

A Note from the President - April 2009

Welcome to the Third Circuit Bar Association web site. We hope that you'll use this site to learn about upcoming programs, join in the activities of the 3CBA, and find useful practice tools.

The 3CBA's objectives are to raise the standards of federal appellate practice, help to develop rules of practice, promote events and educational programs to aid the Court in the administration of justice, and facilitate bench/bar relations with the Third Circuit.

In the 3CBA's first two years, under the very capable leadership of our first President Nancy Winkelman, we have presented state of the art appellate programs in every corner of the Circuit, from Pennsylvania to the Virgin Islands, covering topics from electronic filing to appellate motions practice to brief writing to oral argument inside and outside the Circuit. We have commented thoughtfully and substantively on proposed rule changes that impact appellate practitioners and their clients. And we have hosted receptions for and met with Third Circuit judges to facilitate dialogue on issues of mutual concern.

If you'd like to learn more about the rapidly-approaching Third Circuit Bar Association Judicial Conference, which includes addresses by two United States Supreme Court justices, click **here**. The conference is May 4-6 in Philadelphia, and we hope to see you there. The 3CBA will host a reception for all attendees, and we will also present two panel programs: "Certification of State Law Questions to State Courts" and "Ethics in Appellate Advocacy."

We'd like to encourage you to get involved with one of our committees. Peter Goldberger and George Leone head up the **Rules Committee**, which provides input on proposed revisions of local rules. Bob Graci chairs the **Program Committee**, planning CLE events throughout the year. Colin Wrabley edits the **newsletter** that is distributed quarterly to all of our members. Any of these committee chairs would welcome your involvement in shaping the activities of the 3CBA. Our **Board of Governors** would welcome your input on appellate practice-related issues as well.

If you practice in the Third Circuit, please consider this your personal invitation to **join us**. If you have been a member in the past, but have not yet renewed, please **do so**. Our success as an organization depends on the support of our members. Don't hesitate to **contact me** with any questions or comments. With your help, I look forward to many productive and rewarding years ahead.

Jim

James C. Martin
President
Third Circuit Bar Association