



By Barry H. Grodsky

“And Thanks...”

I had a feeling this would happen. I'm at my last President's Message and not sure what to write. This is at least the third draft, so here goes. At first I wanted to write about the unfounded attacks on our judiciary. This issue has been addressed by American Bar Association leadership and, as lawyers, we must uphold the integrity of our courts and always promote and enforce the Rule of Law. Then I wanted to write about the national challenges to mandatory bars. This is a real and ongoing concern of which all bar leaders are ever mindful but it is still a bit of a moving target. Then I wanted to write about my “56” professionalism speech. 56 cents is the daily amount it costs to be a member of the Louisiana State Bar Association (LSBA). Best bargain anywhere! Then I wanted to write about how the theme for my year as president, “Changes in Attitude, Changes in Latitude,” played out. I am pleased to see so many programs develop and so proud that the amended Code of Professionalism is in place and the Long-Term Strategic Plan is being implemented, plus other goals which were met.

But that's just not it. Then it came to me and it was so simple. Thanks. Just thanks. I have been truly blessed and so fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve as president and there is so much I am thankful for. So my final message is truly simple — THANKS!

I am thankful to all who encouraged me to take on this challenge and for all of those, particularly past presidents, who gave me guidance and advice so patiently and kindly.

The word "THANKS" is rendered in large, three-dimensional, blue block letters. The letters are slightly shadowed, giving them a 3D appearance as if they are sitting on a surface.

I am thankful for all my friends at the Bar, starting with Loretta Larsen, our outstanding executive director. Our near 23,000 members would be shocked to learn of the work the staff puts in to keep this organization running so smoothly and to be so successful.

I am thankful for our Executive Committee — Dona Renegar, Bob Kutcher, Eddie McAuliffe, Shayna Sonnier and recent additions Pat Talley and Alainna Mire. This is a great team of individuals who epitomize leadership and are dedicated to the Bar.

I am thankful for all of our committees and their chairs. So much is accomplished by these committees, generally with little fanfare. They create and implement programs which keep the LSBA out in front as Bar leaders.

I am thankful for our sections which, under the leadership of Val Exnicios, have stepped up to create leadership opportunities for our young lawyers — tomorrow's leaders — with their Section Scholarship Program and with sponsorships.

I am thankful for our Board of Governors and our House of Delegates — volunteers committed to the advance-

ment of the Bar and ensuring that we are progressing forward. These members serve unselfishly and their role is vital to a successful Bar.

I am thankful for members of our judiciary, not just for the support and encouragement they give to the Bar but also for their direct participation and involvement in Bar programs. The collegiality shown by our judges in working with the LSBA is amazing and truly unique. I have been surprised at how many state Bars do not share such a wonderful relationship with their judiciary. This truly starts at the top and I appreciate the support and friendship of Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Bernette Joshua Johnson.

I am thankful, as I set out in my last message, for all those people whose paths I've crossed. The friendships established this past year have been remarkable and I know many will be long-lasting. Without Bar involvement, this never would have happened. LSBA leadership is well-recognized with other Bars, particularly in our great relationship with the Southern Conference of Bar Presidents, of which I had the honor of serving as president this past year.

I am thankful for all of our affiliated groups, including the Louisiana Bar Foundation and the Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (JLAP), as well as the strong continued relationship with our law schools. Reaching out to those not yet admitted is critical to promote professionalism and offers the LSBA the opportunity to introduce them to other exciting programs, such as the TIP mentoring program once they are admitted into practice.

I am thankful for all members of our Bar who have understood the importance of the balance of work and life and have taken a deep breath when dealing with the stress of our profession. Everyone needs a step away to recharge his/her batteries to even better appreciate what we as lawyers do. I actually finished a novel I was writing (anyone know a good agent?).

I am thankful for every one of our volunteers. Your efforts and participation are truly helpful and meaningful. Whether giving a CLE, serving at a self-help desk or participating in a law school program, the success of a Bar is dependent on its volunteers.

I am thankful for President-Elect Bob Kutcher and President-Elect Designee Alainna Mire whose dedication and knowledge will serve them to be the great leaders I know they will be.

On a personal note, I am thankful for my assistant Courtney. If you have ever dealt with me, you've no doubt dealt with her. She has been indispensable to me.

And, last, but certainly not least, I am so very thankful for my wife Cheri and daughter Caroline. They have had to put up with all of the duties and obligations of serving as president. I never could have done it without them.

So, as I now ride off into the sunset, I do so being very appreciative of all who have taken this ride with me. You've all made this trip so very special. And to all, I say: "Thanks."

Barry Goddard

EVOLUTION
of the
PROFESSION

LJC / LSBA JOINT SUMMER SCHOOL
& 2019 LSBA ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 2-7, 2019

What a Long
strange trip
it's been

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