

President's Forum

Volume 2, Issue 2
Spring 2009



President's Message — ABA and NCBP: Promoting Partnership with State and Local Bars



M. Joe Crosthwait

In 1878, the American Bar Association was created and in the founding constitution its stated mission was, and today essentially remains, "the advancement of the science of jurisprudence, the promotion of the administration of justice and a uniformity of legislation throughout the country." Then, in 1950, the National Conference of Bar Presidents was created with the important goals of promoting collaboration amongst state and local bar associations and providing their leadership with the information, resources, and support to make them collectively more effective partners in the vital roles outlined in the ABA's mission.

The ABA came into existence because of the sense of American lawyers (who in the late 1880's practiced almost exclusively as solo and small firm practitioners) that the then relatively unassociated state and local bar organizations should become affiliated in a national organization in order to promote the common ideals, ethics, and objectives of a legal profession essential to "the defense of liberty and the pursuit of justice." The NCBP, in its creation, gave life and vigor to the concept that those ideals of liberty and justice are universal yet are most effectively advanced at the state and local level.

Hence has evolved the extraordinarily important and valuable partnership. Inherent to this ABA/NCBP relationship is the concept of thinking globally and acting locally. At no time has this partnership been more valuable or important than it is now. And indeed it is alive and thriving across the spectrum of issues.

In early April, ABA President Tommy Wells paid Oklahoma City a 30-hour visit during which time he met with a wide variety of individuals and groups to hear about and discuss issues confronting the American justice system. He met with lawyers from both the private and public sector, bar leaders, and state, federal, and municipal judges, as

Continued on page 2

NCBP Seeks Nominees for Executive Council and Secretary

NCBP is seeking nominations for five at-large seats on the NCBP Executive Council as well as for the office of NCBP Secretary. NCBP Nominating Committee Chair Kay H. Hodge invites individuals to self-nominate or submit the name of a colleague who may be a good addition to the governing body of the NCBP.

Executive Council

The council is made up of 15 at-large members (each serving a three-year term) and five officers. Terms are staggered so that five members rotate off the council each year. Each council member will sit on and participate in the work of one to three NCBP committees. During the second or third year of his/her term, a council member may be appointed as a committee chair.

Secretary

Nomination to the office of secretary is the first step toward serving as president of the NCBP. The secretary subsequently serves as treasurer, president-elect, president and immediate past president. Officers' duties are similar to those listed above under Executive Council and also include the activities generally attendant with the respective office.

Continued on page 2

Dates and Deadlines

Jackrabbit Bar Conference

June 5-6, 2009

Santa Fe, NM

Bishop's Lodge Resort and Spa

Contact: Kris Becker

(505) 797-6038

NCBP/MBC Annual Meeting

July 30-August 1, 2009

Chicago, IL

Hyatt Regency Chicago

Contact: Pamela Robinson

(312) 988-5345

Mid-Atlantic Bar Conference

October 1-3, 2009

Washington, DC

Contact: Katharine Mazzaferri

(202) 737-4100, ext. 220

Contact Information

President's Forum promotes communication among members of the National Conference of Bar Presidents. All members are invited to send information on their bar's activities to:

Kimberly Vann

ABA Division for Bar Services
321 North Clark Street, 20th Floor

Chicago, IL 60654-7598

(312) 988-5364

fax: (312) 988-5492

E-mail:

vannk2@staff.abanet.org

NCBP Web site

www.ncbp.org

Visit the NCBP Web site
at www.ncbp.org!

President's Message

Continued from page 1

well as state and federal appellate judges. He also met with law students and with clients of Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma and of the Oklahoma City University School of Law Native American Victims' Rights Clinic and the Immigration Law Clinic.

The discussions included judicial selection and retention, fair and impartial courts, the independence of the bar and the rules of self-governance, access to justice, funding of legal services, the curriculum and cost of legal education and the impact of student debt on career choice, human rights and immigration, the role of the ABA in vetting Federal judicial candidates, and international law initiatives.

These discussions brought clarity to the fact that the ABA and individual state and local bar communities are inextricably and positively connected in pursuing the ideals of a fair system of justice and that these issues confronting one state or local bar affect all. By presenting programs that focus on the issues bar associations face and providing opportunities for the sharing of strategies to address common challenges, the NCBP enhances and facilitates the ABA/state and local bar partnership.

And as at the beginning of the ABA/NCBP partnership, there is much we can do together and little we can do separately.

CHICAGO NCBP Annual Meeting July 30-August 1, 2009

Join your colleagues from state, local and specialty bar associations for insightful sessions and engaging networking events. NCBP business meetings and workshops will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Register for the NCBP Annual Meeting online at www.abanet.org/annual/2009.

You can also download a faxable registration form at the same site. Be sure to select the NABE/NCBP/NCBF option or form.

The early registration deadline is May 29, 2009. Advance registration closes July 7, 2009.

Send your registration questions to NABE-NCBP-NCBFregistration@staff.abanet.org.

NCBP Seeks Nominees

Continued from page 1

Criteria

The Nominating Committee considers service to the NCBP through committee work or participation as a presenter at meetings; geographic representation; diversity of bar size and type; overall diversity of the council; and personal interviews. The committee also considers performance of council member duties for those seeking the office of secretary.

To apply, submit a letter of interest, or to nominate someone else, submit a nominating letter; a resume limited to 4 pages; and up to three letters of recommendation. Materials supporting applications should be addressed to:

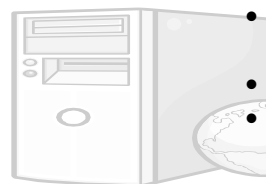
Kay H. Hodge, NCBP Nominating Committee Chair
c/o Pamela Robinson, NCBP Liaison
ABA Division for Bar Services
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654-7598

Applications may be mailed or submitted electronically to robinsonp@staff.abanet.org. **Friday, June 19, 2009**, is the deadline for receipt of letters of interest/nomination letters and resumes. Materials submitted electronically will be accepted if received by 11:59 p.m. Hard copy materials must be received in the offices of the Division for Bar Services by 5:00 p.m. central, Daylight Standard Time. Letters of recommendation may be submitted separately and must be received on or before **Friday, July 10**. Delivery time specifications are the same as above. Please adhere to the limitations for the length of resumes and number of letters.

Additional information on the nomination process will be mailed this week to all presidents, presidents-elect as well as individual members of NCBP and posted on www.ncbp.org by next week. The deadline for nominations is July 8.

Interviews for council positions as well as the office of secretary will be held at the NCBP Annual Meeting on **Friday, July 31, 2009**, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Applicants will be notified of their interview appointment by **July 1, 2009**. Those who have questions about the application process should contact Pamela Robinson at robinsonp@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5345.

Visit the NCBP Web site at www.ncbp.org and download:



- Midyear and Annual Meeting Workshop Handouts
- Resources and Publications
- Meeting Registration and Program Updates

Volunteers Needed for NCBP Committees

Looking for ways to become more active in the work of the NCBP? NCBP President-elect Mary T. Torres (who becomes president on August 1) will make appointments to the following committees for the 2009-2010 year:

Communications – Has oversight for the electronic newsletter, *President's Forum* and the NCBP Web site, www.ncbp.org.

Diversity – Implements strategies in support of the NCBP's goals of setting an example of diversity in its leadership, programs, and activities.

Finance – Makes recommendations to the Executive Council regarding the development of budgets and financial policy, and oversees staff management of organizational funds.

Membership - Oversees the annual membership drives and conducts outreach to NCBP's potential and actual membership.

Program – Plans and implements programming for the midyear and annual meetings—recommending content, speakers, social events, etc., within the financial limits of the organization.

Sponsorship – Recruits potential sponsors to underwrite the cost of NCBP programs and services, particularly the annual and mid-year meetings.

Task Force on Inclusion – Assembles bar leaders from associations representing women lawyers, LGBT lawyers and lawyers with physical challenges to surface issues of importance to these communities in order to create a more inclusive and diverse organized bar and legal profession.

Appointees are expected to attend committee meetings held in conjunction with the 2010 midyear meeting in Orlando (Thursday, February 4) and the 2010 annual meeting in San Francisco (Thursday, August 5). In addition, several conference calls will be held throughout the year (2-5 calls lasting an hour or so).

Those seeking committee assignments (whether a first-time appointment or a reappointment), should e-mail the following information to Pamela Robinson, robinsonp@staff.abanet.org:

- Name
- Bar Association
- Current Office/Title
- Dates of Presidential Term
- Address/Telephone/Fax/E-mail
- First, Second and Third Committee Choice

Committee forms are being mailed this week. The deadline for applications is **June 19, 2009**. Applicants will be notified of their assignments by **July 9, 2009**.

ABA Justice Center Offers Valuable Resources



The ABA Standing Committee on Judicial Independence along with the ABA Standing Committee on Federal Judicial Improvements are at the forefront of efforts to promote fair and impartial courts and to preserve an independent judiciary and offer various materials.

Some of these materials include the DVD, *Protecting Our Rights, Protecting Our Courts*, and the pamphlets *Countering the Critics*, *Countering the Critics II: Suggested Responses to Tough Questions* and *Rapid Response to Unfair and Unjust Criticism of Judges*. These materials were developed as guides for judges, attorneys, academics and members of the public who want to support and speak on behalf of America's fair and impartial courts.

To learn more information about the work of the ABA Standing Committee on Federal Judicial Improvements and the Standing Committee on Judicial Independence, please visit the Justice Center Web site (<http://www.abanet.org/justicecenter/home.html>) or contact Denise Jimenez directly at (312) 988-5723 or at jimenezd@staff.abanet.org.

NCBP Communications Committee Michael W. McKay, Baton Rouge, LA, Chair

J. Michael Conroy, Rockville, MD

Stuart F. Cubbon, Toledo, OH

Raymond T. (Tom) Elligett, Jr., Tampa, FL

Marlene S. Garvis, Lake Elmo, MN

Rew R. Goodenow, Reno, NV

Sayde Ladov, Philadelphia, PA

Thomas Lyons, Providence, RI

Kathryn Grant Madigan, Binghamton, NY

Lynn Fontaine Newsome, Morristown, NJ

Andrew F. Susko, Philadelphia, PA

NCBP Communications Committee Liaison
Kimberly Vann, Chicago, IL