

## **New Home for BHBA**

*By Lawrence H. Jacobson  
President-Elect*

For as long as I can remember, it has been a “dream” of the Beverly Hills Bar Association to have a new home for the Bar. A home that reflects all that we are and all that we stand for: leaders in the bar association world, presenters of first rate, continuing legal education programs, and providers of the highest standard of service to our members, the legal community and the larger community. In recent years, as we had outgrown our current offices physically, technologically, and, perhaps even in terms of image – this dream of a new home became a “need.”

And how fortunate are we that, as we begin the celebration of our 80th Anniversary (1931-2011), we have just

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entered into a lease for wonderful new offices in Beverly Hills. This quality space will serve as a home for our Members, our Leaders, our Staff, colleagues, friends, and the community.

Approximately five years ago at a Board of Governors Strategic Planning Session, and at every subsequent retreat session, focus group and even informal discussions with leaders and members, when asked about the most important changes for the future, almost everyone put finding a new home for the Bar at the top of the list.

Following the request of the Board of Governors, the Building Committee, which I was honored to chair, was entrusted with the task of finding a suitable facility. Despite the ebbs and flows of the economy and the Beverly Hills real estate market, hundreds of potential locations were considered, and dozens were toured. With the assistance of Jim Travers, Lee Polster, and Daniel Reuben of Travers Realty, the search finally focused on three sites. After extensive negotiations, Travers



*Signing the new lease.*

Realty and our Executive Director Marc Staenberg negotiated what can truly be said is the deal of a lifetime.

The facility at 9420 Wilshire Boulevard is one of the premiere office buildings in Beverly Hills. We were able to lock in very favorable rental rates for the next decade with a new 11-year lease including options.

When the project is complete in 2012, the Bar will relocate from its present 4,148 square foot space to a nearly 10,000 square foot Bar Center designed by a major national architectural firm and custom built for the Bar Association.

The new offices will have upgraded facilities to accommodate our members at programs, meetings and events, plus allow our staff to provide services at the highest possible level.

Two key features of the new premises will be flexible meeting rooms with sufficient capacity to accommodate growing audiences at our many MCLE programs heretofore held at offsite venues and increased visitor parking, which will allow most of our MCLE programs to be presented on site at a significant cost savings.

As the BHBA prepares to celebrate 80 years, we look to the future in a welcoming and wonderful new home consistent with our position as a preeminent Bar Association serving the Los Angeles region and one of the leading metropolitan bar associations in the country. We eagerly look ahead to our next 80 years of serving our members and leading the legal profession and our community. And we can't wait to welcome all our members and friends as we celebrate our new home. **BB**