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From the Chair

Christopher D. Glover

Beasley Allen Crow Methvin Portis & Miles, PC
Montgomery, AL

As I pen my first message "From the Chair," I reflect on my journey through AAJ. My first AAJ convention was in Atlanta, Georgia. I lived in Birmingham, Alabama, at the time and the short drive to Atlanta was a considerable incentive to attend.

I was initially overwhelmed by the many meetings, CLEs, and social functions. Then I discovered the New Lawyer's Division (NLD), where I met Kirk Wager, then Chair, Jeff Padwa, and Clint Sargent. They welcomed me into the group and I bought into what they were doing. Today, those three are still among my best friends.



Christopher D. Glover

I am reminded of all the other benefits I've received since that first convention. I have become a much better lawyer by learning from the best. I have protected my client's rights by fundraising and lobbying. I have physically helped rebuild communities and have aided those in need with various service projects. I have met lawyers across the country who have allowed me the opportunity to work with them on their client's cases. The list is endless.

To serve is our collective obligation as lawyers and as members of this association. Personally, to give back is how I was raised by my parents, it is what my faith mandates, it is because that was the example set by the lawyers with whom I've practiced. "Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless." Isaiah 10:1-3. I see AAJ carrying that battle flag. We defend the defenseless, we speak for the voiceless, we

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From the Chair, continued

stand for those who can't. Engaging in this fight with you has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my career.

I hope you will join me in the fight by becoming more involved in the NLD. There are several ways for you to participate:

Help Recruit New Lawyers

Take part in the next Phonathon, scheduled for May 2009. The Phonathon goal is to increase AAJ NLD Membership. By taking a few hours to phone colleagues who are not yet AAJ members, you'll meet new people, have fun, and increase the AAJ network. AAJ reimburses your expenses for one night of hotel stay, travel, and related expenses (collectively up to \$1,000). If you are interested in participating in a membership drive, or have any questions, please contact Whitney Larman, AAJ Staff liaison, at whitney.larman@justice.org.

Rebuild Communities

Another great way to get involved is to participate in an NLD-sponsored public service project. Each year the Division makes a commitment to the community through hands-on projects that allow us to give something back. One such project is Habitat for Humanity, which is an independent, charitable housing program dedicated to the elimination of poverty housing by building homes in partnership with families in need. During the 2008 Annual Convention in Philadelphia, we did an event with Greater Philly Cares and spent time with some great folks at the Eliza Shirley House. Plans are underway for a Habitat event at the 2009 Winter Convention in New Orleans. To get involved, please contact Whitney Larman at whitney.larman@justice.org.

Contribute Documents to the NLD Document Library

Why reinvent the wheel? The Document Library is one of the greatest assets the NLD offers to New Lawyers. Administered by the AAJ Exchange, it is full of pleadings, discovery requests, briefs, motions, deposition outlines, etc.—and it's free! These documents are available online and can be accessed through the AAJ NLD home page or the AAJ Exchange. The Library has more than 500 documents. All it takes is a moment to share documents that you think might be helpful

to other New Lawyers. To contribute, please e-mail your submissions to the Chair of the Document Library Committee, Sach Oliver, at soliver@baileyoliverlawfirm.com.

Protect the Civil Justice System

Help us fundraise on behalf of pro-civil-justice candidates. Sadly, the rights of our clients and all consumers are being compromised in Washington, DC, and in your state's capital. AAJ's support of political officials who support the civil justice system is an important way this organization stands up for clients. If you would like to help us in these efforts, please contact Corban Gunn at corban@cgvlaw.com.

Become Active in the NLD Board of Governors

The NLD Board of Governors is the lifeblood of the NLD. The Board of Governors works with the NLD Executive Committee to organize and carry out the numerous NLD activities throughout the year that make AAJ stronger and protect the civil justice system. NLD Governors participate in quarterly conference calls to learn various activities and mobilize to action. In addition to helping with the activities discussed above, NLD Governors often write Sidebar newsletter articles, write Web site content, fundraise for pro-civil-justice candidates, serve as mentors to law students and law grads, sponsor winter and annual NLD convention parties, and strengthen the NLD in other similar ways. If you are interested in applying for the NLD Board of Governors, please contact the Cochairs of the Board of Governors Committee, Dan Nelson at dnelson@kreindler.com, and Emily Hawk Raley at hawk@alabamatortlaw.com.

So lace up your gloves and enter the ring. I am confident that this fight will be as rewarding to you as it is for me.

Christopher D. Glover
Chair, AAJ New Lawyers Division