

President's Forum

Volume 4, Issue 4
Summer 2011



President's Message—Bar Leaders Must Rededicate Themselves to Preserving the Rule of Law

Dates and Deadlines

NCBP Annual Meeting
August 4-6, 2011
Toronto, ON, Canada
Fairmont Royal York Hotel
Email: Chrishelle.Bradford@americanbar.org

NCBP Midyear Meeting
February 2-4, 2012
New Orleans, LA
New Orleans Marriott
Early registration deadline:
December 9, 2011
Email: Chrishelle.Bradford@americanbar.org

ABA Bar Leadership Institute
March 15-16, 2012
Chicago, IL
Chicago Marriott Downtown
Email: Karyn.Linn@americanbar.org

Contact Information

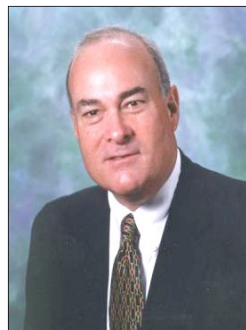
President's Forum promotes communication among members of the National Conference of Bar Presidents. All members are invited to send information on their bar's activities to:

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Visit the NCBP Website at www.ncbp.org!



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James P. Nolan

As bar leaders, we must have passion for what we do! After all, the hallmark of a great leader is passion! As stated by international leadership expert John Maxwell, "A great leader's courage to fulfill his vision comes from passion, not position."

And just how do we do that? By rededicating ourselves and our esteemed profession to being tireless and aggressive advocates for the Rule of Law at a time when many citizens and government officials in our country and throughout the world are – through apathy, ignorance or political activism – undermining the Rule of Law system which attempts to protect the rights of citizens from arbitrary and abusive use of government power.

I believe that this is an extremely important effort for all of us since, as stated by Helen Yu and Alison Guernsey in their report, *World Bank, The Rule of Law as a Goal of Development Policy*, "Economic growth, political modernization, the protection of human rights, and other worthy objectives are all believed to hinge, at least in part, on 'the rule of law'."

It appears that people have a propensity to bet on just about anything, including the Rule of Law system. Our citizens and government officials seem to be betting that this system can withstand the vigorous, continuous, and ill-founded hits--attacks on judicial independence, lack of sufficient funding for our courts, court systems and legal aid, along with misguided political activism from all sides. We must show them that these attacks cannot continue to disrupt and short-change our Rule of Law system by engaging in such reckless behavior.

It is imperative that we all step up and become the "squeaky wheel that gets the grease" on all important Rule of Law issues and initiatives. Bar leaders must be the voice of all people in civilized societies which can only survive and function if the Rule of Law system survives and functions for and on behalf of all people.

We, as lawyers, as bar leaders, and as a profession, need to rededicate ourselves NOW as leaders in this effort to preserve, strengthen and enforce the Rule of Law system in our country and around the world. We must lead and we must participate! As Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer wrote in his book – *Active Liberty*, "The United States [and I suggest

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NCBP Members to Convene in Canada for Annual Meeting



NCBP members will travel to Toronto, Ontario, for their Annual Meeting, at the Fairmont Royal York, August 4-6. Joint programming with the National Association of Bar Executives and the National Conference of Bar Foundations starts on Friday, August 5, with "How the Public Finds Lawyers," a panel discussion about the results of a Harris public opinion poll and how the poll's findings can affect bar associations and the courts.

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President's Message

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all civilized nations in the world] is a nation built on the principles of liberty. That liberty means not only freedom from government coercion but also the freedom to participate in government itself." Let us all join together in this critically important endeavor which we, as bar leaders, are in a unique position to do!

In addition, please be advised of the following: (a) NCBP supports the Recommendation of the ABA Commission on Civic Education in the Nation's Schools that "urges all U.S. lawyers, consistent with the pro bono and public service values of the profession, to participate in programs, through their local and state bar associations, which teach civics and its intersection with the rule of law, to elementary, middle and high school students."; (b) NCBP supports the initiative of ABA President-elect Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III that provides the opportunity for bar associations to promote the good things which they do through the *ABA Journal* feature, "Lawyers Giving Back." For information on this feature, please visit <http://www.abajournal.com/authors/9781/>; and (c) The State Bar of California Council on Access and Fairness is seeking support from bar associations across the country for its effort to persuade the editor of *US News and World Report* to include diversity factors in the magazine's ranking of law schools. To learn more about the effort, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/3krwazb> or contact Patricia Lee, special assistant for diversity and bar relations at the State Bar of California, at patricia.lee@calbar.ca.gov. NCBP has not taken a position on this matter, but it is supplying this information as a service to its members.

I look forward to our NCBP Annual Meeting in beautiful Toronto, Ontario, next month. Come prepared to participate in our energetic and thought-provoking programs and to engage your fellow bar leaders at exciting social events which include the Friday night reception at The Law Society of Upper Canada's Osgoode Hall.

Please visit our NCBP website, www.ncbp.org, for up-to-date news on NCBP and join our NCBP Fellows program. Most importantly, become directly involved with NCBP by joining a committee. We need you!

Finally, I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as president of the National Conference of Bar Presidents. It has been an honor to serve our member bar associations and bar leaders and to work with our dedicated NCBP Executive Council and ABA staff. It has also been an honor to work with the fine leaders and members of the National Association of Bar Executives, National Conference of Bar Foundations and the Metropolitan Bar Caucus. My sincere thanks and best wishes to all!

NCBP 2011 Annual Meeting Sponsors

NCBP appreciates the generosity of its sponsors of the 2011 Annual Meeting in Toronto.



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ABA Commission Seeks to Promote Diversity Among Disabled Lawyers

The ABA Commission on Mental and Physical Disability Law is the association's entity charged with promoting diversity and eliminating bias as it pertains to lawyers and law students with disabilities. The Commission publishes material on substantive areas of disability law. Later this summer, the Commission will release two free online directories related to state bar activities. First is the *Bar Information for Applicants with Disabilities* (BIAD). The BIAD is a state-by-state directory that provides information for law students with disabilities regarding each state bar's exam accommodations process as well as character and fitness queries that relate to disabilities.

The Commission will shortly begin working on policy initiatives relating to the accommodations process for state bar exam applicants with disabilities. A second directory will list any state bar entities that assist lawyers with disabilities or handle disability law as a substantive subject. The Commission administers a national mentor program for law students with disabilities. This program is always in need of mentors who are lawyers with disabilities or lawyers who have experience in working with individuals with disabilities.

Finally, the Commission has a long-standing tradition of helping lawyers with disabilities find employment. The entity is interested in helping state bar associations track those with disabilities in their populations. Also, the Commission is looking to collaborate with state bar associations for its upcoming Third National ABA Conference on the Employment of Lawyers with Disabilities, which will be held with ABA President-Elect Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III on May 7-8, 2012, in Washington, DC.

If you are interested in any of the Commission's programs or initiatives, please contact Bill Phelan at william.phelan@americanbar.org or 202-662-1576. For more information on these items at www.americanbar.org/disability.

NCBP Annual Meeting

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After the plenary, attendees will discuss the survey results in roundtable discussions, plus identify how bar associations can create public trust and add value for its members.

Following the plenary, NCBP members will attend the first round of workshops on topics including bar leadership and indigent defense, regulation and delivery of legal services and corporate social responsibility. After the workshops, winners of the NABE Bolton Award for Outstanding Bar Leadership, NCBF/LexisNexis Partnerships for Success Award, the ABA Partnership Awards and several other awards will be recognized. Post-lunch activities include a set of second set of workshops exploring topics ranging from court funding issues to a look at how Ontario's local bars operate. In the evening, registrants will attend a reception at the Law Society of Upper Canada, the country's oldest and largest law society.

On Saturday morning, NCBP programming begins with breakfast roundtables, an address by ABA President-elect Wm. T. (Bill) Robinson III, then features a panel discussion exploring challenges facing diversity and inclusion in the U.S. and Canada. Also, NCBP President James P. Nolan will hand over the gavel to President-elect Frederic S. Ury and the newly elected secretary and executive council members will be announced.

For more details about the NCBP 2011 Annual Meeting, download the program booklet at www.ncbp.org.

Get More Involved, Join an NCBP Committee!

If you are an NCBP member looking for an opportunity to get more involved with the organization, consider volunteering for one of six NCBP committees for the 2011-2012 year—Communications, Diversity, Finance, Membership, Program and Sponsorship. Committees play an important role in the work of the NCBP.

Committee appointees are expected to attend committee meetings held in conjunction with the 2012 mid-year meeting in New Orleans (Thursday, February 2) and the 2012 annual meeting in Chicago (Thursday, August 2). In addition, several conference calls will be held throughout the year (2-5 calls lasting an hour or so).

Appointments will be made by September. Committee descriptions and a committee request form are available online at www.ncbp.org.

Save the Date...

February 2-4, 2012

NCBP 2012 Midyear Meeting

New Orleans Marriott

More details on ncbp.org by September

