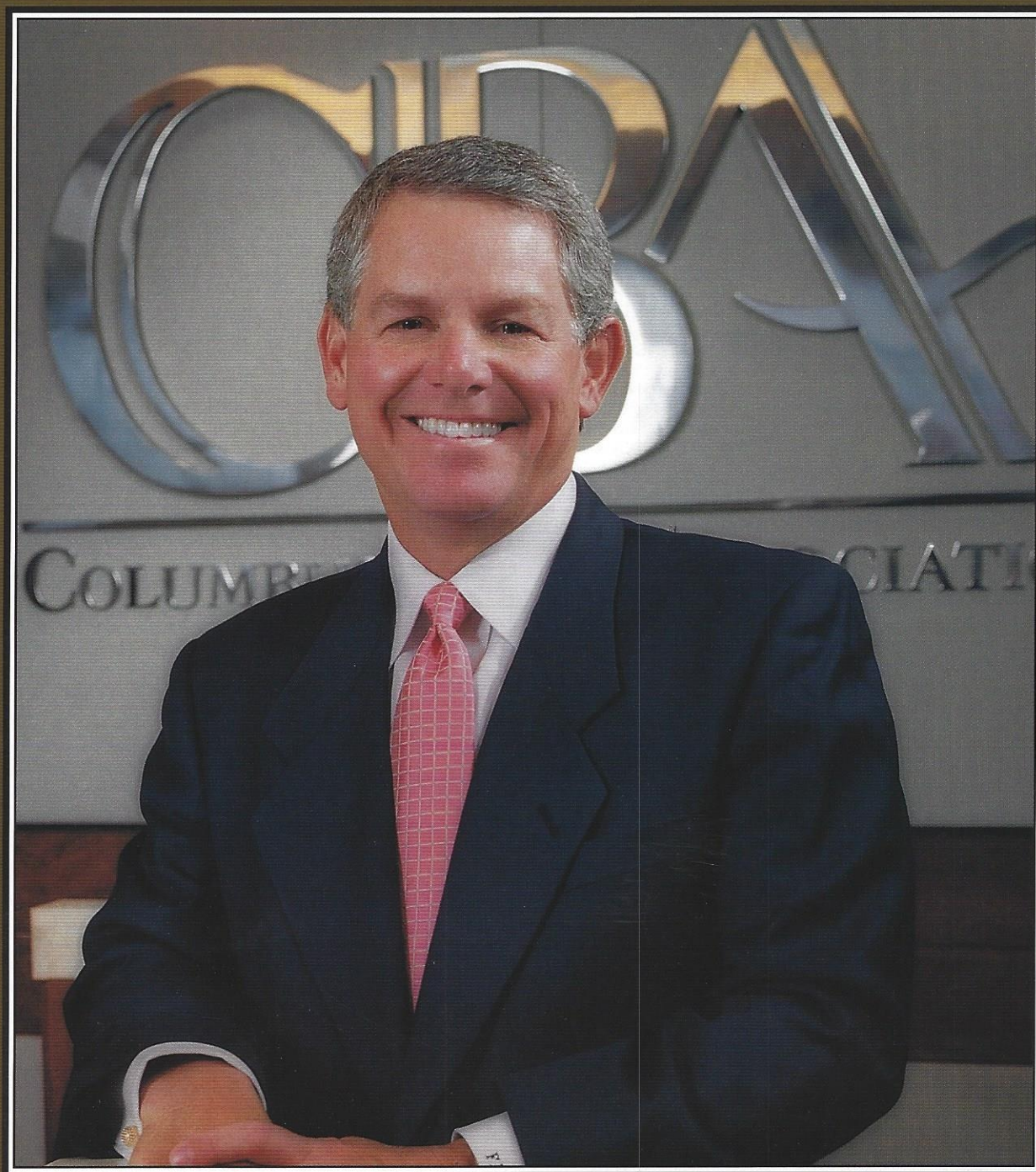


BARbriefs

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Frank A. Ray
President 2001-2002

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Frank A. Ray: Taking On Another Challenge

By Harry Franken

Good leadership skills. Well organized. Aware of all the details. Friendly. Pleasant. A great president. Great concentration. One of the best of the herd.

Those are a few of the comments you get when you look at where Frank A. Ray has been and ask how he will do as president of the Columbus Bar Association.

And if you like what you get, you can thank whoever was dean of the graduate school at Ohio State University back in 1970.

"I had been accepted for dental school, but I decided that's not what I wanted to do with my life. The dean of the graduate school suggested law and he was right," Ray says as he looks at his life since he became a lawyer in 1973.

He served as an assistant prosecuting attorney for Franklin County until 1976 when he accepted a one-year appointment as Director of the National Economic Crime Project in Washington D.C. The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. At age 27, Ray was responsible for coordinating a 50-city strike force of prosecutors targeting fraud and governmental corruption cases. He administered for total staffs of 536 persons, both professional and clerical.

"Frank was one of the most outstanding lawyers to have served on my staff," recalls U.S. District Judge George C. Smith, who was then Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney. "I got to select him for the job in Washington and he immediately accepted, showing that no task was too great for him, even at his young age. It is easy to see why he moved on to leadership in personal injury and related law."

At that time, Smith had a leadership role in the National District Attorneys Association. He said Ray went to Washington, rented an apartment "and got right into the mix of things."

Ray returned to the prosecutor's office after that assignment and became Chief Counsel of the Civil Division.

One of his assistants then was David Johnson, now a Franklin County Common Pleas Judge, who had gone to law school after a career as an Army aviator.

"He was a young guy and I was an older beginner," the former colonel says. "He was Mr. Personality, and I don't mean that in a bad way. He was ingratiating. He could accomplish more by being nice than by being tough. He was good to me."

"We were both members of the Continental Athletic Club. I would be in the hot tub as he headed for the swimming pool and he often didn't recognize me without his glasses. After years around airplanes and helicopters, I was hard of hearing. He'd squint and I'd yell."

Ray became an associate of Michael Colley Co., LPA on Jan. 1, 1979, and that led to his interest in the Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers. He was president of OATL from 1989-1990.

Joan Reed, secretary of OATL at the time, remembers Ray as a hard worker. "He answered all the mail he received. He would bring in a tape of letters for me to write once or twice every week. I'd often hear the clattering of dishes in the background as he dictated. I thought he was working at home, but I found out later he dictated the letters while having breakfast at Tee Jaye's County Place restaurant just down the street," Reed recalls.

Ray founded and became president of Frank A. Ray Co., LPA in 1983, the year after he married his wife, Carol. He headed the company until 1992 and then served with a number of law firms until reforming the firm in 2000.

The firm is limited in practice to civil litigation, concentrating on products liability, vehicular collision and premises liability for personal injury and wrongful death claimants.

He is not without hobbies. Ray loves baseball and since the formation of the Columbus Clippers, Triple A affiliate of the New York Yankees, he has served as the team's legal counsel. He has also served as legal counsel for the International League of Professional Baseball Clubs.

He has also recently taken up golf.

He says he "plays at golf," but Gene P. King, former executive director of the OATL says, "He has a handicap of ten or 12, and that's not shabby after just playing four or five years."

Ray is a past-president of the Franklin County Trial Lawyers Association and the Robert M. Duncan Chapter of Inns of Court. He has served as Ohio's State Delegate to the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

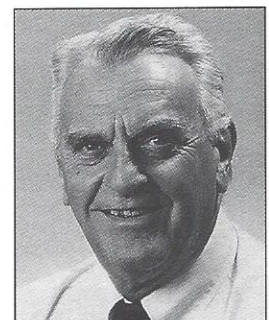
He has obtained certification as a Civil Trial Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He is a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers, International Society of Barristers, the Ohio State Bar Foundation, The Ohio Academy of Trial Lawyers, the Roscoe Pound Foundation and the Columbus Bar Foundation. He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. He's listed in *Who's Who in America*, *Who's Who in American Law*, and *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Ray served on the Supreme Court of Ohio's Board of Bar Examiners from 1992 through 1995 and on the Court's Rules Advisory Committee from 1995 through 1999.

In 2000, he was appointed to the Board of Editors of the Federal Judicial Center's Manual for Complex Litigation by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ray is a local boy. He graduated from Upper Arlington High School in 1966 and got his undergraduate degree in English from The Ohio State University in 1970. He is also a distinguished graduate of the Reserve Officer

Training Corps at Ohio State and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Defense Artillery of the Army in 1970. He was honorably discharged as a captain in



Harry Franken

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the Infantry, U.S. Army Reserve, in 1976.

Ray is well known around Ohio and the country as a lecturer at legal seminars and as the author of professional articles and treatises.

He has won a number of awards, ranging from preparing the best brief in the Midwest Division of the National Moot Court Competition in 1972 to being declared Lawyer of the Year by *Ohio Lawyer* in 1999.

Ray anticipates a smooth year as president of the Columbus Bar Association. He has taken part in preparation of the Strategic Plan of the CBA and other association activities and likes what he sees.

If an article is written about his term of office, it may well say that he has been a great team player.

On the other hand, who knows what may develop. It is safe to say that whatever happens, Frank A. Ray will be ready for it. His office is just eight floors down from the CBA office at 175 S. Third Street.

Let his term begin with a couple of quotes from another name in baseball – Yogi Berra. “The future ain’t what it used to be,” and “It ain’t over till it’s over!”

