

# Farewell



By Thomas L. Cuni

**W**hen I began my term as president, I was told by Phil Schworer — and by several of our predecessors — that the year in office would pass very quickly. They were, of course, right. It does not seem possible that it is already ending. It has been one of the most enjoyable experiences of my career. I do enjoy the company of attorneys and my time in office has given me many pleasant hours shared with the members of our profession.

There is much to do to improve the legal profession. However, that statement has always been true and I believe that it will always remain true. The law and society's concept of justice are constantly changing. Therefore, those who practice in the legal profession have to evolve to meet the challenges of an increasingly more complex world. I think that the CBA accomplishes one of its most important missions by assisting lawyers to learn and adapt to changing times, and that it is also successful in promoting the fair administration of justice.

I believe that the CBA is an extraordinary organization. The staff of the CBA is dedicated, hard-working and effective. The help and support which

I have received as a volunteer and as an officer has always been splendid. Those who know me will understand the staff of the CBA really, really earned its pay this year. My thanks to everyone at the CBA.

As quickly as the year may have passed for me, I am sure that for Executive Director John Norwine, it has

seemed like a decade. I told John a year ago that one of my principal goals was to make this seem like the longest year of his life. That goal aside, John does everything well, except take a compliment. Since this is my page, I get to say what he would otherwise refuse to allow anyone to say. He has been a true friend to me for many years and I truly appreciate all that he has done for me.

I think that more lawyers know my wife, Sally, than know me. Sally claims to like being with attorneys. She says that as a shy person, she has anxieties about being in situations where there might be an awkward pause in the conversation. For

a year Sally has been completely free of that anxiety. With lawyers, the conversation rarely pauses and it never stops. We both have had a good time attending many of the CBA events this year.

I have enjoyed working with, and getting to know, Judge Julia Stautberg over the past couple of years. The opportunity

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to work with Julie during my term in office was one of the highlights of a very good year. Julie will be a terrific president of the CBA and I am looking forward to serving on her executive committee in my new office of immediate past president — now, that is a real title.

Finally, I want to thank you, the nearly 4,000 members of the CBA, for giving me the privilege of serving as the president of this organization. It has been a gift beyond measure. ■

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*Cuni is 2009-10 president of the Cincinnati Bar Association.*

*See page 35 for information about the Annual Meeting and the swearing-in of 2010-2011 President Judge Julia Stautberg.*