

President's Forum

Volume 1, Issue 4
Fall 2008



President's Message — A Legacy of Defining and Impacting the Legal System

Dates and Deadlines

2009 NCBP Fellows Award

Nomination Deadline
November 21, 2008

2009 NCBP Midyear Meeting

Early Registration Deadline
December 12, 2008

2009 NCBP Midyear Meeting

Final Registration Deadline
January 9, 2009

2009 ABA Bar Leadership Institute

March 12-14, 2009

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

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NCBP Web site

www.ncbp.org

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



M. Joe Crosthwait

The Oklahoma County Bar Association (OCBA) is my home bar. Since 1902 (gratefully long before I was born, let alone a member), the OCBA, like your home bar, has been an important, and at times determinative, component of its legal community. Our bars and their leaders have defined the destiny of our legal system and the professionals who make it work. Like most readers of this article, I was, even as a law student and certainly as a new lawyer, welcomed by my home bar and inspired and challenged by that for which it has for so many years stood. This could just as easily be your article about your bar.

Something along the way mutated our genes; I, along with those who are reading this article, became, for better or worse, bar leaders. Unabashed bar leaders no less. Bar junkies, maybe, to the cynical and unbelieving. But bar leaders at the end of the day leading our many communities of lawyers.

Bar associations, their leaders and their members, have an inestimable and indispensable opportunity, and responsibility, to protect and advance public trust and confidence in our legal system. We must continuously and relentlessly seize that opportunity. NCBP is a most important arrow in our quiver.

In reviewing the history of the OCBA (and after living an increasingly uncomfortable chunk of it!), I know that my bar leaders, like yours, have contributed immeasurably to human freedom and justice under the law. They have envisioned and continue to pursue those standards, goals, and endeavors which help assure our collective freedom and pursuit of happiness.

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Harvard Lecturer Barbara Kellerman to Appear at NCBP Midyear Meeting



Barbara Kellerman

Barbara Kellerman, leadership expert and lecturer in public policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, will be the morning plenary speaker at the 2009 NCBP Midyear Meeting on Friday, February 13, at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. Ms. Kellerman, who is also research director of the Center for Public Leadership, will discuss *Bad Leadership: What It Is, How It Happens, Why It Matters*, drawing from high-profile contemporary examples from business and government to explore seven primary types of bad leadership. She also addresses the critical role of followers, revealing how they collaborate with and sometimes even cause, bad leadership.

In addition to a book of the same title, she has also written *Followership: How Followers Are Creating Change and Changing Leaders*, and *Women & Leadership: The State of Play and Strategies for Change*.

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**REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2009 NCBP MIDYEAR MEETING IN BOSTON!
DETAILS ON PAGE 3.**

Celebrating Pro Bono!

The ABA's Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service has kicked off plans for a National Pro Bono Celebration. This weeklong event is taking place October 25-31, 2009 (there's nothing like planning ahead), and is envisioned to involve receptions, town hall meetings, panels with speakers, clinic opportunities, articles running in newspapers, etc. As happens with Law Day, the ABA will provide a program guide with lots of great ideas and samples of what can be done locally.

Bar presidents across the country recently received a letter inviting them to be members of the National Pro Bono Celebration Honorary Advisory Committee. To date, 32 bar presidents, 91 law school deans and 7 state supreme court chief justices have agreed to participate. By letting the Pro Bono Committee use your name, you are helping to demonstrate the excitement that's being generated around the country for this initiative. If you have not already done so, please confirm your willingness to be listed by sending an e-mail to ABA Pro Bono Committee Counsel Steve Scudder at scudders@staff.abanet.org.

The Pro Bono Committee is also looking for bar associations and other organizations to make a commitment to hold some celebratory event during that week. You do not need to indicate how your bar association will "celebrate" at this time. The Committee is just asking you to confirm that your bar association will be involved in some way. You can make this commitment by going to www.celebrateprobono.org and clicking on the text that says **Click here to register your organization's participation in the National Pro Bono Celebration.**

More information is available at www.celebrateprobono.org. The Committee expects to release a program guide in the next few months. Check the web site regularly for updates on additional resources and to find out about what others are doing across the country to celebrate.

NCBP Seeks Nominees for 2009 Fellows Award

Award Purpose

The National Conference of Bar Presidents (NCBP) established the NCBP Fellows Award at its 2005 annual meeting to honor an outstanding past president of a bar association. NCBP is currently accepting nominations for the 2009 NCBP Fellows Award. The award will be presented Friday, February 13, at the NCBP/NABE/NCBF Joint Luncheon, held during the 2009 NCBP Midyear Meeting in Boston.

Criteria

To qualify for nomination, an individual must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a past president of a bar association
- Must have demonstrated a continuing commitment to leadership, service, the work of the organized bar and the purposes of the NCBP
- Must have demonstrated a lifetime of achievement or exceptional service to lawyers or the public

An individual need not be a dues paying member of the NCBP for consideration. Current members of the NCBP Executive Council are not eligible.

Nomination Requirements

Nomination Letter - All nominations shall be comprised of a letter indicating how the individual nominated meets the above noted criteria. The letter should include contact information for the individual submitting the nomination.

Nominee's Resume - Include the nominee's resume or biography, describing his or her background and contributions.

How to Submit Nomination - Please send all nominations electronically to William Corrigan, NCBP Membership Committee Chair, c/o Kimberly Vann, ABA Division for Bar Services, at vannk2@staff.abanet.org. If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact Kimberly by email at vannk2@staff.abanet.org or by phone at 312/988-5364.

Deadline - The deadline for submission is November 21, 2008.

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!

NCBP Midyear Meeting

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Other program topics will include how followers influence leadership, diversity programs that work, fiduciary responsibility of the board, how to lobby legislatures effectively, how to get new lawyers involved in the bar, how to engage law schools in bar associations and the crisis of funding for indigent defense systems.

To attend the 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. Please select the NABE/NCBP/NCBF option or form. NCBP members will save \$50 if they register before **December 12**. The final registration deadline is **January 9, 2009**. E-mail any registration questions to NABE-NCBP-NCBFregistration@staff.abanet.org. Join your colleagues in Boston for a memorable midyear meeting!

**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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President's Message

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In the last few years, the OCBA's monthly publication, *Briefcase*, has reprinted exciting and interesting articles from the archives. One article, in particular, brings home the idea that we are all part of a legacy of leadership at our home bars.

Flashback to April 1970. Nearly 40 years ago. Where were you? What were you doing--if you were even born yet? How did the experience of that era affect the bar leader you are today and those with whom you work in this important endeavor we call justice? What leaders then helped define you today? What impact will your leadership today have on those yet another 40 years or so from now, when, perhaps, you are no longer amongst the living? How do you see, articulate and contribute to the implementation of that future? How do we collectively make good things happen?

William G. Paul (whom those of us in Oklahoma know as "Willy," or "Bill," or most importantly, "Barbara's husband"), as president-elect of the OCBA, wrote a beautiful description of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, its purpose and accomplishments in that article reprinted from nearly 40 years ago. He wrote about the NCBP, an organization that we didn't even know existed until we were presidents-elect, if then. I, for one, still have problems with the ribbons on the name tag.

Bill, who went on to be president of the Oklahoma Bar Association in 1976, NCBP in 1986 and the ABA in 1999-2000, wrote then of a presidents' roll call to "which considerable time is allocated" where all in attendance could discuss the issues and exciting projects as well as the great ideas that some bar associations tried that didn't work. He described the meetings then as "magnificent opportunities" to discuss and learn from one another about, among other things, the projects of the state and local bars across the land. The issues then included dealing with advancing the formal training of "para-professionals" (Can you say "legal assistant?"), the involvement of lawyers in educational programs at "grammar schools...and high-schools" (Can you say "Law-Related Education?"), lawyer referral programs, continuing legal education and whether MCLE is a good idea, and, as then delineated, legal services for the poor. Access to justice. Equality of opportunity. That which we are all about.

Times change. Principles don't. I thank and congratulate each of you for your commitment in time, talent, knowledge, energy and soul to the preservation and advancement of your legal community, the American justice system, and through that, human freedom. And we all thank those who have gone before us and shown the way.