



John T. Berry

Life Is What Happens When...

We have all heard the saying that life is what happens while we are planning and looking for the future.

As individuals, families, and organizations we become who we are by the good, bad, or lack of decisions we make in day-to-day life and planning for tomorrow.

I'm all for planning, but in this fast-paced world the days of sticking to a four-year plan as if it were written in the clouds just does not work.

With that balance in mind, your State Bar Board of Commissioners will meet in March to look at how we have done in regards to our existing Strategic Plan. The plan may be viewed at <http://www.michbar.org/general/info/strategicplan.cfm>. Your comments are solicited and may be sent to voice@mail.michbar.org. We will determine what tweaking is warranted based on input from you.

As you read this article "you" take on great significance.

If you are active in the Bar through committees, sections, educational opportunities, marketing, or leadership then you are likely to have given much input duly recorded and noted by us at the Bar.

If you do not fit in that category, welcome to the majority of lawyers. It is you I'm asking for input from.

Let it be known in this article and in other ways we need to hear your thoughts—they are important to us all for the future of our profession.

I'm deliberately not going to use this article to highlight what we hope are viewed as positive things the Bar is doing.

This article has one purpose—to find out what is on your mind. What is going well in your practice and in the legal profession in general? What do you see as our pressing needs?

Being a Bar leader at times is challenging, but wow, it is worth it when you see you have helped someone.

Each e-mail and letter will be listened to. Each form of communication will be another bit of useful information.

For those who do not have the time, desire, or interest to share your thoughts, I promise (even if you do not read this or another word!) that all of us will do all we can

to find ways to serve you as much as those closest to the action of the Bar.

I wish each of you the best year yet in 2005. By the time this reaches you, maybe we can all look forward to spring together. I don't know about you, but Barb and I are ready.

On a personal note, we decided over the holidays to drive to visit our gorgeous two-year-old granddaughter (pictures available on request!) in Texas. I called it an opportunity for adventure.

After 1200 miles (literally) of snow and ice almost the entire way, I learned two lessons to apply to life.

First, find another way to have an adventure! Secondly, as long as something great is at the end of a tough journey it is really worth it!

Being a lawyer is tough work, but most of you still find it is worth it. Being a Bar leader at times is challenging, but wow, it is worth it when you see you have helped someone.

Being a grandparent is ALWAYS worth it!

Keep those suggestions coming, whether you think we are doing a good job or whether we have a ways to go in certain areas. We appreciate and need both. ♦

Share your thoughts/concerns

Please forward comments to voice@mail.michbar.org