



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

For my last message as President of the Akron Bar Association, I simply would like to say “Thank you” for granting me the privilege to serve. I would have stopped this message with “Thank you,” but Janet Griffing-LaBonne, our Bar marketing director said that I had to say more. After dealing with me for the last year, Janet has decided to retire. Her service and dedication will be missed. It is my speculation that she wants to go out on top after my presidency, although some have suggested that it may be because of me that she decided to retire. Either way, I guess I played a role.

My goals as Akron Bar President were simple:

1. Empower the Bar staff and volunteers to do their best.
2. Find ways to help our members.
3. Find ways to improve the Bar’s financial condition.
4. Try not to mess anything up. The verdict is out on this, but if you ask me, I was exceptional. As to points 3 and 4, only time will tell, but we expect that a new partnership with several of the metro bars and The Ohio State Bar Association for the management of online Notary applications will, in time, be a solid investment for the Akron Bar. The work by the Board and Executive Director, Allen Nichols, was exceptional. The new enterprise will be hosted here at the Akron Bar with Allen as the interim director. Past President David Lewis will be Akron’s representative to the company for year one, and I feel confident that this endeavor is in good hands.

As I have said before, the Akron Bar is here to bring people together. It brings likeminded

professionals together for CLE and committee meetings. It brings people in need of legal help with those looking to help others. It is a resource for those looking to volunteer and serve their community. It is a place where those in the profession can meet to promote professionalism or lend a hand to a brother or sister in need. Membership has value. Please, reach out to non-members and encourage them to join. Also, support our CLE programs which are as good as any out there.

Service to the Akron Bar and spring rains have not helped with my golf handicap, which has gone from a 7 to a 10. While it may take a while for me to get my golf game back in shape, I will own this handicap and as a friend said, “When you finally get to play and start hitting it, that handicap will be a license to steal!” Of course, he has a similar quote regarding my law license.

Karen Adinolfi will be your incoming President with Hal DeSaussure as your President-elect. They will be fine and capable leaders of the Bar, and I was fortunate to have them around during my term. Also special thanks to those ending their terms on the Akron Bar Association Board, David Lewis, Past President; Susan Durr, Secretary; John Martin, Treasurer; and Trustees, Martin Belsky, Hal DeSaussure, Jr., and Kani Hightower.

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To be honest, I never thought I would ever have the opportunity to be President of this great Bar. I would like to thank Ron Kopp, Larry Scanlon and Carmen Roberto for their encouragement and support to make this happen. You made Baba proud.

*Bill*

William G. Chris, President

**Editor's Note:**

No, I am not retiring because of Bill! After retiring from the public sector in 2014, I came to the Akron Bar to manage marketing tasks at the invitation of Executive Director Allen Nichols. Allen and I had worked together in the past, so this was an agreeable "retirement job."

Nearly five years later, it really is time to embrace the next phase of my life. I may have "failed" at retirement the first time, but intend to get it right this time!

*Janet*

Janet Griffing-LaBonne, Director  
Member Services & Marketing