

# President's Message



## "The Takover" Message

By **John M. Howe**

It was a great honor and a proud, yet humbling, evening for me last month to become the 89th president of the Palm Beach County Bar Association. For the past four years, I have had the opportunity to observe the great work and leadership delivered by several of the Bar's past presidents. I would like to thank and congratulate our Immediate Past President, Michael Napoleone, on a spectacular year. However, do not go far Mike, because we still intend to extract one more year of work from you. In fact, it is the year-round hard work on the part of the Bar's excellent staff, dedicated committee chairs and members, and the board as a whole, that makes possible all that we do.

### A New Home for the Bar

The foremost goal for the upcoming year is to complete the transition into our new home which will be located at 1507 Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach. In May, we unveiled our new Building Capital Campaign to underwrite the costs of transforming the building from a decrepit former Denney's restaurant to state of the art office space and a venue for meetings and seminars. There are numerous naming opportunities for you to establish your or your firm's legacy in our new home by sponsoring a room in the new office. The campaign also includes a brick-naming component wherein members can purchase brick pavers which will form the walkway leading up to the entrance of the building. Please visit the Bar's website and click on the link to the Capital Campaign to learn more.

### The New Profile for Diversity and Inclusion

Another priority this year is to build upon the advancements we have made in diversity and inclusion, both in our Bar and overall legal community. A year and a half ago, our board took the major step of amending our by-laws making the Committee for Diversity and Inclusion the only permanent standing committee

and mandating that a sitting board member serve as its co-chair. While we have made significant strides in this area, the finish line is nowhere in sight. We are now planning the Bar's second Diversity Summit which will be on October 14, so mark your calendars.

### Law Related Education

Over the last year and during the last legislative session in Tallahassee, we saw unprecedented attacks on the judiciary. We have seen the corrosive effect unchecked rhetoric against the legal profession can have upon uninformed members of the public. Many in the community are uninformed of the vital role that lawyers and judges play in protecting the right they hold so dear. There are some who have made it their aim to diminish the standing of the judicial branch as a co-equal branch of the government. If this were to happen, it would be, in part, because we as lawyers failed to inform the public of the essential role the judiciary plays in a democracy. In the past year, we formed a Law Related Education Committee. This very important committee will be charged with implementing effective programs to get lawyers in front of civic organizations, community associations, other professional associations and students. The Lawyers for Literacy Committee will be a part of that effort. Our LFLC will work in partnership with The Florida Bar to achieve these educational objectives.

### Get to Know Your Board Members

I have had the privilege of serving with most of our board members over the last several years in various capacities, both on this board and others. These are some of the most dedicated and hardworking individuals one could hope to have working on their behalf. In addition, they are all very interesting personalities! I will write about one or two each month.

### Featured Director:

#### Rosalyn Sia Baker Barnes

Known to most as "Sia", there is much more to her than the talented attorney we see during business hours. In addition to being a ten-year litigator at Searcy, Denney, Scarola Barnhart and Shipley, Sia is also a mother and a wife. She is married to another great local litigator, Edrick Barnes, who practices with Liggio Benrubi in West Palm Beach. Sia and Edrick are the parents of a beautiful 3-year old who goes by the name Selia Elizabeth. Sia is also a member of the Links, Inc., a community service organization comprised mostly of African-American women of various professions. She is also a member of the local graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, which also engages in extensive service to the local community.



## Board of Directors Meeting Attendance

	Retreat	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Bowden	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Bresky	x	x	x	x	phone	x	x	x	x	x	x
Guari	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Howe	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Kapner	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Kypreos	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Napoleone	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pressly	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Rabin	x	phone	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Reagan	x	Ponzoli	x	x	x	x	x	phone	x	x	x
Suskauer	x	x	phone	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Weiss	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Whittles	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	phone	x	x