

FIRST WORDS FROM 1978-79 LSBA PRESIDENT

Editor's Note: For this issue's "The Last Word," we chose to republish the first words from Bob F. Wright, the Louisiana State Bar Association president in 1978-79. Mr. Wright's first President's Message in Volume 26 touches on some issues still being addressed today. See Mr. Wright's interview in this issue on page 22.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Lawyers:

Working with President Howard Gist, Jr., Tom Collins, Jr. and his staff, during the past year was most enjoyable and enlightening for me. Personally, and on behalf of the Bar Association, I would like to extend to Mr. Gist our deep appreciation for his excellent leadership during the year where many important issues confronted the Association not the least of which was lawyer advertising.

For the 1978-79 year, your president's by-words will be *involvement* and *unity*.

Involvement by all of our 9,000 members in the activities and projects may be too much to expect but not too much to seek.

The many lawyers who have been, and still are, involved in Bar Association activities will attest to the real need for more individual lawyer participation in order to accomplish the Association's goals. Greater participation with the resulting input will be of benefit to all.

More *unity* within the Association, between all segments whether it be the plaintiff or defense bar—commercial practitioners or trial lawyers—more seasoned lawyers and young lawyers—will most certainly strengthen our voice and improve the Association's public image. Both strength and imagination will be needed if your Association is to effectively represent all lawyers in pending concerns over lawyer advertising, continuing legal education, self-designation or certification of lawyers, legal malpractice insurance, anti-trust threats, contingency fees and "no fault" insurance, to mention a few.

Some of our specific objectives for the ensuing year are:

1. Further consideration of the enactment of a program for self-designation of lawyers in Louisiana.
2. Distribution of permanent type laminated membership cards to all members.
3. Creation of a "Task Force" for long-range planning for the Louisiana State Bar Association.
4. Stimulating more interest within the sections and committees of the State Bar Association.
5. Holding regular meetings with the Supreme Court to allow the Court and the Association to maintain a closer relationship.
6. Creating and maintaining a better relationship with the press.
7. Institution of a more active public relations program in order to counteract complaints concerning the unavailability and/or difficulty in obtaining legal services.



BOB F. WRIGHT

8. Institution of a Watts Line in the State Office to allow free and easy contact between Association members and our Executive Counsel's Office.
9. A regular Louisiana Bar Association Newsletter to supplement the Louisiana Bar Journal so that members will be kept more current on Association activities.
10. Expanding upon the continuing legal education programs sponsored by the Bar Association.
11. Inviting a larger number of exhibitors to annual conventions to better inform busy lawyers of changing practices and law office equipment as well as to increase Bar Association income.
12. Arranging what we expect to be the largest Louisiana State Bar Association Convention in Louisiana history to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, May 6, 1979 through May 10, 1979.

In assuming the Presidency of this Association, I am, of course, proud, but also humble. One old colleague often reminds me that I practice law like I used to plow fields in Illinois—straight ahead and with little imagination. My response to this analysis (probably true) is that with a good team of horses pulling the plow, we will not only sow but reap a fine yield for the Louisiana State Bar Association in 1978-79.

We earnestly urge each of you to join the team.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob F. Wright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.