,  
Laurel G. Bellows  
Chair, ABA Day in Washington Planning Committee

**P.S. REGISTER NOW AND AVOID A FEE.** There is no registration fee to attend ABA Day. We are grateful for your support and want to encourage constituent participation. However, this year we are instituting a **\$100 late registration fee beginning March 1. Late registration is time consuming and expensive for us. If you register after February 28, we need you to share the cost.**