



## Remarks of Outgoing President, Kathleen M. Trafford

When I was a young girl, my mom would ask me when I got home from school, “What did you learn today.” When our kids were young, Buzz and I would ask them too, “what did you learn today.” So today, I want to share with you some, not all, of the things I learned this year as president.

***I learned that CBA past presidents don’t have caller id.*** No matter how many times I or Alex called them for advice or to take on a new assignment, they answered their phone. The commitment of the Columbus legal leadership, and I do not limit it to only past presidents – it also includes managing partners and our many sustaining members -- is amazing. Columbus is a better place to practice because so many lawyers stay engaged in the profession and the bar throughout their careers. Thank you all for continuing to support your local bar association, even when the economy throws us a curve.

***I learned that young lawyers don’t carry Coach briefcases. They work at odd hours. And they would rather text, email and twitter than speak person to person.*** But once you look past the differences, you quickly see that lawyers in this new generation are passionate about what they do and eager to do more. I am confident that the future of our legal community is going to be in very good hands. But please let’s make sure we continue to support and mentor our younger lawyers.

***I learned that some of our best players are sitting on the bench.*** I have been hanging out in courtrooms for almost thirty years, but only this year did I come to appreciate just how much our judges do outside the courtroom – teaching, mentoring, serving on boards and committees. They are approachable, engaged, and eager to do their part for the profession. We are very lucky that our judicial branch reaches out to us in so many supportive ways.

***I learned that CBA really stands for “Can Be Accomplished!”*** Bob the Builder and President Obama may think they have the best “Can Do” attitude but they have not seen the CBA staff in action. As they hammer out the solutions that lead to a job well done, Alex and our wonderful staff demonstrate the power of positive-thinking, problem-solving, teamwork and follow-through.

That is the attitude that delivered our new website, electronic voting, the CLE Easy Pass, the Economic Tool Kit, Green Spot certification, – and much more in a year when some might have settled for less.

***Sadly, I learned that over the years I had come to take being a lawyer for granted.*** But I now have a renewed sense of what a privilege it is to practice our profession. Our work is intellectually challenging, allows us the flexibility to balance

other demands and interests, and is rewarding in many tangible and intangible ways. And while we do not heal broken bones or save troubled souls, we solve the problems and carry the burdens of others in some very real and unique ways. Thank you for the opportunity you gave me to see what all you are accomplishing for your clients and our community and to reflect on why this is such a great profession.

***Happily, I learned that a short speech is always a better speech.*** So let me end the remarks now and yield the floor to our special honoree today, Elizabeth Watters, your new CBA president. Be as good to her as you have been to me . . . and, hey, be good to each other out there!