



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**A** mere 33 years ago, I was a young associate with Nukes and Perantinides when Sam Nukes did two memorable things. First, he had only recently come back to work after major surgery when one of the new staff members went up to him and inquired as to who he was. Mr. Nukes (he still makes me call him that), walked the employee into the hall and pointed to the firm name on the wall. He then said with a smile, "Do you see the first name? That's me."

Mr. Nukes then turned to me and inquired if I had yet joined the Akron Bar Association. When I told him I had not, he took me to the Akron Bar offices and signed me up. He then took me to his house and using my 7 years of advanced education, he had me hook up his new stereo system. The last I heard, he still had that stereo.

In retrospect, it is only today that I realize how greatly I have benefited from my membership to the Akron Bar Association.

33 years ago, I merely thought that joining the Akron Bar Association was just something that you had to do. Today, I realize that the Bar Association has given me the chance to meet hundreds of members over the years, all of whom have played a part in defining my understanding of the practice of law and paving the way for all of us to benefit from this honorable profession.

I realize now how the Akron Bar has helped me grow personally and professionally. The knowl-

edge I have gathered from my relationships with members of the Akron Bar have made me a better lawyer.

If you are asked by a non-member the reasoning behind being part of the Akron Bar, the easiest response is the 6+ hours of free CLE, compliments of the Law Library Foundation.

The Akron Bar is here to bring like-minded professionals together to share in their knowledge through its invaluable CLE programming and to honor the profession through the Professionalism Award.

The Akron Bar Association is here to help us build connections within the legal community. Isolationism is not a practice plan. The benefits of membership cannot be found in a simple accounting formula. There is much more to be gained through the interactions with our peers.

The Akron Bar Association is here to help us give back to our Community through the activities of the Akron Bar Foundation; the Valid Clinic; Wills for Hero's; Modest Means Panel; and other programs that have been offered throughout the years.

Through the Lawyer Referral Service, the Akron Bar Association is here to bring people in need

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of legal services together with professionals willing and able to assist them in their time of need. And when the time calls, the Akron Bar Association is here through the Lawyer Assistance Committee, which is staffed by caring members of our Bar who are willing to be there for lawyers in need.

A longtime member of our Akron Bar recently congratulated me on my nomination and said to me that the biggest regret he had in his long and successful career was not being more active in the Akron Bar. The opportunities are available and I hope to hear from those new to the ABA who are hoping to share the numerous benefits available through the Akron Bar Association.

Thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve as the President of the Akron Bar Association. As part of giving back, I am sharing with you

one of my Baba's (Grandmother in Macedonian) secret recipes. Macedonian Caviar aka Ajvar or roasted eggplant pepper spread. First, take an eggplant and peel it. Cube the meat of the eggplant, place in a covered bowl and microwave until soft. Get the bottled red roasted peppers from Sam's Club and add 9-12 pepper slices, along with the eggplant into a blender with a couple of finely chopped garlic cloves. Add some lemon juice, salt and pepper (Tabasco sauce is a must for me) and a quarter cup of fine olive oil. I like to blend it to a smooth consistency. Serve cold with pita bread and feta cheese. If you are still reading at this point, first, Baba did not have a microwave and second, she did not buy peppers from Sam's Club. In fact, she may never have made this dish, but the recipe is still good. Enjoy!

*Bill*

William G. Chris, President