



Federal Bar Council

President's Letter

I believe that every lawyer who expects to practice in the Federal courts of the Second Circuit should be a member of the Federal Bar Council. The Council provides a unique opportunity for Federal court practitioners to enhance their skills and develop relationships with other practitioners who will be with them in the courts throughout their careers. Through the Council's many formal and informal programs, law clerks and young lawyers begin to learn the skills that are not taught in law school and are unlikely to be gained from reading cases; practitioners in mid-career share their experiences and stay current on developing areas of law; and senior members can continue the never-ending process of refining the mastery of their craft.

Since its founding in 1932, the Council has provided a forum in which its members work together toward accomplishing the Council's four stated purposes: to advance the science of federal jurisprudence; to protect the administration of justice; to uphold high professional standards of the bench and bar; and to encourage friendly relations among members of the legal profession. Today the Council seeks to achieve these goals through a range of activities, including the work of over 15 active committees engaged in vigorous study of important issues confronting Federal jurisprudence; a robust array of over 30 CLE programs per year on a wide variety of topics of interest to Federal court practitioners; a very active Inn of Court, which helps members develop and enhance their trial skills; and a variety of lunches, receptions and

other professional events at which members of the bench and bar come together in common purpose.

So many members of the Council -- practitioners and judges -- devote their time and efforts to the Council's activities because we recognize that, as litigating lawyers, we have adopted a very difficult calling. To become competent at our craft takes much study. To become expert calls for a lifetime of experience. True masters never stop learning.

A very important way for us to learn is to get to know our colleagues and our judges. Whether we are to advance our clients' interests through settlement or final judgment, adversaries and judges are the ones we must persuade. Consequently, an association in which adversaries become friends, where critics become teachers, and where great practitioners share the secrets of their craft is of enormous value. Of equal or greater value is the opportunity to hear judges, who decide our clients' fates, give us insight into what they find persuasive, or not.

Attorneys interested in joining the Federal Bar Council will find the membership application and pertinent information on this web site. Members who would like to become more involved in the Council's activities may contact me at fwohl@lswlaw.com or our Executive Director, Jeanette Redmond, at jeanette.redmond@federalbarcouncil.com.

I have always regarded it an enormous privilege to be a member of the Federal Bar Council. Today, I consider it a great honor to serve as the Council's thirty-third President. I feel deeply indebted to the 32 presidents who have preceded me, and to the many judges and practitioners who have, over the more than 75 years of the

Council's history, created and fostered this diverse and vibrant organization, and who today continue to improve and expand its capabilities to meet the needs of our profession and our society. I will do my best, with your help, to measure up to the very high standard of those who have preceded me.

Frank H. Wohl
November 2010