

HOW DOES THE TBA STACK UP—OR WHAT'S THE REST OF THE WORLD DOING ANYWAY?

One of the best parts of being the president of the TBA is getting to meet with other bar leaders from around Ohio and the United States. Our executive directors remain fairly constant—a sort of stabilizing force in the netherworld of bar associations—but the officers come and go. I've made a lot of new friends and thought you might like to know how the rest of the world does things, at least when it comes to the world of organized bars.

Did you know that Toledo is in a minority of bars that elect officers in contested elections? All have elections, but I've learned that most bars rely on their nominating committees to present a slate, and that slate doesn't allow for challengers!

As we are getting involved in judicial elections again, you might be interested to know that different bars treat those differently as well. Ohio is



in the minority of states that elects its judges, as opposed to having some sort of appointment process. While Lucas County has a history of spirited judicial contests, not all Ohio counties are the same. In 2004, Cincinnatians in Hamilton County elected common pleas judges in nearly a dozen races, not one with opposition!

The manner in which different bars rate or rank judges differs considerably. While most would agree that there are flaws with the TBA's rating practice, what would be better?

In Cleveland, the Judicial Candidates Rating Coalition, made up of The Cleveland Bar Association, The Cuyahoga County Bar Association, The Cuyahoga Criminal

Defense Lawyers Association, The Norman S. Minor Bar Association, and The Ohio Women's Bar Association, maintains a website with actual ratings of candidates on a four point scale from excellent to not recommended (www.judge4yourself.com) and includes whether they are endorsed by three local newspapers.

Some bars get involved in the actual judicial advertising. The Columbus Bar Association maintains a Judicial Campaign Advertising committee that monitors the campaign advertising materia of candidates, and if it determines they are unfair or inappropriate, comes down on them like a SWAT team, asking candidates to remove the offending ads. Candidates who don't oblige find public service ads or condemnation from the Columbus Bar itself!

In states where judges are appointed and run for retention, sitting judges sometimes run against voter apathy in a Catch 22 situation. Judges are prevented from campaigning yet they must be retained by a majority of the voters. Some bars have had to actually embark on campaigns of "voter education" in order to retain their appointed judges.

Still speaking of judges, Toledo has only allowed judges to serve on the board of trustees and as officers ever since a bylaws change in the 1990s. Many bars still apply this prohibition.

But enough about judges, let's talk about bars. The Nassau County Bar actually has a bar (a real bar), as well as in-house catering and rental space for parties. (Don't even think



Stuart F. Cubbon

about it!)

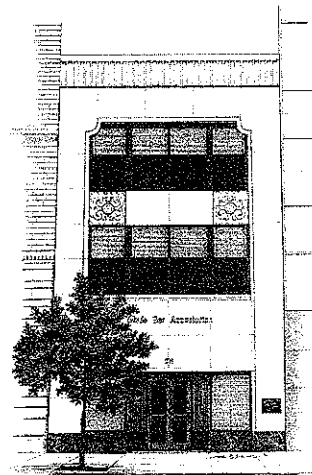
Speaking of buildings, the TBA was the first bar association in Ohio to own its own building. Since then, two have followed.

Not to be outdone, the Buffalo, New York, Bar has an office in Buffalo and also a satellite office in Seattle, Washington. Don't ask me why!

Toledo is the only Ohio metro bar without a glossy cover to its Newsletter. I asked our overworked and underpaid Newsletter staff to look into this, and they did. Everyone likes what we have, no gloss and all. Trust me, our newsletter holds its own against the best of them!

Let's talk about our trustees. Astute members are well aware that the TBA has a board of 25 trustees. Marsha Manahan always described her presidential duties as "herding cats." Thank God she wasn't president of another Ohio bar association, with its 65 board members, including every (presumably living) past president!

Speaking of past presidents, we keep their pictures on the wall. I'm not sure about the Brooklyn Bar



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**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND:
ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARDS—APRIL 10**

**The 2006 Access to Justice Awards Dinner for Northwest Ohio
Monday, April 10, 2006 • The Pinnacle in Maumee**

For sponsorship information, contact Patti Robb at 419-930-2517.

ANNOUNCING AWARD WINNERS:

PUBLIC INTEREST LAW AWARD — CINDY VOLLER

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AWARD — SHELLY PAPENFUSE

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD — WILLIAM BINGLE

SPEAKER: DAVID SHIPLER

This year's speaker is David Shipler, a Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist who is considered an expert on poverty in America following the publishing of his most recent book: *The Working Poor: Invisible in America*. Shipler explores the gap between reality and the American Dream of success by unraveling the interconnecting problems that afflict the working poor. Lack of access to affordable housing, health insurance, education and transportation are just a few of these problems that the working poor encounter.

PRESIDENT'S BRIEFCASE—CONTINUED

Association. One of its past presidents spent time in jail and another went to federal prison for tax evasion!

As the TBA continues its long tradition of an annual memorial service, it seems to be getting larger and larger. Some bars remember deceased members in their newsletters, while Akron has an annual Catholic mass to memorialize its fallen members.

The Indianapolis Bar Association offers its own Bar Review course, taught by its members. Any volunteers?

The TBA is a member of the Consortium of Metropolitan Bar Associations. COMBA, for those of you who do not know, is the direct descendant of the Great Lakes Organization of Bar Executives and was started at 311 N. Superior St. by none other than former executive director, Susan Martin. They had to

change the name when bars from Nashville, Indianapolis, and Louisville joined. Everyone was simply too perplexed and too embarrassed to ask which Great Lake Louisville is on! (Hint—it's not Erie.)



I like numbers. Did you realize that 28.57 percent of all Ohio Supreme Court justices are members of the TBA!

I predict that the TBA will take a pretty relaxed approach to the anticipated Supreme Court adoption of mandatory reporting of pro bono hours and contributions, but this is the most hotly contested issue I've seen on a national level. A year ago at the ABA mid-year convention, representatives from the Jack Rabbit Bar Association (yes, this multi-state organization really exists and you can probably figure where!) threatened that they'd have

**LEGAL COMMUNITY
CALENDAR**

**TBA DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT
COMMITTEE**

**Meeting: Friday, March 17, 2006
12:00 noon • TBA**

**Speaker: Mag. Linda A. Sorah, Court
of Common Pleas Juvenile Division**

**Meeting: Friday, April 21, 2006
12:00 noon • TBA**

**Speaker: Hon. Norman Zimmelman,
Domestic Relations Court**

**TOLEDO BAR ASSOCIATION
AUXILIARY**

Meetings and Programs 2005-2006

**Wednesday, March 15, 2006
11:30 A.M. Belmont Country Club
Joint Meeting with Academy of
Medicine and Dental Alliances
Program: Identity Theft**

**Tuesday, May 16, 2006
11:30 A.M. • Toledo Museum of Art**

**Contact Nancy Robon for more
information: 419-381-1305**

to pry those figures from their cold dead hands, or something fairly similar. Others report without any theatrics.

The TBA recently conducted a member survey, and we came out identical to every other bar across the country that has done one: members want bar associations to improve the image of lawyers. I think we do that with our words and actions every day. Please keep sending letters to the papers lauding our good works—they'll print them eventually!

Finally, the TBA is purported to have one of the highest membership rates in the state. I attribute that to the fact that we live our mission statement: *to provide outstanding service to our members and to assist them in serving our profession and the community*. We are a collegial group. Thanks for making it that way and thanks for keeping it that way!