

President's Forum

Volume 4, Issue 2
Winter 2011



President's Message—NCBP Prepares Exciting Programs for Midyear Meeting

Dates and Deadlines

ABA Bar Leadership Institute
March 10-11, 2011
Chicago Marriott Downtown
Chicago, IL
Email Karyn Linn at
Karyn.Linn@americanbar.org

ABA Day in Washington
April 12-14, 2011
Hyatt Regency Washington
on Capitol Hill
Washington, DC
Email: Ken Goldsmith at
Kenneth.Goldsmith@
americanbar.org

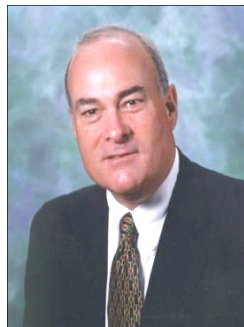
Contact Information

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

Become an NCBP fan
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James P. Nolan

The primary purpose of the National Conference of Bar Presidents is to provide high-quality programming to past, current and future bar leaders at two meetings held each year contemporaneously with the annual and midyear meetings of the ABA. The programs are created by NCBP's Program Committee which consists of NCBP Executive Council members and other interested bar leaders from state, metropolitan, local and specialty bar associations. The plenary sessions and workshops are designed to cover topics which are contemporary and relevant to all bar associations and bar officers as well as bar association executive directors.

We are excited about the programming which will be presented at the midyear meeting in Atlanta, Georgia and urge all bar leaders to attend what should prove to be an exciting and stimulating meeting. Our Program Committee, under the guidance of its chair, Frederic Ury, has done a great job in creating sessions which truly meet the mission and purpose of NCBP. The format of our traditional program has been changed in order to provide more time for attendees to collaborate and exchange ideas. First-timers will get acquainted with returning members over breakfast while sitting at tables organized by bar association type—unified state, voluntary, metro and local.

After breakfast, the educational program will start with an eye-opening plenary session presented by Thomas Morgan titled, "A Transforming Profession and Challenges to Bar Associations." Morgan, a law professor and author of *The Vanishing American Lawyer*, will help bar leaders think about the changes our members face due to the recession and how we can help them.

This session will be immediately followed by roundtable discussions among our attendees on

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NCBP 2011 Fellows Award Recipient Announced



Herbert S. Garten

Herbert S. Garten, president of the Baltimore, Maryland law firm Fedder and Garten, P.A., is this year's recipient of the NCBP Fellows Award. The award recognizes the accomplishments of a past bar president who has demonstrated a continuing commitment to leadership, service, the work of the organized bar and the purposes of the NCBP.

Throughout a legal career of nearly 60 years, Mr. Garten is highly renowned and regarded for his contributions in legal services. Working actively within the ABA, he was a member of the House of Delegates, from 1988 until 2004; a special advisor to the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants; and a member of the Standing Committees on Delivery of Legal Services and Professional Discipline. Additionally, he chaired the ABA Commission on Interest on Lawyer's Trust Accounts and served on other national, state and local bar committees.

Described by a colleague as "a tireless advocate for members of the legal profession," as president of the Maryland State Bar Association in 1989-1990, Mr. Garten founded the Maryland Pro Bono Resource Center, which coordinates thousands of hours of pro bono legal time given by Maryland attorneys to assist its underrepresented citizens. His efforts enabled Maryland's legal community to establish its national reputation as an innovator of legal service programs.

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this critical topic. Important workshops will be presented thereafter by NCBP, the Metropolitan Bar Caucus and the National Conference of Bar Foundations.

Saturday morning activities begin with breakfast roundtables and a brief presentation on disaster planning, followed by remarks from ABA President (and former NCBP President) Stephen N. Zack. The program continues with a session on addressing public dissatisfaction with lawyers, additional roundtables, and a fast-paced look at hot topics for bar leaders.

All programs are designed to be interactive and to seek comments from registrants. On the social front, the Metropolitan Bar Caucus will once again present its welcome reception on Thursday evening and the NCBP/NABE/NCBF joint reception will be held on Friday evening. The NCBP Executive Council looks forward to greeting and welcoming you all to Atlanta!

In addition to having the honor of working with wonderful NCBP officers, I also have the honor of working with designated members of our Executive Council who are serving as chairs of our various committees: Stuart Cubbon of Toledo, Ohio, Communications Committee; Vanita Banks of Northbrook, Illinois, Diversity Committee; Karol Corbin Walker of Newark, New Jersey, Finance Committee; Carl Smallwood of Columbus, Ohio, Investment Committee; Lanneau Lambert of Columbia, South Carolina, Membership Committee; Frederic Ury of Fairfield, Connecticut, Program Committee and Marcia Eason of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Sponsorship Committee. The real work of NCBP is handled at the committee level where our dedicated committee members and ABA staff handle the heavy lifting of the organization.

Please stay up to date with NCBP by visiting our website, www.ncbp.org, renewing your memberships as individual and institutional members of NCBP, joining the NCBP Fellows and participating in our meetings in Atlanta and Toronto in 2011. Also, please consider joining an NCBP committee or applying for membership on the NCBP Executive Council in order to continue your worthwhile activities as a valuable bar leader.

I wish you and yours a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Fellows Award

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Maryland's legal community to establish its national reputation as an innovator of legal service programs.

Mr. Garten is currently a member of the Maryland Access to Justice Commission, as well as the NCBP Fellows, the Southern Conference of Bar Presidents, the Federal Bar Association and the American Judicature Society.

Thrilled at Mr. Garten's selection, NCBP President James P. Nolan said, "His efforts on behalf of the indigent members of our society in the area of pro bono legal representation are legendary. From being the founder of the Maryland Pro Bono Resource Center to being an important member of the Legal Services Corporation, Herb has always been a champion of the less fortunate among us. He has been a mentor and inspiration to so many of us who try to emulate him by making a positive difference in our profession and in our communities."

Mr. Garten will be recognized at the joint awards luncheon of the National Conference of Bar Presidents, National Association of Bar Executives and the National Conference of Bar Foundations in Atlanta, on Friday, February 11.

ABA Day in Washington Set for April 12-14

Join ABA President Stephen N. Zack and fellow ABA, state, local and specialty bar leaders for ABA Day in Washington, April 12-14, 2011. The meeting will take place at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill.

The Obama administration and the 112th Congress will be considering legislation that will impact bar associations, clients, the legal profession and the administration of justice. During this annual "lobby day," participants discuss key issues in face-to-face meetings with their senators and representatives.

ABA Day is cosponsored by the ABA Section Officers Conference, the ABA Young Lawyers Division, the National Conference of Bar Presidents and the National Association of Bar Executives.

To register for the meeting online and make hotel reservations, go to the ABA Day Travel Resource Page. Early registration ends on March 11 and there is no registration fee to attend this event. However, a \$100 registration fee will be charged starting March 12. ABA Day registrants can obtain housing at the Hyatt Regency Washington at a greatly reduced rate until March 11.

National Healthcare Decisions Day is Around the Corner

The fourth annual National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) is scheduled for April 16, 2011, and the ABA is again one of its national co-sponsors. NHDD is a nationwide event that can simultaneously benefit the bar, lawyers' practices, clients, family, and themselves.

Last year, nearly 100 national organizations, including the American Medical Association, AARP, and several hundred state and local organizations, promoted NHDD. The purpose of the NHDD is to encourage all Americans to discuss their wishes regarding healthcare and to execute an advance healthcare directive. Studies have shown that only 30% of Americans have any form of advance directive, although over 70% have thought about end-of-life issues.

The real action on NHDD occurs at the local level. It is a great opportunity for state and local bar groups to take a leading role in communicating the importance of advance care planning by sponsoring community education events on or around National Healthcare Decisions Day. Bar leaders should consider collaborating with other stakeholders who are keenly interested in this issue, such as state or local medical societies and hospitals. They can also ask their governors to issue a proclamation bringing attention to the importance of NHDD. Visit the NHDD website, at www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org, for the tools and resources needed to help a bar association get involved.

Some state bars have considerable experience in promoting statewide educational efforts around NHDD. For an example, read about Virginia's experience in an article printed in the October 2006 issue of *The Health Lawyer*, available at: http://www.vsb.org/docs/VA_ADD_Article.pdf, titled *Advance Directives Day: A Story of Success, a Call to Action, and a How-To Manual*.

The ABA's Commission on Law and Aging also has resources you can use for informing and educating the public about this important topic at: <http://new.abanet.org/aging/Pages/HealthDecisions.aspx>. Among other resources there, you will find *The Consumer's Tool Kit for Health Care Advance Planning and Making Medical Decisions for Someone Else: A How-to Guide*. Contact Charlie Sabatino at the ABA Commission on Law and Aging at Charles.Sabatino@americanbar.org for more information about National Healthcare Decisions Day.

NABE/NCBP/NCBF ANNUAL MEETING

Your Passport to Bar Management and Leadership

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

August 2-6, 2011

Travel to Toronto with your colleagues from NABE, NCBP and NCBF for the 2011 Annual Meeting, August 2-6, at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

Enjoy cutting-edge programming as well as festive networking events with executives and leaders from state and local bar organizations.

The early registration deadline is May 31, 2011.

Advance registration closes July 8, 2011.

Register online at www.abanet.org/annual/2011 or download a faxable registration form at the same site. Be sure to select the NABE/NCBP/NCBF option or form.

Please email any registration questions to:
NABE-NCBP-NCBFregistration@americanbar.org.



ANNUAL MEETING U.S. PASSPORT INFORMATION



Canada is no longer accessible with a driver's license or birth certificate. A valid passport is required for entry into Canada and re-entry into the United States.

To renew or activate your passport, please visit the U.S. Department of State website, General Travel Information, at <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>.

ABOTA to Host National Jury Summit in Chicago

The American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) will look at "The Jury Trial of the 21st Century," during its National Jury Summit at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago, June 23-24, 2011. Judges, scholars, and trial lawyers from across the nation will meet and discuss the current state of the jury trial and how to restore access to the public. Presenters will explore topics including a jury-centered approach, the relationship between pretrial process and access to jury trial and making the case for juror questions. To register or receive additional information, go to www.abota.org.