A Time of Thanks

In my closing note to you as Chair of The Fellows, I want to pay special tribute to a number of persons who are the real unsung heroes in the Foundation and The Fellows. I want to begin by thanking the Regional Chairs and State Chairs and Co-Chairs for their dedication and perseverance through this time of change. The Regional Chairs, Hon. Ellen F. Rosenblum, Chair of the Western Region, Guy N. Harrison, Chair of the Central Region, and Stephen L. Tober, Chair of the Eastern Region, are filling these positions for the first time. They have truly helped us develop methods to better communicate and implement the process of reenergizing The Fellows. In the last several months there has also been an injection of many new people in the positions of State Chairs and Co-Chairs who have agreed to a renewed commitment to energize and develop a stronger base of Fellows in each of their respective jurisdictions. As part of the process, they have participated willingly in many meetings, telephone requests, new approaches toward serving The Fellows, and the process has truly begun to many positive results. The State Chairs deserve our special respect and thanks for the sometimes seemingly impossible job of identifying and recruiting the best among the best to participate in this worthwhile work, and I salute them.

I would like to especially thank the staff of The Fellows and the Foundation generally. These are among the most loyal employees I have ever seen in any organization, non-profit or otherwise. The work of staff is often tedious, sometimes mind numbing, and always unrelentless in terms of the amount of factual detail which is required and the incessant communications among Fellows which are necessary for proper organization and the planning of events, all of which go unnoticed by nearly all of us, but which are loyally and gracefully done, with great attention, by our wonderful staff. I have previously written about the fine work that was done by Bryant Garth, our outgoing Director of the Foundation, and our optimism regarding Robert Nelson, our incoming Director. Special thanks are due to Joanne Martin, Associate Director of the Foundation, who during this time of transition picked up many added responsibilities normally required of the staff of The Fellows. Thanks also go to our staff, Laura Curley, Director of The Fellows, Sommer Lohrentz, Coordinator of The Fellows, Baiimei Guo, Database and Website Manager. Also thanks to Karen Kleinmaier, who we hope will rejoin us shortly, at least on a part-time basis, after the birth of two wonderful boys. When you have a moment in Atlanta, please thank them for their hard and loyal work, or you may also, of course, express your gratitude on the phone with them.

The members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation are among the hardest working group that I have had the pleasure to work with in connection with legal professional organizations. They are dedicated, idealistic, hardworking, business-like, and have selflessly devoted their time to further the goals of the American Bar Foundation.

Special thanks to go to M. Peter Moser, president of the American Bar Foundation, of the Maryland Bar, who has done as much as any other person I can think of to serve the profession through the American Bar Association, the American Bar Foundation, and in other professional organizations generally. He is one of the nation’s preeminent experts in professional ethics, known throughout the professional and judicial worlds for his analytical thinking and his dedication to improving the profession through better ethical performance. His dedication to every detail as president of the Foundation has truly made the Board of Directors a very important instrument in the overall success of the Foundation. Robert O. Hetlage, vice president and incoming president, of the Missouri Bar; will be a fine successor to Peter. Other members of the Board of Directors need special thanks for their contributions.

Don’t Miss An Atlanta Moment!
See page 8 for more details on the Business Breakfast, featuring guest speaker, Professor Douglass W. Cassel, Jr. and the Friday evening Fellows cocktail reception.
improve the efficiency of the administration, and developing new member benefits, such as the new People to People Ambassador Program, which is now linked with The Fellows and the new Fellows Referral Network, which will be coming online shortly. All of our work together has always been done with the feeling of good will interspersed with positive comments and good humor. I have a great deal of respect and thanks for each of them.

The true heroes, of course, are you, The Fellows. You are the ones who not only are committed to the work of the Fellows and the research of the Foundation, but are willing to prove it by your selfless financial commitment. This is done despite the knowledge that some of the empirical research of the Foundation may not always touch your professional and personal lives directly, but despite that knowledge, you recognize it is a necessary component in the proper development of laws which meet our societal needs.

On a personal note, I want to say my service as your Chair has been among the most enjoyable experiences in my professional and personal life. It has been a true privilege to have been your Chair and to get to know so many of your personally. It has been an honor I will never forget and one for which I am truly grateful.

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**Fellows in Print**


— “Review of Texas Tornado” (the autobiography of Louise Ballerstedt Raggio), 14:4 *Experience* (Summer 2004).


Welcome New Fellows

ARKANSAS
Sherry P. Bartley, Little Rock
Martin G. Gilbert, Rogers

CALIFORNIA
Mario Rosati, Palo Alto
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Jeffrey D. Robinson

KANSAS
Lynn R. Johnson, Kansas City
MISSISSIPPI
Gerald H. Jacks, Cleveland
MISSOURI
William A. Dalton, Springfield
Sherry Doctorian, Jefferson City

NEW JERSEY
Robert E. Margulies, Jersey City
Beverly McQueary-Smith, Jersey City

NEW YORK
Simeon H. Baum, New York
Susan Buckley, New York
Anthony E. Davis, New York
Susan T. MacKenzie, New York
Irving L. Rotter, New York
John E. Sands, West Orange

VIRGINIA
David P. Bobzien, Reston
Timothy A. Coyle, Norfolk
Carroll E. Dubuc, Fairfax
Joseph W. Richmond, Jr., Charlottesville
Bruce C. Stockburger, Roanoke
Robert Joseph Stoney, Fairfax
Jay M. Weinberg, Richmond
Hill B. Wellford, Jr., Richmond

WASHINGTON
Bruce Borrus, Seattle
Ellen Dial, Seattle
Jon H. Rosen, Seattle
Victoria Vreeland, Tacoma
Robert Weldon, Seattle
Grace Yuan, Seattle

INTERNATIONAL
Sam Okudzeto, Ghana

State Happenings

CO The Colorado Fellows held their annual dinner at the University Club in Denver on Friday, June 4, 2004. State Chair Dale R. Harris reports that 57 Fellows and guests attended. Robert Nelson, who will become the ABF’s Director in September, was the featured speaker. He presented an overview of the Foundation’s mission and shared insights gathered from two recent studies — the “Chicago Lawyers” and “After the JD,” Attendees also enjoyed the piano selections of Denver musician, Robert Ellis, during the dinner.

MN The annual summer reception for the Minnesota Fellows will be held at the Governor’s Mansion in St. Paul on Monday, July 19, thanks to the graciousness of the First Lady, the Honorable Mary Pawlenty.

NJ The New Jersey Fellows held their annual Black Tie event at the Pleasantdale Chateau on May 24, 2004. Attending this evening of collegial camaraderie were 153 Fellows and their guests.

NY The New York Fellows on-going luncheon seminar series, chaired by Fellows Vice-Chair Jim Silkenat at the offices of Arent Fox PLLC in New York City, featured the in-coming and out-going presidents of the New York State Bar Association, Kenneth Standard and A. Thomas Levine on Monday, June 28, 2004. Messers. Standard and Levin discussed important policy issues facing the legal profession in New York State, including legislation being proposed and possible new Court rules.

In Memoriam

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Martin G. Gilbert, Rogers

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The American Bar Foundation is an Illinois
not-for-profit corporation (501(c)(3))
organized in 1952. The Foundation’s federal
tax identification number is 36-6110271.
Although I have been at LSC just over three months, I believe that LSC is at a fortunate time in its history. We have a Board of Directors all of whom are fully committed to LSC’s mission. And, as I will now report, we also enjoy bipartisan support in Congress. LSC had last been called to Capitol Hill for a Congressional oversight hearing in 2002 and had last testified before its appropriations subcommittee in 1999. Well, I recently had the privilege of testifying before both our House Judiciary Subcommittee and our House Appropriations Subcommittee on back-to-back days. My impressions were that the hearings were cordial and positive for LSC. The national legal services program is experiencing possibly the strongest bipartisan support it has enjoyed in its recent history. This is evidenced not only by President Bush’s ongoing support, but also by the support demonstrated on both sides of the aisle at our recent hearings. The positive attitudes expressed about LSC and our grantees are no doubt the result of the outstanding work of our grantees, careful monitoring to ensure compliance with congressional restrictions, and a successful effort by my predecessors at LSC, as well as by the ABA’s Governmental Affairs staff and its voluntary leadership, to cultivate lasting relationships with key legislators in Washington.

It has become clear that LSC has turned a corner in terms of political support. During our low-key oversight hearing, Chairman Chris Cannon of Utah remarked that LSC has gone from a controversial organization to one that has achieved near unanimity of support in Congress. The following day during our appropriations hearing, Chairman Frank Wolf of Virginia noted that he feels “very comfortable” with LSC. He pointed out that there is less criticism of LSC grantees today than there has been in a very long time. He then said something quite extraordinary and, in my view, quite accurate. He said that legal services lawyers are often known to provide better service to their clients than paid attorneys because advocates are so personally devoted to the people they aid.

Law School Loan Forgiveness

Following this comment, Chairman Wolf — who oversees federal funding of all justice programs — independently suggested his willingness to consider support of a pilot program for law school loan forgiveness, so LSC can continue to attract qualified and committed law graduates into the legal services ranks. The average starting salary for a staff attorney at an LSC program is $33,489, making them among the lowest-paid members of the legal profession. Even our seasoned advocates who go on to become supervising or managing attorneys after years, or even decades, of service make less than $60,000 on average. So clearly, the double burden of law school debt and low salaries poses a very real threat to our continued ability to recruit and retain a qualified legal services workforce.

LSC’s Board of Directors will begin to discuss the possibility and alternatives of pursuing a pilot program at its meeting this weekend in Baltimore. The ABA, of course, knows what an important issue loan forgiveness is and the ABA Commission on Loan Repayment and Forgiveness issued a comprehensive report, in which it found that fully two-thirds of all graduating law students are dissuaded from considering public interest or governmental jobs because of educational debt that averages more than $80,000. The report’s conclusion — that “the legal profession cannot honor its commitment to the principle of access to justice if significant numbers of law graduates are precluded from pursuing or remaining in public sector service jobs” — is one that begs a deeper discussion, and ultimately, a satisfactory resolution.

Legal Needs

During my testimony, I drew upon the ABA’s landmark 1994 legal needs study and noted that LSC-funded programs are still meeting less than 20% of the legal needs of low-income clients, according to the most recent data from the states. The 2000 Census reported an increase in the number of Americans living in poverty. More than 43 million people in this country are currently eligible for federally funded civil legal assistance. Yet unfortunately, despite the vast unmet need and despite strong statements of support from our two committee chairmen in the House, Fiscal Year 2005 likely will be a difficult year for funding. In meeting after meeting with Members of Congress, I have been told that this will be one of the most difficult appropriations cycles for all domestic programs because of national defense and homeland security needs. The President’s FY05 request for LSC was $329.3 million. Level funding for LSC would be $338.8
LSC’s request to Congress was for a modest four percent increase up to $352.4 million, less than the 5.75 percent increase in the federal poverty population reflected in the 2000 Census.

Without question, the federal government remains the single and most important funding source of civil legal services nationally. So LSC still needs your ongoing and active support and your involvement in grassroots lobbying efforts with members of Congress. What’s at stake here is meaningful access to justice for more than 43 million Americans who are now financially eligible for free federally funded legal assistance. LSC grantees close nearly one million civil cases a year on behalf of low-income clients and handle an additional estimated 4 million “matters” — assistance that falls short of the official definition of a case, such as conducting a community education session or a taxpayer-assistance clinic. Current funding supports fewer than 3,700 LSC-funded attorneys nationwide to serve those most vulnerable and in need.

While legal services programs assist victims of domestic violence trying to achieve liberty and self-sufficiency in a safe environment, seniors trying to maintain their independence, uninsured individuals trying to gain access to health care, families seeking to avoid homelessness by preserving their housing, parents seeking custody to protect their children from abuse, children in foster care seeking adoption into loving and supportive permanent homes, elderly consumers seeking protection from fraudulent loan and collection practices, family farmers facing financial difficulties, veterans seeking government benefits to which they are entitled, and victims of natural disasters, the programs are forced to turn away annually tens of thousands of eligible persons with similar urgent civil legal problems due to insufficient resources.

**Pro Bono Recruitment**

Ever since Congress cut LSC’s budget by $122 million in 1996, LSC’s leadership has emphasized, among other things, local resource development efforts, implementation of technology, an emphasis on pro se assistance, enhanced coordination with the private bar, and perhaps most importantly, pro bono recruitment efforts. On the last score, I am encouraged to see trends that show providers increasingly utilizing the skill and resources of the private bar. With finite financial resources at the disposal of legal aid, it is imperative that we persuade our fellow lawyers to commit to pro bono work for the poor.

During the past year alone, a significant number of legal departments at major American corporations have finalized comprehensive written pro bono policies. Institutionalizing pro bono into the corporate culture represents one of our most promising sources of new help. Some reports indicate that in-house pro bono has increased 25 percent among corporate legal departments in the last year alone. Corporate CEOs and executives across the country, it seems, are learning that the application of social responsibility principles to pro bono adds value to their businesses. Pro bono work helps new lawyers at firms develop litigation skills, it helps corporations recruit and retain caring and committed staff, it boosts the morale of attorneys who yearn for a break from complex transactional duties, and it provides opportunities for meaningful outreach in the communities where corporations do business.

Yet complacency remains our greatest adversary in enlisting more pro bono volunteers. U.S. Supreme Court Justice O’Connor framed the issue eloquently in February when she said, “There is more innovative pro bono work being done than at any time in history, but there has also never been a wider gulf between the need and the availability of legal services. We have much to be proud of as a profession, but we should be ashamed in terms of our response to the needs of those who can’t afford to pay for our services.” Justice O’Connor went on to say that “We need to bridge the gap between the oversupply of lawyers and the desperate demand for pro bono services. If more attorneys take on pro bono work as part of their legal practice, we can mobilize an enormous workforce.”

One of the ways to do this is to generate momentum for pro bono work as a measure of a city’s civic pride. LSC’s Board Chairman, Frank Strickland, who is an Atlanta lawyer, reports that the Atlanta community has been galvanized by the leading role taken by the legal departments at companies like Coca Cola and Bell South, which have comprehensive pro bono programs in place. Many corporations tailor pro bono programs to the skill sets of their staffs by specializing in helping to charter and sustain nonprofit groups and community
organizations that might otherwise be forced to spend tens of thousands of dollars on expensive transactional work.

Still other companies commit to providing basic legal services to the indigent. Sears and Roebuck does great work in the housing realm; Pfizer and Hilton Hotels sponsor adoption projects; and GM, Merck, and Exxon-Mobil specialize in family law and domestic relations cases, to cite just a few examples. At LSC, we continue to spur pro bono outreach by requiring that 12.5 percent of every basic field grant be spent on Private Attorney involvement initiatives. This applies to each of our 143 grantees, which together serve the low-income populations of every U.S. county in all 50 states, including the District of Columbia and all U.S. territories and possessions. About 37,000 private attorneys agreed to be involved in helping LSC grantees to deliver services to their clients on a pro bono basis. The ABA and local bar associations remain our most important partners in this effort, often handling the administrative responsibility of enlisting and referring cases to available pro bono volunteers. By all means, we hope that the bar keeps up this good and important work.

Quality Initiative

Finally, I would like to talk about LSC's primary programmatic effort this year: the Quality Initiative. In 2004, the LSC Board of Directors’ provisions committee has invited the national legal services community to engage in a year-long conversation on how to define and measure quality. We are looking at what is our role as a funder in helping our grantees provide, and their clients receive, quality legal services. We will focus on updating the standards for providing civil legal services to the poor and on replicating the type of peer review that takes place during the ABA’s accreditation process in law schools.

LSC recognizes that it is not enough for a low-income person to have access to a lawyer if that access does not result in high-quality service. Access to a lawyer is not, in and of itself, access to justice. We are committed to identifying, revising and spurring the development of certain core quality standards in our grantees. We are planning to work with the ABA SCLAID Committee and the NLADA to review and revise the ABA's performance standards, which were promulgated in 1986, to take into account certain emerging realities in the low-income client population, such as the tremendous increase of persons of limited English proficiency, and to take into account, among other things, the development of technology and limited representation and unbundled representation. Consensus has already been reached on certain quality bench marks: streamlined case management systems, competent staff, peer review, resource development, and consistently strong client outcomes. Other standards under examination include client involvement, workforce diversity, client accessibility, strategic use of scarce resources, and dissemination of best practices among providers.

We want to examine how our most successful programs have achieved high quality and what is required to maintain it. We are providing a forum for experts to discuss the development of these qualities and we want to examine how other professions have developed and promulgated professional standards.

In closing, I would like to point out that this year is a milestone for LSC. We are celebrating 30 years of providing access to the civil justice system in America. In 1974, President Nixon signed the LSC Act into law with bipartisan support from Congress. Now, three decades later, we continue to enjoy the support of the White House and members of both of the major political parties, and for that we at LSC are extremely grateful. Thirty years after LSC's establishment, our greatest strength continues to be our shared determination to live up to our oaths to do justice for those least able to afford it. We are living in a time when the unmet legal needs of the poor are rapidly shifting and, unfortunately, greater than ever.
Life Fellow Kurt W. Melchior from San Francisco was inducted into the California Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame in April 2004.

Leigh H. Taylor, a Life Fellow from Los Angeles, is retiring from Southwestern University School of Law after 26 years as Dean. When appointed in 1978, he was the youngest dean at any ABA-approved law school in the country, and has subsequently led the law school through years of tremendous growth and improvement.

Hon. Frederic B. Rodgers, a Fellow from Golden and former Chair of the Faculty Council of The National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, has recently been elected by the Board of Governors of the ABA to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees of The National Judicial College.

Hon. Thomas L. Ambro, a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals and a Fellow from Wilmington, has recently been selected as a Trustee of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

Fellow Thomas Susman, former member of the Board of Governors of the ABA, has recently been elected to the Board of Trustees of The National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, and has also recently become president of the District of Columbia Public Library Foundation.

Hon. Tyrone Thomas Butler, Fellow and Chief Administrative Law Judge of District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings, formerly from Poughkeepsie, New York, has recently been elected to the Board of Trustees of The National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada.

Fellow Frank H. Woo will be leaving his present position at Howard University School of Law to become the new Dean of the Wayne State University Law School in his native Detroit, Michigan.

John A. Wallace, a Life Fellow from Atlanta, was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees of Southern Catholic College.

The Chicago Bar Association will bestow the Earl Burrus Dickerson Award on Life Fellow Blanche Manning. The award is given annually to recognize the achievement of a minority attorney or jurist who has emulated the courage and dedication of Dickerson, one of the first African American members of the CBA.

Life Fellow Ronald D. Rotunda will be taking a leave from his duties as a professor at George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, Virginia to become the Special Counsel to the General Counsel of the Department of Defense.

Life Fellow E. Wesley Bowers of Evansville has been recognized for volunteering to provide free legal services to help victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks make claims under the federal Victims Compensation Fund. He was honored by the New Jersey Association of Trial Lawyers of America for his assistance with two New Jersey cases.

William Taylor Robinson, III, a Fellow and former State Chair from Covington, was honored by the Greater Cincinnati Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice at its 60th anniversary dinner. Mr. Robinson was recognized for more than thirty years of distinguished service to the community. Mr. Robinson was recently nominated as Treasurer-Elect of the American Bar Association.

Life Fellow Hon. Procter R. Hug, Jr., from Reno, formerly Chief Judge of the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and currently Senior Circuit Judge on the Court, was recently elected as Chair of the Board of Trustees of The National Judicial College, in Reno, Nevada. The 18-person Board of Trustees sets general policy for the College that provides training and other assistance to judges both in the United States and overseas.

Life Fellow Hon. Miriam Shearing, from Carson City, Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court of the State of Nevada, and also State Co-Chair for The Fellows in Nevada with Steven T. Walther, will be retiring from the Nevada Supreme Court at the end of her current term this fall. Justice Shearing is the first woman to serve on the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada and as its Chief Justice. Justice Shearing is also the Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Directors of the American Judicature Society.

Life Patron Fellow Steven T. Walther, from Reno, currently Chair of The Fellows and a member of the Executive Board of the ABA Center for Human Rights, has recently been elected to the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Bar Foundations.

Fellow Stuart A. Hoberman of Woodbridge was recently installed as President-Elect of the New Jersey State Bar Association at the annual meeting of that organization held in Atlantic City.

Life Fellow Edwin Osborne Ayscue Jr. from Monroe received the Mecklenburg Bar Foundation’s first Professionalism Award. In the future, the award will be called the Ayscue Award in his honor. This award will be presented each year to a member of the Mecklenburg County Bar Foundation who embodies the traits to which all attorneys should aspire — high ethical standards, model conduct, unquestioned integrity, and consistent competence.

Marvin L. Karp, a Life Fellow from Cleveland, recently received the American ORT Jurisprudence Award in recognition of his many contributions to the community and to the legal profession.

Charles C. Keller was recognized as a distinguished alumnus when he delivered the keynote address at two separate ceremonies highlighting the California University of Pennsylvania’s 158th commencement, in California, Pennsylvania.

Life Fellow Hon. Harry M. Reasoner, from Houston, a member of the Fifth Circuit United States Court of Appeals, recently received the 2004 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Fifth Circuit. This award is presented to honor a senior judge or practicing lawyer whose life and career display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, paired with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession. Life Fellow and U.S. Court of Appeals Judge, Hon. Patrick E. Higgenbotham, presented the award.
Fellows Events – Atlanta, Georgia

The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation are very pleased to announce that Professor Douglass W. Cassel, Jr. of Northwestern University School of Law will be the featured speaker at the Fellows Business Breakfast in Atlanta. His presentation will be entitled, “Truth, Justice, and the American Way — the Guantanamo Cases.” Professor Cassel has been intimately involved in the cases recently handed down by the U. S. Supreme Court on issues of detention and will share some extremely interesting observations on the process, the outcome, and the future of these issues critical to the American Way.

In addition to the wonderful opportunity to hear a very exciting speaker, the business meeting of the Fellows will also include a report from the Chair and the election of officers. Also, come and try a RedBrick — a local Atlanta microbrewery beer! Do not miss the opportunity to join The Fellows at the Friday evening Summer Reception which will be held at the J. B. Fuqua Rooftop Pavilion, offering spectacular views of Centennial Olympic Park. Ticket information for the Business Breakfast and the Summer Reception has been mailed, but may also be found on The Fellows website (http://fellows.abfn.org).

CALENDAR

Atlanta, Georgia, Friday, August 6, 2004

- Fellows Annual Business Breakfast
  The Omni Hotel at the CNN Center
  International Ballroom D, M2 Level, North Tower
  7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

- Fellows Regional and State Chairs Luncheon and Workshop
  The Omni Hotel at the CNN Center
  Cypress, M2 Level, North Tower
  12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM

- Fellows Summer Cocktail Reception
  J.B. Fuqua Rooftop Pavillion
  6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Travel with the Fellows

Partnering with the well-known and well-established People to People Ambassador Program, The Fellows will be offering the opportunity to travel to Russia in late April of 2005. An exciting professional and cultural program is planned for the participants who will visit Moscow, Novgorod, and St. Petersburg. More information about this wonderful opportunity to travel with other Fellows in a delegation of legal professionals will be sent out soon.