

ADDRESS OF NEW PRESIDENT

Hon. Stephen L. McIntosh

Thank you for your warm reception.

I would first like to thank the CBA membership for allowing me to serve as your President this year.

Over the last few months as the beginning of my term approached, past presidents and members of the bar reached out to congratulate me and to offer their assistance. This illustrates for me the tremendous respect and interest the membership has for this organization. I appreciate your kind words of encouragement, your commitment and devotion to the CBA.

Elizabeth, thank you for your guidance and for your words of wisdom. The CBA's accomplishments under your leadership are truly impressive. I will strive to continue the momentum.

Judge Duncan, I am honored to have had you swear me in as CBA President. You are a respected professional and I appreciate your willingness to participate in this important event.

I would like to acknowledge my judicial colleagues from the Common Pleas Court in attendance today and ask them to stand to be recognized. I enjoy working with each of you and I consider this to be the best bench in the state of Ohio and one that this membership should be proud of.

I would also like to acknowledge other judges who are present today, please stand and be recognized as well. I thank you for your support.

My staff is also here, please stand and be recognized.

I am blessed to have my family here – my wife Sara and my children, Tyler, Phillip and Lillian.

Thank you ALL for being here today.

In reviewing the long list of past CBA presidents I realized it has been 30 years since a sitting judge has led the Columbus Bar Association. The late Judge Thomas J. Moyer was the last judge to hold this position in 1980. As I serve this year, I will strive to honor his memory and the legacy he created for our profession.

It is fortuitous that the new Franklin County Courthouse will be completed in January. You may be aware that our County Commissioners told designers they wanted the new Franklin County courthouse to stand as a symbol of the

transparency of the American justice system. The 'all glass' building serves as a reminder to us all to ensure that our decisions and actions are done with transparency. We are better judges and attorneys as a result.

As this year unfolds, one of our focuses at the CBA will be to celebrate the profession. When you practice as an attorney you get so caught up in your case and your client that many times you don't get to see the broader perspective in the courtroom.

I have a unique perspective on the bench. I get to see and appreciate all the hard work that our attorneys do each and every day. In spite of the demand made by clients, judges and case loads, I have to tell you it has been rewarding and wonderful to be able to see the dedication of our profession, and I want you to know you should be proud of what you do.

We hope to bring our judges and attorneys together for the first time in 10 years for a Bench-Bar Conference. The event will provide attorneys and judges with an opportunity to engage, interact and learn from each other.

I have already invited Mike Close to become one of the chairs, and he said he would only participate if the conference were scheduled when the weather is warm enough to golf. I am willing to make that concession to have Mike's participation. Conference planning has already begun.

This year we will experience a major transition - the retirement of Alex Lagusch and a new executive director will lead the organization into 2011. Alex has built such a strong foundation for the CBA as one of the best, if not the best, metropolitan bar association in the country. And we will honor your legacy Alex - the stellar reputation will not diminish – the future of the CBA is extremely bright.

For those persons who have served on the board or have served as officers, you know that Alex has the unique gift of making us feel important and special. Even after you have served your time or you are a past president, Alex still finds a way to make you feel special or important. It has been a wonderful experience as president-elect to have had time working with Alex. Alex is a genuinely good person and I will miss his leadership.

Finally, I'd like to share this historic perspective. It has an important message for our lives now...

In September 1862 Lincoln called a special session of his closet advisors. When they arrived, he was reading a book. At first he paid little attention to their entrance, then started to read aloud to them a piece by the humorist Artemus Ward entitled, " A High-Handed Outrage at Utica", which Lincoln found very funny.

At the end he laughed heartily but no one joined in; the cabinet members sat in stoney disapproval of the President's frivolity. Lincoln rebuked them: "Why don't you laugh? With the fearful strain that is upon me night and day, if I did not laugh I should die, and you need this medicine as much as I do." Then turning to business, he told them that he had privately prepared "a little paper of much significance."

It was the draft of the Emancipation Proclamation.

What we do is hard work. But in the middle of the stress of our day, we don't always have to be serious. Some of our best work can be done in moments not nearly as serious as the one facing Lincoln.

Thank you.