

Time Flies...

The Opportunity of **Now**



BY CHUCK TICKNOR

How does CBA membership help others? The answer is obvious. It is inherent in the nature of community that we help each other. With the Cornerstone Membership Program, the help is far more tangible. I have come to learn that large firms provide a huge foundation upon which the CBA grows.

It is hard to believe that I have been a lawyer for 30 years. It's true what our parents and grandparents have told us: time flies. It is a powerful perception that gets stronger with age. I mention this not to advocate living only for today, but as a reminder that we all should live and be present in the moment. Do it for your family, friends, colleagues and community. And do it for yourself. Time flies.

When CBA Executive Director Jill Snitcher told me about her idea for the Cornerstone Membership Program, I was immediately intrigued. For decades, our local bar association has been one of the best

in the United States, and our approach has been emulated throughout the country. The CBA is widely known for its professionalism, collegiality, and forward thinking.

The Cornerstone Membership Program is a group membership plan encouraging large firms to commit to 100% membership in the CBA, signifying a commitment to invest in the professional development of all the firm's attorneys and to enrich the future of the profession. It is designed to make the CBA even stronger by more fully engaging our largest local law firms to lead by example in enhancing the profession. With the complete support of all Dinsmore lawyers, our firm is embracing Jill's idea.

While the program is targeted at large law firms, it is with recognition that the CBA is the sum of its parts. It is not that large law firms are any more significant than smaller firms or solo practitioners; nothing could be farther from the truth. As I look back, these now-large firms were once smaller firms. They've grown

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and merged over time to become the firms they are today. We all start small, but we rely on others to help us grow. So many of central Ohio's most talented lawyers are solo practitioners or in small firms.

The success of our profession (and our bar association) depends on a broad representation of viewpoints - whether it's by firm size, practice area, gender or racial diversity, the only way to enhance the legal profession is to inspire lawyers of all facets to become a part of the local bar association.

After hearing of Jill's idea, I reflected on my own history with the CBA and what I have observed. Candidly, I did not join based on my own knowledge or experience - heck, I was a new lawyer and I knew what every new lawyer knows - NOTHING! I joined because the law partners in my firm told me to join. They guided me as a parent or mentor would, directing me and setting me on the path. My mentors knew that CBA membership would have a positive impact on my career. Looking back, I am grateful the partners told me what to do.

Over time, I have met hundreds of lawyers through the CBA. My great friend and Dinsmore colleague, Tom Bonasera, told me early in my career that being part of the local bar association was essential to a lawyer's career because, aside from the daily practice of law, it was the best way to meet lawyers in the community. His view has always been that lawyers are leaders, and we all benefit from befriending other lawyers. Another mentor and Dinsmore colleague, Don Leach, shares this view. Don has always said that lawyers are called upon to lead - family, friends, colleagues, clients, community all look for us to lead in some way.

Through the CBA and its members, I met, observed, and learned from the likes of Carl Smallwood, Jerry Draper, Steve Buchenroth, Kathleen and Buzz Trafford, Jack Chester, Kurt Tunnell, Alex Shumate, and Ben Zox. This short, shamefully incomplete list barely scratches the surface of those who have impacted my career, but spending time with senior lawyers from other law firms had an enormous impact on me. Interestingly, for as much griping as I have heard



CBA Cornerstone Membership

BETTER *by* ASSOCIATION

**The Columbus Bar Association is proud to announce
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP as our first Cornerstone Membership firm.**

Cornerstone Membership signifies a commitment to uphold the ideals of the profession, invest in your current and developing leaders, and enrich the future of your firm.

For information about Cornerstone Membership for your firm, contact Jill Snitcher at (614) 340-2060 or jill@cbalaw.org.





All of us, young and old, need to push back from the computer screen and go out and meet other lawyers. Have candid, passionate, and mature discussions about our profession, our community, and our world. Some folks will become lifelong friends, some will be social acquaintances, and all will become professional colleagues in the best city in America to practice law.



about millennials, in the last 10 years I have learned as much from them as anyone.

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The current holy grail for lawyers and law firms is ROI. Before anyone commits funds to participate in anything, someone needs to explain the return on investment. In the words of comic strip character Charlie Brown, "Good Grief"! Don't get me wrong, an ROI analysis is a legitimate and necessary tool in every business, including law firms. But, when that type of analysis is employed to the exclusion of bar association membership, we all need to take a step back and take a breath.

Columbus Bar PAST PRESIDENTS

1952: Sol Morton Isaac	1967: Hon. Donald E. Calhoun, Jr.	1982: Gerald L. Draper	2002: David C. Patterson
1953: George E. Frater	1968: Raymond P. Cunningham	1983: Robert N. Wistner	2003: Samuel B. Weiner
1954: Lloyd Bilger	1969: Jack R. Alton	1984: Alan L. Briggs	2004: Kimberly Callery Shumate
1955: Collis Gundy Lane	1970: Thomas E. Cavendish	1985: James A. Readey	2005: Sally W. Bloomfield
1956: Bruce G. Lynn	1971: Robert A. Butler	1986: Benjamin L. Zox	2006: Belinda S. Barnes
1957: William L. Schmidt	1972: Rankin M. Gibson	1987: H. Ritchey Hollenbaugh	2007: Nelson E. Genshaft
1958: John Eckler	1973: Russell Leach	1988: Denis J. Murphy	2008: Kathleen M. Trafford
1959: John L. Davies	1974: John M. Adams	1989: Thomas M. Taggart	2009: Elizabeth J. Watters
1960: Jack W. Folkerth	1975: Hon. John W. McCormac	1990: Nick V. Cavalieri	2010: Hon. Stephen L. McIntosh
1961: Charles A. Kienzle	1976: John A. Carnahan	1991: Charles C. Warner	2011: David S. Bloomfield, Jr.
1962: Leon P. Loechler	1977: Duke W. Thomas	1992: Stephen R. Buchenroth	2012: Bradley B. Wrightsel
1963: John C. Elam	1978: Alphonse P. Cincione	1993: Thomas J. Bonasera	2013: Hon. Mark C. Petrucci
1964: Leonard J. Stern	1979: Hon. Charles R. Petree, II	1994: Stephen C. Fitch	2014: Keith W. Schneider
1965: David M. Postlewaite	1980: Hon. Thomas J. Moyer	1995: Stephen E. Chappellear	2015: Jay E. Michael
1966: Darold I. Greek	1981: Robert J. Perry	1996: Sandra J. Anderson	2016: Brigid E. Heid
		1997: R. Douglas Wrightsel	2017: Lisa Pierce Reisz
		1998: Heather G. Sowald	2018: Samuel A. Peppers, III
		1999: John C. Hartranft	2019: Amy B. Koorn
		2000: Carl D. Smallwood	
		2001: Frank A. Ray	

Gaining and maintaining clients is and always will be about relationships. Not just the attorney/client relationships – but relationships with family, friends, and with colleagues. All relationships potentially lead to clients. I cannot mathematically tie an individual CBA membership payment to a specific client of mine, but there is undeniable connectivity. I am certain that my historical CBA membership, as well as the CBA membership of my Dinsmore colleagues, has helped me become a well-rounded, experienced and connected lawyer in the community; a person whose judgment and advice is valued and trusted. It is the type of common sense ROI analysis that drives the bean counters crazy. It is real, yet incalculable.

The CBA is a nationally renowned organization, with professional, collegial, and forward thinking members. But, if the CBA is going to get better and stronger, the involvement and leadership of all lawyers is critical. We have an easy, but important, opportunity to do more. With 100% CBA membership from the largest firms, we can have a stronger CBA. A stronger legal



community will make our city, state and country a better place. Columbus always leads. We may do so quietly, but it is what we do.

Today's magazine includes a list of all of the past CBA Presidents, and the current CBA officers. I have had the privilege to know many of them. To a person, they



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speak less about their role, and far more about all of the great people they met and the relationships they formed through the CBA, and most noticeably, about how much everyone else did for them. Given the passage of time, many of these folks are no longer with us. But many of them still are. They are still present in our big firms, small firms, and as solo practitioners. Even those not practicing law remain active members in the community. Just as these leaders have done for us, we have a responsibility to the community and to the profession to inspire the next generation of leaders— to lead by example. I urge you to reach out to them. Ask them to share their stories about

the value of the CBA to central Ohio lawyers and our community at large. We can learn from them; from each other. We all have an opportunity to participate and lead by example. We should take it. Time flies.



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