

President's Message

By Cathy Farrell, DE



Happy New Year! I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as your President of the Association of Bankruptcy Judicial Assistants. First I would like to thank everyone who attended our conference in Baltimore for your encouragement, patience, and support during my presidential "baptism by fire". When I ran for this office I was told I wouldn't be doing it alone and that certainly has proven to be true. I am surrounded by intelligent, dedicated, caring individuals to help me.

I am Judicial Assistant to the Honorable Mary F. Walrath, District of Delaware. I became her JA in September of 2003, but we have known each other for over 25 years since working together in a Philadelphia law firm back in the 80's. Apparently big hair bands weren't the only ones who made an impression that decade!

My introduction to the Association of Bankruptcy Judicial Assistants was in May, 2004, when the ABA sponsored a two-day Certified Bankruptcy Assistant (CBA) seminar and exam in Atlantic City. I took and passed the exam and made plans to attend the ABA's Annual Educational Conference the following October in Las Vegas. Looking back, I still can't believe I actually got on that plane by myself to attend a conference where I knew no one. I never regretted that decision, and I have only missed one conference since then!

To me, the highlight of the year is the Annual Educational Conference and I strongly encourage you to attend. It presents a forum for Judicial Assistants from all over the country to connect and share ideas and information with others who also work for bankruptcy judges or in the bankruptcy community. We provide specialized training and educational seminars led by distinguished speakers on topics relevant to our jobs. The Conference, CBA and CLE Committees have already been hard at work preparing another successful program. As we did in Orlando in 2007, we will share the city of New Orleans this October with the Judges who are attending the NCBJ Conference at the same time.

There is strength in numbers and by being a part of the ABA, you will be involved in issues that affect you personally and professionally. It is important that our membership is representative of the majority of Judicial Assistants so if you are not yet a member, I invite you to join. If you are already a member, get involved and make your voice heard. If you have never attended one of our conferences - make this the year! One of America's favorite cities, New Orleans is rich in culture, world famous cuisine, live music and unique entertainment.

Once again, thank you for electing me as your President, and know that my door is always open. I look forward to joining all the very dedicated and talented members who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the ABA's continued growth and success. Here's to a year filled with good health, family and friends (both old and new), and to a fantastic conference in New Orleans!
