

# We've Had a Great Year!

by Henry Quillian



*A member of the FBA for all 26 years of his complex litigation practice, Henry Quillian has litigated construction, insurance, intellectual property, and commercial cases in 18 states, often in conjunction with fellow FBA members. Quillian has been the Atlanta Chapter's president, chair of the Younger Lawyer's Division, and FBA's general counsel.*

As we near the close of 2018, I'm pleased to look back on the Foundation's progress. We inducted a Supreme Court justice as a new honorary life fellow at a very special reception, awarded a number of Chapter Community Outreach Grants and Diversity Grants, continued our sponsorship of the Annual Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition, and provided funding for the Federal Bar Association (FBA) National Community Outreach Project.

## Supreme Court Reception

We were pleased to induct Associate Justice Neil M. Gorsuch as an honorary life fellow in a ceremony on April 25 at the U.S. Supreme Court. He is the eighth Supreme Court justice to become an honorary life fellow.

First place winners of the Civics Essay and Video Contest were also presented with their awards at the reception. Jointly sponsored by the Federal Judges Association (FJA) and the FBA, more than 200 entries in the essay and video contest addressed the question: "What Does Equal Protection Mean to You?"

Junior Delaney Patterson of Waxhaw, N.C., wrote the winning essay, and senior Alessia Fontecchio of Pittsburgh produced the top video. They each received an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., to receive their awards in person and enjoyed FBA-escorted tours of the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.

Justice Gorsuch thoughtfully introduced Delaney and Alessia and presented each winner with her award. Both made delightful brief remarks thanking Justice Gorsuch, the FJA, and the FBA for the honor and spoke about the inspiration for their projects. Delaney's essay was printed in full in the reception program, and Alessia's video was presented at the reception. Justice Gorsuch graciously spoke personally with the winners at length and posed for multiple group photos.

The Foundation contributed \$1,800 toward prizes for the contest, which is open to high school students in the United States and its territories. The deadline for this year's contest is Jan. 22, 2019. Visit [www.fedbar.org/Civics19](http://www.fedbar.org/Civics19) for more information.

## Hurricanes Disaster Fund

In the aftermath of several damaging storms, the Foundation last year created the Hurricane Disaster Fund to support FBA chapters, sections, and divisions; legal aid; and other organizations in response to the immediate need for legal assistance in affected communities. Due to the generosity of member donors, including several FBA sections, \$86,000 was collected between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2017.

The Foundation Board approved the distribution of funds to the following organizations: Lone Star Legal Aid, Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, Ayuda Legal Huracan Maria (Puerto Rico), Louisiana Civil Justice Center, and Bay Area Legal Services (Tampa).

## Chapter Community Outreach Grant Program

Since 2011, the Foundation's Chapter Community Outreach Grants program have supported community service or outreach projects that involve FBA chapter participation.

These grants have funded many worthwhile activities across the country, such as: educational programs introducing high school students to important federal laws; a mentorship program for a federal drug court that included recovery, educational, and employment materials; writing competitions for law students; and an interview skills workshop in partnership with a district court's two probation programs.

The Foundation awarded the following six Chapter Community Outreach Grants in the past year:

### Delaware Chapter

#### High School Fellowship Program

The Delaware Chapter, along with the District Court of Delaware, implemented the High School Fellowship Program, a six-week summer program for high school students selected to work in chambers with judges of the court, in an effort to provide students with the opportunity to interact with prominent Delaware educators despite economic and/or cultural obstacles. The program promotes legal research and education in Delaware with the hope that the students who participate take the "insider's" knowledge that they gain and share it with their classmates and communities and use it to pursue careers in the field of law, thereby bettering the federal bar.

## Eastern District of Michigan Chapter

### Law Day 2018

This grant helps promote legal education in the Detroit metropolitan community by affording the opportunity to participate in Law Day to students who would otherwise be unable. The chapter is helping to underwrite transportation costs so that the program can accommodate a higher percentage of the schools requesting to participate.

## Minnesota Chapter

### Court Camp

Court camp is an education initiative for high school students focused on creating early opportunities for those students to learn about careers in the law. The chapter hopes to enhance a diverse pipeline of candidates for the future of the legal profession.

## San Joaquin Valley Chapter

### Law Day Yosemite

Law Day Yosemite educates junior high students about the importance of the rule of law in the United States. More than 400 eighth graders from surrounding rural schools celebrated Law Day at Yosemite. This year Laurie Levenson, a law professor from Loyola and head of the Project for the Innocent, spoke about “Equal Justice Under Law,” a topic that corresponds with the schools’ curriculums.

## Central District of Illinois

### Naturalization Ceremony

To celebrate Constitution Week, Citizenship Day, and National Voter Registration Day in September, the Central District of Illinois Chapter, in conjunction with the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois, hosted a Naturalization Ceremony at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill., to welcome hundreds of new U.S. citizens. Students from Peoria’s public schools met federal judges and learned about the importance of the U.S. Constitution.

## South Carolina Chapter

### BRIDGE Mentorship Program

The mentorship program was initiated to support the relatively new federal drug court in Charleston, S.C., known as the BRIDGE Program, which seeks to provide a rehabilitative program for individuals whose illegal substance dependency has led to federal criminal charges. The program has now expanded to Columbia, Florence, and Greenville. The grant helps sustain resources and personal involvement that are critical to the administration of justice while addressing the need for legal services.

## Diversity Grants

The Foundation’s newest community outreach initiative is the Diversity Grant, which supports educational, community service, or outreach projects or programs with a diversity focus that involve FBA chapter, section, division, or member participation. The following three programs received Diversity Grants this year:

## Middle District of Florida

### Pathway to the Bankruptcy Bench: Building a Pipeline

The “Pathway” program’s overarching objective is to create diversity on the bench of the bankruptcy courts to better reflect the populations they serve. Of the 373 or so bankruptcy judges in the nation, only 13 are African-American. The main impediment to diversity in

the bankruptcy bench is lack of diverse candidates. Pathway to the Bankruptcy Bench seeks to create interest in the practice of bankruptcy law among diverse young lawyers and law students and build a pipeline to judgeship.

## Minnesota Chapter

### Four-Part Hate Crime CLE Series

In an effort to promote awareness, participation, and diversity in the local chapter, this series of four CLEs in different District of Minnesota locations informs a variety of audiences—including practicing lawyers, federal judges, law students, and members of the broader community—on the critical issue of hate crimes.

### Twin Cities Asian-Pacific American Community Outreach and Diversity Programming on Economic Espionage and National Security: Bias in the Criminal Justice System?

The Minnesota Chapter developed a community-based program on the topic of bias in the criminal justice system as it relates to the ever-emerging issue of economic espionage and national security. The target audience is Asian-Pacific Americans and Asian immigrants working in the STEM industries, as well as local attorneys interested in both the topic and service to those communities.

## Moot Court Sponsorship

The Foundation again sponsored the 24th Annual Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition during the FBA’s Midyear Meeting. Teams from St. Mary’s University Law School in San Antonio, Texas, went head-to-head in the final round. Sophia George and Gary Hillier prevailed over classmates Katelynn Armijo and Eden Ramirez. Forty teams from across the country addressed a child custody case that had arisen under the Indian Child Welfare Act in which both parties had moved for summary judgment.

## FBA National Community Outreach Project

For the third consecutive year, the foundation sponsored the National Community Outreach Project (NCOP), a defining legal education community outreach program designed to bring students a hands-on learning experience and empower communities.

FBA chapters across the nation work in conjunction with federal district courts throughout the month of April to engender trust in the federal justice system and inspire students to consider a role in the justice system in the future. Most of the programs involve bringing in middle school and high school students from lower income areas to observe court proceedings, speak with lawyers, and meet judges—often the students’ first experience with federal courts.

Since 2016, the Foundation has provided funding to bring the NCOP to multiple federal districts across the nation. This year’s participating chapters were:

- Alaska Chapter
- Chicago Chapter
- Vermont Chapter
- Orlando Chapter
- Phoenix Chapter
- Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter
- Eastern District of Pennsylvania Chapter
- District of Columbia Chapter
- Tampa Bay Chapter

- Oklahoma City Chapter
- Sacramento Chapter
- Eastern District of North Carolina Chapter
- Central District of Illinois Chapter
- El Paso Chapter
- Utah Chapter

## Looking Ahead

We look forward to continuing the work of the Foundation in 2019, made possible by charitable gifts from our dedicated members. Each person who donates to the Foundation—in any amount—demonstrates a deep commitment to the Federal Bar Association and plays a vital role in our future growth. Please remember to include the contribution to the Foundation when you renew your FBA membership. You can make a donation anytime at [www.fedbar.org/Foundation/Help-Support-the-Foundation.aspx](http://www.fedbar.org/Foundation/Help-Support-the-Foundation.aspx).

Thank you for your support! ☺

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## President's Message *continued from page 3*

Rising Professionals Symposium on Feb. 1-2, 2019, is an opportunity for young lawyers to network, to present on various topics, to learn from other young lawyers, and to perhaps find a mentor. It is also an opportunity for more seasoned lawyers to volunteer to mentor a young lawyer, which is a rewarding experience. If you are a young lawyer or law student who is lucky enough to have a mentor, reach out to your mentor to thank him or her or seek out an attorney to build that mentor-mentee relationship. As a seasoned attorney, be open to the possibility of serving as a mentor to help shape the career of a young attorney.

## Community Outreach

Another way to “get it right” in 2019 is to find a meaningful way to give back to our community. Consider participating in our Community Outreach Project in April. Some of my most rewarding days as an FBA member are attending the Chicago Chapter’s community outreach program. The judges of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois hold a mock oral argument for high school students each year, and the positive impact it has on the students is palpable. In particular, I will never forget a female student who until that day was unaware that a woman could be a judge and whose perspective on her future life path was forever changed. Giving back to the community is a wonderful way to make a lasting impact in 2019, and helping others has a positive impact on happiness and well-being.

## Networking Opportunities

The FBA has several unique national conferences in February that offer networking opportunities. First, as mentioned above, the Rising

Professionals Symposium will take place in Las Vegas, Nevada on Feb. 1 and 2, 2019. Our annual Fashion Law Conference will take place in New York City on Feb. 7, 2019, and our Art Law Conference will take place in New York City the next day on Feb. 8, 2019. By attending conferences, not only will you gain knowledge on interesting topics (and CLE credit), but you also will have the opportunity to meet new people and to expand your professional network, which will enrich your professional experience and could lead to business opportunities and friendships. In addition, take advantage of your local chapter’s events as well to catch up with your colleagues and to meet new contacts.

## Our Profession

We are lucky to be part of a profession that helps others in so many ways. As a lawyer, you really can make a positive difference in the community. Through the FBA, there are many ways to “get it right” in 2019 to have a positive and meaningful professional experience.

In the spirit of the holiday season, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to lead this wonderful organization. Thank you to our national and chapter leaders for their hard work and dedication, and thank you to our executive director and her staff for ensuring that our organization continues on a successful path. As we look ahead to the new year, I wish you a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2019 on behalf of the Federal Bar Association. ☺

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## At Sidebar *continued from page 5*

<sup>7</sup>*Supra* note 4.

<sup>8</sup>JERRY M. GEWIRTZ, THE GUIDE TO JUDICIAL PRACTICES IN FLORIDA’S FEDERAL COURTS: AN INVALUABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR FEDERAL PRACTITIONERS (2018); *see also* Jerry M. Gewirtz, *Federal Court Manual Questionnaires: An Invaluable Source of Information for Litigators in Federal Court*, FLA. BAR J. (Nov. 2002), <https://www.floridabar.org/news/tfb-journal/?durl=%2Fdivcom%2Fjn%2Fjnjournal01.nsf%2F8c9f13012b96736985256aa900624829%2Fa7aad456c6f6efad-85256c620064b640>.

<sup>9</sup>*Supra* note 8.