

President's Forum

Volume 3, Issue 1
Fall 2009



President's Message — Meet NCBP in Orlando for its Midyear Meeting

Dates and Deadlines

NCBP Midyear Meeting
February 4-6, 2010
Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel
Orlando, FL
Email Pamela Robinson at
robinsonp@staff.abanet.org

ABA Bar Leadership Institute
March 11-12, 2010
Chicago Marriott Downtown
Chicago, IL
Email Karyn Linn at
linnk@staff.abanet.org

ABA Day in Washington
April 20-22, 2010
Hyatt Regency Washington
on Capitol Hill
Washington, DC
Email Julie Strandlie at
strandlj@staff.abanet.org

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!**



Mary T. Torres

This past August, I became president of the National Conference of Bar Presidents. I am thankful for this privilege and I will do my very best to carry out the important duties of this office. I grasp the significance of this position and appreciate the confidence that has been placed in me.

I am fortunate to assume this office at a time when the NCBP is stable, financially secure and not facing any serious issues. As I begin my year as president, I would like to thank the leaders who came before me and the group of outstanding individuals who serve on the NCBP Board. Without the fine leadership of Joe Crosthwait, our immediate past president, and the vision of our incoming officers, Jim Nolan, our president-elect, Frederic Ury, our treasurer, and Karol Corbin Walker, our secretary, and our outstanding team of fifteen Executive Council members, this job would be even more of a challenge than it promises to be! And, without the fabulous support of our staff from the ABA Division for Bar Services, (Roseanne Lucianek, Pamela Robinson, Kimberly Vann and Chrishelle Thomas) it would be virtually impossible to do the work that we do!

In the coming year, I want to continue the commitment to meaningful programming and services that have become ingrained in the NCBP's focus and mission. I invite you to meet your colleagues from other bar associations and foundations in Orlando for the NCBP Midyear Meeting, February 4-6, 2010. This event promises instructive sessions, networking and terrific entertainment. A glimpse of our Orlando program includes break-out sessions on Ethics 20/20, media training, membership issues in a declining economy, diversity issues in the post-Obama era and how bar associations can use technology to help solo and small firm practitioners. The plenary sessions will continue our focus on the economy and involve a discussion with the ABA Young Lawyers Division, exploring ways the organized bar can motivate younger bar leaders to contribute their talents to our

Continued on page 2

NCBP Elects New Secretary, Executive Council Members at Annual Meeting



Karol Corbin Walker

At the end of its 2009 Annual Meeting, members of NCBP elected Karol Corbin Walker as secretary. Ms. Walker is a past president of the New Jersey State Bar Association and the Garden State Bar Association, which is New Jersey's statewide African-American attorney group.

She is a member of the ABA House of Delegates as well as the ABA Standing Committee on Federal Judicial Improvements. Ms. Walker currently chairs the National Bar Association's Budget Committee. She is a shareholder in the Newark, New Jersey office of the LeClairRyan law firm. Ms. Walker will succeed to the office of treasurer and president-elect and will serve as NCBP president in 2012.

Also, five former bar presidents were elected to serve a three-year term on the NCBP Executive Council: David E. Crawford, St. Louis, MO, past president, Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis; Robert C. Ewald, Louisville, KY, past president, Kentucky Bar Association; C. Dale McClain, Worcester, PA, past president, Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Montgomery Bar Association; Frank X. Neuner Jr., past president, Louisiana State Bar Association; and Lynn Fontaine Newsome, past president, New Jersey State Bar Association.

Continued on page 2

President's Message

Continued from page 1

state and local bar associations. The early registration deadline is December 11, 2009. To register online, please go to www.abanet.org/midyear/2010.

I urge all of you to get involved with NCBP. You will find, as have thousands of leaders preceding you, that before, during and after your service at your local, state or specialty bar, the NCBP provides a rare and wonderful opportunity to learn, get involved, stay connected and keep giving. Whether you are a new member or a longtime supporter, I hope you will continue your membership. Dues forms for the upcoming year will be mailed within the next few weeks. Among the benefits of membership is access to the NCBP web site, www.ncbp.org. Please take a look at the many resources that are available on the web site and use them to your advantage.

In closing, I want to express my humble appreciation for the opportunity to serve as your president. I look forward to continuing to move our organization ahead for the betterment of our profession, the organized bar, and the public. I believe we are off to a good start and will have a tremendous year. If I can be of service to you, please contact me at 505-828-3600, extension 223, or at mtorres@beall-biehler.com.

Bar Leaders Invited to Join Ethics 20/20 List Serve

ABA President Carolyn B. Lamm recently created the Commission on Ethics 20/20. The Commission will perform a thorough review of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct and the U.S. system of lawyer regulation, and will ultimately propose policy recommendations that will allow lawyers and law firms to better serve their clients, the courts, and the public now and well into the future.

The Commission's work will be guided by three principles: protecting the public, preserving the profession's core values (e.g., competence, independent professional judgment, avoidance of conflicts of interest, maintaining confidentiality, and client loyalty), and maintaining a strong, independent, and self-regulating legal profession.

The Commission convened its first meeting in September and began to identify critical issues. Subject to continued discussion and modification, the three overarching subject areas for study are:

- State/country based regulatory rules affecting multinational legal practice;
- The impact of technology on multijurisdictional practice; and
- The impact of developments in technology on how lawyers and clients relate to each other and how lawyers practice.

The Commission will hold public hearings, roundtables and present educational programs live and via the web. It will conduct e-surveys and provide broad opportunities for written submissions and comments. Interested individuals are encouraged to

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF BAR LEADERSHIP!

Attend the 2010 NCBP Midyear Meeting in Orlando, February 4-6. Sessions will take place at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel.

Program Topics include:

**Preparing for Your Presidential Year Membership in a Declining Economy
Diversity in the Post-Obama Era
Ethics 20/20**

Metro Bars Remaining Relevant to Large Law Firms

**Early registration ends 12/11/09.
(Save \$50!!!)**

Advance registration ends 1/18/10.

Register online at www.abanet.org/midyear/2010 or download a faxable registration form at the same site. Select the NABE/NCBP/NCBF option or form. Send your questions to NABE-NCBP-NCBFregistration@staff.abanet.org.

Join NCBP in Orlando!

sign up for the Commission's discussion List Serve available on its web site, www.abanet.org/ethics2020.

Subscribers will receive periodic updates on the issues being presented to the Commission and its responses, learn when the Commission will hold meetings, public hearings, and educational programs and ultimately receive the Commission's draft proposals for comment. Subscribers can submit recommendations for Commission consideration via the List Serve. Those with questions should contact Commission Counsel Ellyn S. Rosen at rosene@staff.abanet.org.



CHECK THE MAIL FOR YOUR 2010 NCBP DUES FORM!
Continue enjoying the benefits of membership.