



# Capitol Assets

Newsletter of the Capitol Hill Chapter  
Of the Federal Bar Association

January 2001

## Computer Technology, DNA Evidence and Death Penalty Appeals in the Federal Courts

Plan on attending this upcoming Program on Thursday February 8, 2001, Noon – 1:30 pm

This luncheon program features two distinguished speakers:

**Cynthia Rapp** (staff attorney with the Office of the Clerk, U.S. Supreme Court), who will describe how appeals in capital cases with a scheduled execution date are filed and managed in the U.S. Supreme Court, how changes in federal law and procedure have affected the Court's handling of such cases, as well as how advancements in technology have affected the capital appeals process in the federal courts;

**Christopher Asplen** (Executive Director, National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence, National Institute of Justice, United States Department of Justice), who will outline the ethical, social, and legal

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## Message from the President

*Chapter President Melissa Mueller*

A cheery welcome to our members, and especially the new ones, of the Capitol Hill Chapter! I hope your membership in the FBA and this Chapter is bringing you an opportunity for professional growth, friendship, and shared experiences with colleagues. For some, I hope this will bring you an opportunity for leadership and encourage you to become more involved with your Chapter. The FBA continues to be your strongest voice and leading organization supporting the goals and objectives of the federal practitioner and government attorney.

As described in more detail in this newsletter, the Chapter already has scheduled several exciting programs for this spring and summer. I encourage you

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## Meet the New President-Elect

The Chapter is pleased to announce that **Bruce Kasold** was nominated and elected as President-Elect. Bruce has been an FBA and Chapter member for many years. He is currently the General Counsel for the Secretary of the Senate and the Sergeant at Arms. Previously, he was the Chief Counsel for the Senate Rules Committee. Bruce has also been active in the American Bar Association in the past, serving as Chair of the Military Service Lawyers Committee and as a delegate to the young Lawyer's Committee in the early 1980's. Bruce will become Chapter President in October 2001.

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issues arising in criminal cases as a result of advances in DNA analysis and how DNA evidence is used in federal capital cases.

**The program will be held in the Judicial Conference Center of the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building (One Columbus Circle N.E., next to Union Station), Washington D.C. on Thursday, February 8, from Noon until 1:30 p.m. Reservations are required. The \$13 cost of the program (\$18 for non-FBA members) includes a catered lunch. For information, and to register, please contact Jennifer Evans Marsh at 202-502-4095.**

### Highlights of the 2000 Program Year

#### February--Solicitor General

Solicitor General Seth Waxman addressed the Chapter at a luncheon program on February 15, 2000. As Solicitor General, Mr. Waxman represents the U.S. government in cases before the Supreme Court, determines what position the Government takes in those cases, decides which cases the Government should ask the Court to hear, and, in general, supervises the Government's decisions to seek appellate review in the U.S. courts of appeals. Bill Suter, Clerk of the Supreme Court, and Chapter Council member, introduced Mr. Waxman. Mr. Waxman gave a riveting talk and was extremely gracious towards those attending, especially after the luncheon was disrupted by a fire drill, and in fielding the numerous questions from the large audience.

#### April--Legislative Drafting

The Chapter's own **Mark Mathiesen** presented a program on "Transforming Ideas Into Legislation." Mark, an Assistant Counsel in the Office of the Senate Legislative Counsel, has represented the Senate on the Chapter Council for several years. The program fulfilled the Chapter's long-time intention of sponsoring a program on legislative drafting, and this well-attended and well-received program explored considerations involved in having an idea transformed into a format that could be considered by the Congress. Not only did Mark provide practical advice, but Mark also explained the framework for legislative bill drafting in the Senate. The Chapter hopes to build on the success of this program by presenting further programs on legislative drafting.

### Highlights of 2000 (continued)

#### May--Supreme Court luncheon

Lyle Denniston, Supreme Court reporter for The Baltimore Sun was the guest of the Chapter at the annual spring luncheon at the Supreme Court of the United States on May 17. Mr. Denniston, the Dean of the Supreme Court press corps, provided his perspectives on having covered for Court for more than 4 decades, including one out of every four Justices ever to sit on the Court. Mr. Denniston focused on the changing nature of coverage by the news media of the Supreme Court and important legal issues. Attendees included then FBA President Jackie Goff and the FBA's new Executive Director, Jack Lockridge. Mr. Denniston was introduced by **Dale Bosley**, Marshal of the U.S. Supreme Court and a member of the Chapter's Council, who had taken a course from Mr. Denniston while a student at Georgetown Law School. Mr. Denniston was one of the few non-lawyers on the adjunct faculty there.

#### June--Ethics Program

On June 8, the Chapter presented the fourth Robert D. Poling Symposium on Professional Responsibility for Government Attorneys at the Library of Congress. This half day CLE program, "Practical Ethics for the Government Lawyer: Outside Activities and Employment" continues to honor the memory of **Bob Poling** who was actively involved with the Chapter and previous Chapter Ethics CLE programs before his untimely death in November 1996. The program was sponsored and organized by Bob's colleagues from the Library of Congress. Bob's wife Carole Poling was able to attend this year's program, which was again moderated by Dean Samuel McClendon of Howard University Law School. Panelists were Jane Ley of the Office of Government Ethics, Michael Robinson of the Justice Dept., Chapter member **Marilyn Holmes** of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, and Jesse James and Margaret Williams of the Library of Congress. The program focused on the rules and considerations faced by federal government attorneys (executive, legislative, and judicial branches) in engaging in outside activities and employment, including discussions of recent case law.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY, DNA EVIDENCE AND DEATH PENALTY APPEALS IN THE FEDERAL COURTS

LUNCHEON PROGRAM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, NOON – 1:30 PM

See related story above for further details.

### DAVID BRODER, WASHINGTON POST POLITICAL COLUMNIST

LUNCHEON PROGRAM

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, NOON – 1:30 PM

Details To Be Announced.

### CONGRESSMAN BENJAMIN CARDIN

LUNCHEON PROGRAM

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, NOON – 1:30 PM

Details To Be Announced.

### SPRING LUNCHEON AT THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, NOON – 1:30 PM

Details To Be Announced

### ROBERT D. POLING SYMPOSIUM ON PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

JUNE

MORNING CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Details To Be Announced

## FBA 2000 National Convention

The FBA held its annual convention in Cleveland on September 20-23, 2000. This meeting marked the formal finish to President (and past Chapter president) **Jackie Goff**'s term. Full coverage of the convention is in the November/December 2000 issue of The Federal Lawyer. Representing the Chapter at the convention were Chapter Secretary **Doreen Feldman** and at-large council member (and past Chapter president) **Bob Lincoln**. At the convention Doreen also commenced her term as Chair of the FBA's Environment, Energy and Natural Resources Section. Also attending from the Chapter were **Herb Dunn**, Chair of the Vice-Presidents of the Circuits, and **Craig Winslow**, former editor of The Federal Lawyer.

## Chapter Members in the News

Past Chapter President **Melanie Gilbert** was selected to serve on the FBA's National Government Relations Committee.

**Bill Van Horne**, a new Council member representing the House, will be the Chapter's liaison to the FBA's Young Lawyers Division. Bill is a recent law school graduate who was admitted to the Maryland bar last year and sworn in to the D.C. Bar this past summer. He currently works for Congressman Benjamin Cardin (D-MD) and previously served as a legislative counsel for the Maryland House and Senate Judiciary Committees of the General Assembly in Annapolis.

**Mary Levering**, Associate Register of the U.S. Copyright Office, served as Vice Chair for the Library of Congress Annual Combined Federal Campaign 2000, coordinating the Library's 2000 Campaign which exceeded its goal by raising over a half million dollars from the Library's 4,300 staff members.

**Adam Vodraska**, immediate past Chapter president, and at-large council member **Robert Lincoln** continue serving on the FBA's National Membership Committee. The Committee has initiated a "Shoot for the Stars" Member Get-A-Member Program (see related story).

**Robert P. Murphy**, formerly General Counsel of the General Accounting Office, is now General Counsel at the Congressional Budget Office.

**William K. Suter**, the Clerk of the Supreme Court, and Council member, moderated a panel on Ethical Considerations in Federal Government and Military Law, a continuing legal education program sponsored by the FBA Pentagon Chapter and the ABA's Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division. The program took place on May 12, 2000 at the Pentagon. The panel featured Cynthia Rapp of the staff of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Past Chapter President **Herb Dunn** was elected to a fourth 2-year term as FBA Vice President for the D.C. Circuit. Herb just completed a term as Chair of the Circuit Vice Presidents and a year on the National Executive Committee. Herb is also serving as a member of the National Chapter Activity Fund Board and has served in this capacity for several years. Herb is a senior attorney in the Office of General Counsel, U.S. General Accounting Office, and is still very active in the Chapter.

## Officers and Council Members, 2000-2001

### OFFICERS

**Melissa Mueller, President**  
Counsel  
House of Representatives  
202-225-4865

**Bruce Kasold, President-Elect**  
Chief Counsel  
Secretary of the Senate  
202-224-3448

**Jeffrey A. Hennemuth, Vice President**  
Deputy Assistant Director, Judges Programs  
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts  
202-502-1817

**Doreen S. Feldman, Secretary**  
Assistant General Counsel  
General Accounting Office  
202-512-8264

**Susan W. Irwin, Treasurer**  
Senior Attorney  
General Accounting Office  
202-512-8269

**Adam Vodraska,  
Immediate Past President**  
Senior Attorney  
General Accounting Office  
202-512-8267

**Melanie F. Gilbert, Past President**  
Senior Attorney  
Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts  
202-502-1847

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### **House of Representatives**

Bill Van Horne 202-225-4016  
Phillip Maggi 202-225-4476

#### **Senate**

Mary Kay MacMillan 202-224-6461  
James Scott 202-224-6461

#### **General Accounting Office**

Barry Shillito 202-512-4663  
Craig Winslow 202-512-8225

#### **Library of Congress**

Charlotte Douglass 202-707-8386  
Mary Levering 202-707-8350

#### **Supreme Court**

Dale Bosley 202-479-3333  
William K. Suter 202-479-3014

#### **Government Printing Office**

Kerry Miller 202-512-0008  
Tony Zagami 202-512-0033

#### **National Judicial Offices**

Mark Braswell 202-502-1708  
Jennifer Evans Marsh 202-502-4095

#### **At-Large**

Gary Greenfield 202-707-1592  
Robert Lincoln 202-707-1597

Capitol Hill Chapter officers and Council Members serving this year are listed above. Officers serve until October 2001. The terms of Council Members are staggered. If you are interested in serving as a Chapter officer or Council Member please contact one of the officers or council members listed above.

### **Newsletter**

We are eager to hear about *your* news, such as professional announcements, publications, speeches, testimony and so forth, for possible inclusion in a future newsletter. Please let us know! Please send any newsletter submissions to Adam Vodraska (phone 202-512-8267; fax 202-512-8316; e-mail [vodraska@prodigy.net](mailto:vodraska@prodigy.net)).

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

The Chapter's membership committee encourages Chapter members to participate in the FBA's **"Shoot for the Stars" Member Get-A-Member Program** during which FBA members who sponsor new members (or reinstate dropped members) will be eligible for awards. The program is designed to help achieve a national FBA membership of 20,000 by 2003. Details of this exciting program were mailed out to members recently and are highlighted on the FBA's Website, [www.fedbar.org](http://www.fedbar.org).

## GET INVOLVED WITH CHAPTER COMMITTEES!

The Chapter currently has several active committees:

- **Programs**
- **Professional Affairs**
- **Newsletter**
- **Membership**
- **Communications/Outreach**

If you would like to become involved in any of the activities of these committees, they are open to members and your participation is most welcome! Please contact any Chapter officer or council member for further information. We are particularly seeking assistance from Chapter members who may have had experience with establishing and maintaining Web sites and electronic mailing lists.

### Annual Supreme Court luncheon in May

The Chapter's annual luncheon at the Supreme Court of the United States is scheduled for May 16 and Justice John Paul Stevens is the guest of honor and speaker. Please mark your calendars for this popular program. Further information will be announced.

## Annual Meeting held at the U.S. Capitol

The Chapter held its annual meeting on October 17, 2000, in the elegant Ways and Means Committee Room in the U.S. Capitol. The results of the annual election were announced and officers and council members were administered the oath of office by **Herb Dunn**, Past Chapter President and FBA Vice President for the D.C. Circuit. At the meeting, Chapter President **Melissa Mueller** formally commenced her term. Several other past Chapter Presidents attended, including **Adam Vodraska, Craig Winslow, Tony Zagami, Ralph Oman, and Greg Scott**. Immediate past FBA National President and former Chapter President **Jackie Goff** also attended, as did **Bill LaForge**, FBA Section Coordinator and long-standing Chapter member. Jim Richardson, Chair of the FBA's Federal Career Services Division, attended, and asked for input from Chapter members in the work of the Division, which is focused on the interests of federal employees, who compose a large portion of the Capitol Hill Chapter membership.

## Chapter Participates in Law Day Event

Chapter members **Jeff Hennemuth, Melanie Gilbert, and Adam Vodraska** attended a Law Day program on April 27, 2000 at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts in Washington, D.C. Also observing the program was then FBA National President Jackie Goff. The program, "Judicial Independence is For You," involved high school seniors from around the country judging a mock courtroom hearing about whether evidence from the search of a high school student at his school should be suppressed. The program was broadcast to courtrooms (where the students were assembled) nationwide via live video from a studio at the Administrative Office and was moderated by Judge Ann Williams of the Seventh Circuit. After the mock courtroom presentation, the students were asked their reactions and these were reported on the broadcast in a "town hall forum" format. Immediately following the broadcast, Adam Vodraska joined Judge Williams and FBA Representative Jim Richardson in the studio for further questions from the assembled high school students about the legal profession. This was a highly successful and exciting Law Day program by the Administrative Office and the Chapter appreciates the opportunity to have participated. The Chapter and FBA assisted with the cost of lunches provided to the students and participants.

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to attend these events and to bring colleagues with you to provide them the opportunity to consider becoming members of the Capitol Hill Chapter.

As Chapter President, I am always interested in suggestions and input from members about how we may serve you better. I would also like to see more participation from the membership in our Chapter's governing board, the Council. If you are interested in serving on the Council or assisting with any of our programs, please contact me at (202) 225-4865.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve this Chapter. The professional relationships I have developed with the members of our Council have been invaluable to me over the years. I feel fortunate that this instant network of professional colleagues has also become a group of long-time friends.

Thank you for your interest in this Chapter. I look forward to seeing you in the coming months at some terrific programs! Best wishes!

*Melissa Mueller*

President

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