

A Plan for Tomorrow

By Mark Petrucci

I recently read a historical novel on the life of Thomas Cromwell. The book is titled *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel. If you do not know about Thomas Cromwell, he was a commoner who rose to become the right-hand man of Cardinal Wolsey and then King Henry the VIII. A line in the book struck me as very compelling. It was attributed to Thomas Cromwell by the author. The passage came while Cromwell was giving advice to a younger member of his household: "It is all very well planning what you do in 6 months, or what you will do in a year, but it's no good at all if you don't have a plan for tomorrow."

You may not believe me, but the moment I read that line in the book I was transported back from 1530's England to today. I thought about the Columbus Bar's efforts to look long term. In fact our new long range plan for the next five years is about to be finalized. The Columbus Bar has always been committed to keeping its eye on the horizon to see what is coming. But the advice conveyed in the comment by Cromwell reminded me that the future is great, but the present is now.

I believe we are all fortunate to have the opportunity to be a part of the CBA. It has led our legal community faithfully and inventively for years. It will continue do so into the

future. But during my time as president I intend to renew the focus on a "plan for tomorrow."

With the cooperation of the board and staff, I hope to renew and/or redouble **the our** efforts to enhance the membership experience. What I hope to accomplish is a maximization of the membership experience. When a member calls on or comes to the Columbus Bar, the member will come away from that contact, satisfied and wanting to do more with and for their local bar association.

The CBA already has many programs today that help all of its members one way or another including the health insurance program, outstanding CLE seminars, bonds, the inc(cubator) program for new attorneys 1-5 years out of law school, multiple discounts with everything from dry cleaning to courier services, athletic clubs, and office supplies, to name just a few. We are already working to keep our members up to date and strong. But there is always more we can do.

To that end, we need to plan for tomorrow's committee work, for tomorrow's CLE at your Neighborhood Bar, etc. We cannot overlook the day-to-day opportunities to make our members proud of our organization. As a community of local lawyers we must strive to enhance the daily lives of our members. It can be as simple as making sure someone is there to say hello when a member comes to a committee meeting – and as complex as providing excellent planning tools for a committee. We continue to be responsive to requests/suggestions for CLE and other programs. We will look at new and better ways to reward active membership. We will strive to increase active participation in all that we do.

Should you have an idea on what we can do to plan for tomorrow, please call Executive Director Jill Snitcher McQuain or email me at mark@petruccifamily.org. Better yet, if you see me, please let me know what the Columbus Bar can do to help. Just get your idea to me so it can be considered. I cannot imagine that we are doing everything right – but I honestly believe that we are trying. In any organization, there is always room for improvement.

When I read the passage attributed to Cromwell, it also reminded me of the 20th century quote from General Patton. Referencing planning, Patton said: "A good plan violently executed now is better than a perfect plan next week." So, help us plan for tomorrow by sending in your ideas. I look forward to them. And I look forward to my year as President of this exceptional organization.



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