

President's Forum

Volume 1, Issue 3

Summer 2008



President's Message — Convening in the Big Apple



Kay H. Hodge

On August 8 and 9, 2008, the National Conference of Bar Presidents (NCBP) along with the National Association of Bar Executives (NABE) and the National Conference of Bar Foundations (NCBF) will meet in New York. Our two-day program is full of great programs intended to give bar leaders ideas about current issues of concern as varied as attacks on judicial selection and the courts, member benefits and yes, even responding to acts of God. As always, our programs will inform and inspire while continuing to provide that all important "how to" that will give you a head start on meeting the increasingly diverse needs of your members and keeping your bar association strong and thriving. We at the NCBP believe in that old adage: "imitation is the highest form of flattery."

Our opening plenary should be particularly thought provoking. MSNBC's "Practical Futurist"© Michael Rogers will describe for us the "Virtualization of America" and identify how bar associations will have to adjust their thinking and programs to remain relevant to a new generation of lawyers who are "digital natives" and comfortable with the virtual world and, indeed, virtual relationships. Our program also continues the conversation begun at the midyear meeting about the regulation of aging lawyers. It will also bring you three new, award-winning diversity program ideas and inspire you to consider establishing an initiative to address the right to counsel in civil cases -- a "civil Gideon."

Even though we will be talking about the "virtual" world, I want to assure you that this NCBP meeting will be full of opportunities to meet other bar leaders, renew old friendships and make new ones. At the end of the day, that is why most of us became active in our bar associations and why most of us stay active.

We will convene in that extraordinary city "that never sleeps" doing what good bar leaders do -- sharing our ideas, experiences, helping each other and, of course, having fun. See you there.

Mona's Marvelous Tips for Dining in New York

New York's restaurants are an exciting part of the city's vibrant nightlife. While in town for the NCBP Annual Meeting, be sure to venture out and experience some culinary pleasures at the venues described below.

Best Views and Small Bar Bites

For a great view of the **Statue of Liberty** and a small bites menu, you'll like the **Ritz Carlton Rise Bar** and outdoor patio, 14th Floor, in Battery Park City. Outdoor seating is across the street along with the 2nd best view of the Statue of Liberty at **Gigino Italian (Wagner Park)**. For the best multi-views of the Empire State Building, Chrysler Building and

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Dates and Deadlines

2009 NCBP

Midyear Meeting

Early Registration Deadline

December 12, 2008

2009 NCBP

Midyear Meeting

Final Registration Deadline

January 9, 2009

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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:

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NCBP Web site

www.ncbp.org

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



ABA's Chicago Office Gets a New Zip Code

Effective July 1, 2008, the new zip code at the ABA's 321 N. Clark St. office is **60654-7598**. Although mail will continue to be delivered using 60610 for one year, NCBP members are encouraged to use the new zip code when mailing items to the ABA Chicago office.

LexisNexis Cares for New York Youth

During the ABA Annual Meeting in New York this month, the ABA Commission on Youth will partner with the LexisNexis Cares program to assist the Back to School Package Program - a donation drive benefiting New Yorkers for Children (www.newyorkersforchildren.org).

New Yorkers For Children is a nonprofit organization that partners with the city's Administration for Children's Services to improve the lives of the more than 17,000 children in foster care in New York City. In addition to providing private resources to augment those of Children's Services, the organization helps increase the private sector's awareness of child welfare issues, particularly as they relate to the needs of youth aging out of the foster care system and who will be living independently, many with little or no family support.

Members of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, National Association of Bar Executives, and National Conference of Bar Foundations have previously supported many worthwhile organizations through the LexisNexis Cares Program at annual and midyear meetings. It is hoped that this year's drive will be equally successful.

See below for a list of the most-needed items donors can contribute.

1. Alarm Clock- \$20
2. \$50 Target Card
3. \$50- Staples Card
4. \$50- Barnes and Noble Card
5. Backpack- \$30-\$40
6. *MLA Handbook Guide to Grammar and Research Papers*- \$30
7. Flash Drive - \$15

To participate in this this program, those interested are encouraged to drop off donations at the LexisNexis table located in Central Park West, 2nd Floor of the Sheraton New York, August 6 through August 8 or at the LexisNexis booth at the ABA EXPO. Participants will be asked to write a personal note of encouragement to the students. Note cards and pens will be available.

**Register Now to Attend the
2009 NCBP Midyear Meeting in Boston,
February 12-14**

Register online at www.abanet.org/midyear/2009
or download a faxable registration form at the same
site. Be sure to select the NABE/NCBP/NCBF
option or form.

See you in Boston!

Dining in New York

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ing and the New York Life Insurance Building, go to the rooftop bar at **230 Fifth** (an office building between 26th & 27th Street on Fifth Avenue). Open from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m., take advantage of some fabulous people-watching opportunities. The later the evening, the younger the crowd becomes. Visit **South Street Seaport** for a view of the Brooklyn Bridge from the balcony areas as well as views of three of New York's outdoor waterfall public art projects. While you're there, stop by **Cabana**, a great Cuban/Caribbean place with some outdoor seating.

Greenwich Village

A great, small music spot is **Sweet Rhythm** on 7th at Christopher Street with casual food and a low cover charge. Another music club to visit is **Joe's Pub**, in the East Village/Bowery area; both have two shows nightly on weekends. A nice, inexpensive restaurant off Christopher Street at Bleecker is **AOC**, a little French place with outdoor backyard gardens. There's also the famous **The Spotted Pig**. New York's first gastro-pub serves amazing, simple British and Italian-influenced dishes and is frequented by Bill Clinton and Bono. No reservations are needed, but expect long lines. While wandering through the Village, consider **Sushi Samba**, a spot that specializes in Latin/Japanese fusion or **Bella Vitae**, a small, rustic Italian—restaurant where *all* ingredients are from Italy and wines are produced at small wineries. Reservations are a must.

SoHo

If you're in the SoHo District, look for **Dos Caminos**, an upscale Mexican restaurant with outdoor seating or **Zoë**, where you can savor California-style fresh cuisine and great wines by the glass. If you're seeking a great bar with light fare, try **Obivia**. A fun restaurant nearby is **L'Orange Bleu**, that serves North African, Mediterranean and French cuisine in a cool décor with Rasta waiters.

Midtown

If you haven't visited **Grand Central Station**, go have a drink and a light supper on the balcony at **Metrazur**. The **Campbell Apartment** in Grand Central, once the private apartment of a wealthy railroad magnate and now a chic cocktail lounge, is one of the city's best kept secrets; open 5-11 p.m. only. Finally, the **Carnegie Deli** has the best kosher hot dogs in the city and their own spicy mustard; you can get one to go. The deli has great cheesecake, too.

Regardless of your gastronomic preferences, there's a delicious meal waiting for you in New York. Bon appetit.

Mona Buckley lives, works and dines in New York. She is CEO of the Professional Management Marketing Association and formerly was the executive director of Multnomah Bar Association in Portland, Oregon.

DBS Welcomes Two New Staff Members

The ABA Division for Bar Services happily greets two new staff members. Tiffany L. Simpson is the administrative assistant for the division's administration unit. She provides staff support for the production of the *State & Local Bar Association Directory*, *Yellowbook* and *Redbook*. New to the ABA, Tiffany replaces Tondanisha Nevels who is now NABE's member services coordinator.

Chrishelle M. Thomas recently joined the division as member services coordinator. Her duties include acting as the registrar for meetings of the NCBP and for the Bar Leadership Institute. She also manages the membership database for the NCBP and the Metropolitan Bar Caucus. Chrishelle, who replaces Beverley Ware, previously worked in the ABA's Labor and Employment Law Section and the Financial Services Department. Welcome to DBS, Tiffany and Chrishelle!

**Stay Connected with NCBP at
www.ncbp.org.**

**Visit the NCBP Web site
and download:**

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

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Bar Resources for the 2008 Elections

As Florida and Ohio dramatically illustrated in 2000 and 2004, lawyers play a crucial role in resolving election disputes peacefully, according to the rule of law. More generally, all lawyers can support the rule of law and public service by promoting a fair electoral process and responding to challenges to fair and impartial courts raised during judicial election campaigns.

In anticipation of the November 2008 general election, state and local bar associations are encouraged to promote a fair electoral process. The ABA's *Election Administration Guidelines and Commentary* call on the bar to conduct activities that ensure the integrity of the process, and to encourage lawyers to serve as Election Day officials.

Bar associations can use the ABA's *Election Administration Guidelines* and other resources to help citizens exercise their voting rights and to provide technical assistance to election authorities. In August, the ABA will distribute these materials in a Bar Leader Toolkit. The Toolkit will also highlight volunteer opportunities for lawyers such as the Election Protection Project and contain a sample president's column, letter to the editor, op-ed, and PowerPoint on voting rights and responsibilities.

Also in August, the ABA will launch a Web site for lawyers and the public on voting rights and other election information. In conducting election-related activities, state and local bars may wish to link to and publicize this site to their members and the public.

Please share with us

A special feature of the voting rights Web site will be an interactive map offering state-specific information on voting resources. If your bar is conducting election-related activities, please share them for inclusion on the Web site, to assist voters in your state, and in the Toolkit, so that other bar associations may learn from them. For bar associations in states with judicial elections, please share any resources your bar makes available to voters for inclusion on the interactive map offering state-specific information on voting resources.

To share your ideas or if you have any questions, please contact Ira Pilchen in the ABA Office of the President, pilcheni@staff.abanet.org, 312-988-6044. You are also encouraged to visit www.abanet.org/op/2008elections, where you'll find ABA election administration policy, information on lawyer volunteer opportunities, resources for promoting fair and impartial courts, and more.