

**1. Trouble on the Mighty Mississippi:** The news has yet to pick this up. The Mississippi River is on the verge of closing all commerce due to a prolonged drought. The US Army Corps of Engineers is doing “business as usual” which means it will cease releasing water from reservoirs and dams along the Missouri River which would flow and correct the lower levels in the Mississippi. Also, they are scheduled to remove dangerous rocks and dredge between St. Louis and Cairo, IL late this spring. We strongly urge them to maintain the water flows and expedite the rock removal. For more information [go here](#)

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**2. Kudos for Three Nations:** Congratulations are in order for Botswana, Cape Verde and Rwanda for being named the three least corrupt nations on the continent of Africa. They received this distinction from Transparency International.

**3. 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention:** The venue of our 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention will be Palm Beach, Florida. We will have the exact date in July, 2013 shortly. You will love this property and events should be really “jumping” next year.

**4. Two Amicus Briefs before the US Supreme Court:** It is with much pride that we now see two Amicus Briefs accepted by the US Supreme Court. One deals with the affirmative action case known as [Fisher vs. University of Texas-Austin](#). The other concerns [Shelby, AL vs. Eric Holder](#)

. This has caused some confusion among people in the civil rights industry. Some think that the NBCC is attacking the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Of course not!!! We feel that Section 5 of this wonderful law has now become irrelevant as times have changed for the better and other vehicles are now in place. We have had briefs before the Supreme Court 6 times before these two and have won each time. We anticipate our record of unanimous victories to remain.