

September 2008

A Note from the President:

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the newly-formed Bar Association of the Third Federal Circuit. I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as your first President; and to work with the esteemed and accomplished members of the Board of Governors, who join me in welcoming you to the Bar Association. (See the attached tab for a listing of the Bar Association's Board of Governors and their contact information.)

I am thrilled to report that, as of September 2008, we have over 714 members, including 98 Founding Members and 18 Founding Firms. (The Founding Members and Founding Firm Members are listed at the attached tab.) We are most appreciative of our Founding Members and Founding Firm Members; your support has given us the seed money that we need to get off the ground. We had sensed that a Circuit-wide bar association would fill an important niche in the Third Circuit -- your response has more than affirmed that!

As you are aware, the Third Circuit Bar Association is modeled after circuit-wide bar associations in other circuits. Similar to the Bar Associations of other circuits, our Mission Statement has as its goals:

1. To improve and facilitate the administration of justice in the federal courts within the geographic area of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.
2. To raise the standards of proficiency and integrity in federal practice by promoting excellence in federal practice and encouraging respectful, cordial relations between the bench and bar.
3. To work with the trial and appellate courts within the geographic area of the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit to develop and implement effective, efficient, and uniform rules of practice and procedure relating to the appellate process.
4. To assist the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in the holding of the Third Circuit Judicial Conference and in any other ways, as may be requested.

Let me take the remainder of this note to inform you of some of the activities of and plans for the Bar Association and to invite your participation and involvement.



## **Coordination with the Third Circuit Court of Appeals**

The Third Circuit Bar Association's liaison judges are Chief Judge Scirica, Judge Ambro, Judge Fisher, and Judge Sloviter. We also closely coordinate with the Circuit Executive (Toby Slawsky) and the Clerk of the Court (Marcia Waldron). The Court is most positive about the Third Circuit Bar Association and most welcoming of our involvement. A letter from Chief Judge Scirica welcoming the formation of the Third Circuit Bar Association can be found at the attached tab.

## **Committees**

We have formed a number of committees; I encourage you to join one and become active in the Third Circuit Bar Association. A list of our committees and their chairs can be found at the attached tab. If you are interested in joining a committee, please let our administrator, Nevis Heimall (NHeimall@aol.com, 732-477-4864) know what committee interests you.

## **Programs**

We intend to play an active role in all the Third Circuit Judicial Conferences. We presented programs and hosted a reception at the May 2008 Third Circuit Judicial Conference and expect to actively participate in future Judicial Conferences.

Our additional focus has been on developing relationships with local and regional bar association groups within the Circuit and co-sponsoring educational programs on federal appellate practice with those bar groups. We have presented programs in conjunction with the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the New Jersey State Bar Association, and the New Jersey Association of the Federal Bar. We also have presented programs in Delaware and the Virgin Islands, and look forward to presenting programs in the Western and Middle Districts of Pennsylvania.

If you are involved in a local or regional bar association that you believe would benefit from the involvement of the Third Circuit Bar Association in developing or sponsoring a program or event, or if you have ideas for programs that you would like to see the Third Circuit Bar Association develop, please let me, a member of our programs committee, or one of the members of the Board of Governors know.

## **Rules**

The Third Circuit Bar Association's Rules Committee has been particularly active. In June 2007, the Third Circuit Bar Association submitted comments on proposed new Local Appellate Rules involving a procedure for appeals FROM the newly-created Virgin Islands

Supreme Court by writ of *certiorari*. In August 2008, we submitted extensive comments on the proposed revisions to the Third Circuit Local Appellate Rules, dealing with electronic filing and other topics.

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In closing, let me reiterate my welcome, and my appreciation to each of you for joining what I expect will be an active and valuable Bar Association. We look forward to working with you, to getting to know you, and to your active involvement.

Nancy Winkelman  
PRESIDENT  
THIRD CIRCUIT BAR ASSOCIATION