



Small-b bar Our Focus

What about Arizona's legal history fascinates you?

The State Bar is 75 years old this year, and we expect to publish some stories on that grand old event in a fall issue.

But birthdays are notoriously hard to pull off well. I mean, let's admit it: After we're, say, 10 years old, who but the birthday boy or girl really cares about the blessed event? Pardon the Ebenezer Scrooge, but we all know what a dour and desultory affair a birthday can be—all obligation through gritted teeth, thank-you's to well-wishers wishing to be elsewhere, gifts better left in the category of "thought" rather than "bought."

In the magazine, here's the kind of birthday we don't want: a celebration that readers politely decline, or one that they skim while stealing glances at their watches—and the door. How do we make the 75th a bash readers want to attend?

In 2003, we covered a lot of Bar history when the Bar turned 70, and we won't revisit the same tales. In fact, here at the magazine, what interests us is lawyers and their work, not just the State Bar and hers. An anniversary of the Bar is a celebration of law practice, not just Bar history. Here's some of what is planned, and how you can contribute:

- Some stories about **Arizona legal lights**, people who have given color to our colorful legal tapestry. Who should be on that short list? Send me the names of those who have been unsung but significant in Arizona law practice. Let's surprise each other.
- A **timeline of Arizona legal history**—beyond the expected. For example: Who was the first woman county attorney, and which court was the first to use electronic filing? Where in Arizona was the first million-dollar verdict? Where in our state did the facts of historic Supreme Court opinions occur? Send us markers that you'd like to see on that timeline, whether you know the complete story or not.
- Our own readers' words on the topic of "**Where We Are Now in Law Practice.**" Let's not just look back, but instead take stock of our current picture. On page 73 is our "call" for submissions. Send us your musing, your philosophizing, your ranting. What we want are your thoughts about the law, unmediated by others' analysis or summary. **What do you think about when you think about the law?**

Write to me at arizona.attorney@azbar.org.



Tim Eigo

On May 1 will be one marker of where we are in 2008. On that day, a panel will examine the topic of "**The Rule of Law: The Importance of an Independent Judiciary.**" Sponsored by the Bar and the Maricopa County Superior Court, legal leaders will discuss and debate questions like merit selection of judges and separation of powers. **I have the privilege to moderate the group.** If the panelists and I do our jobs right, it should be a rollicking good time. So come on out: **May 1, Noon-1:30 p.m., Board of Supervisors Auditorium, 205 W. Jefferson, Phoenix.**

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