

SIXTH CIRCUIT

**Chattanooga**

The Chattanooga Chapter was invited to present its documentary, “Balancing the Scales: The Chattanooga Trial of *U.S. v. James R. Hoffa*”, as part of the program during the Sixth Circuit’s Judicial Conference held in Chattanooga in May. The presentation illustrated key ethical considerations that arise during high-profile trials and included a CLE program, video clips, and a panel discussion. The documentary was shown in the actual courtroom in which Hoffa’s trial took place.

For the documentary, the chapter obtained interviews with many figures involved in the trials: prominent Nashville attorney, James F. Neal, who is a former assistant U.S. attorney and was the prosecutor in both the Nashville and Chattanooga trials of Hoffa; Chattanooga attorney, Marvin Berke, a member of Hoffa’s local defense team; Chattanooga attorney, Charles Gearhiser, former law clerk to Hon. Frank W. Wilson, who presided over the trial in Chattanooga; Pat Haverty, the last surviving juror from the trial; Harry Mansfield, former U.S. marshal; John Seigenthaler Sr., a well-known jour-

nalist, former newspaper editor, and one-time assistant to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy; Chattanooga attorney, Tom Williams, a former assistant U.S. attorney who was assigned to respond to Hoffa’s appeal of his conviction; Bill Cole, a former FBI agent assigned to surveillance duty during the Chattanooga trial; John Sertel, the son

of the assistant U.S. marshal assigned to live with Judge Wilson and his family during the trial; the late Mrs. Frank W. Wilson; and Ms. Etta Williams, a local trial observer.

**EXCHANGE** *continued on next page*



San Antonio Chapter: At the chapter’s June luncheon, which included a keynote address by Hon. Emilo M. Graze of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, entitled “Appellate Advocacy before the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals”—(l to r) Col. William C. Kirk (Ret.), incoming chapter president; Judge Garza; and J. Todd Hedgepeth, chapter president. Photo by John J. Franco Jr.



Chattanooga Chapter: At the chapter’s presentation of its documentary during the Sixth Circuit’s Judicial Conference—(left photo, l to r) Nashville attorney James F. Neal, Chattanooga attorney Marvin Berke, John Seigenthaler Sr. (panel moderator), Chattanooga attorney Charles Gearhiser, Chattanooga attorney Randy Wilson (son of Hon. Frank W. Wilson), U.S. District Judge Harry S. “Sandy” Mattice of the Eastern District of Tennessee in the Chattanooga Division, who presided over the presentation at the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference, and Chief U.S. District Judge Curtis L. Collier of the Eastern District of Tennessee; (right photo, l to r) Shelley Rucker, immediate past president of the chapter, and James Neal, noted Nashville attorney and prosecutor in both trials of Hoffa.

On Aug. 1, 2008, ballots were counted and verified for FY2009 national officers. Their terms begin Oct. 1, 2008. The president-elect and treasurer will serve a one-year term, which expires on Sept. 30, 2009; directors (groups 1–4) will serve three-year terms, which expire Sept. 30, 2011; and vice presidents for the circuits will serve two-year terms, which expire Sept. 30, 2010. Congratulations to these leaders who will serve the association next year!

***Board of Directors***

***Vice Presidents for the Circuits***

President-Elect .....Lawrence R. Baca

1st Circuit ..... George E. Lieberman

Treasurer .....Ashley L. Belleau

2nd Circuit.....Raymond J. Dowd

**Group 1** ..... Robert J. DeSousa  
Qualifier: FBA member in good standing and a current or former FBA vice president of a circuit.

3rd Circuit ..... Francis J. DiSalle

**Group 2** ..... Richard P. Theis  
Qualifier: FBA member in good standing and a current or former chair of an FBA section or division.

4th Circuit.....Thomas P. Gressette Jr.

5th Circuit.....James (Todd) Hedgepeth

**Group 3** ..... Nancy J. Moriarty  
Qualifier: FBA member in good standing and a current or former FBA chapter president.

6th Circuit..... Michael J. Newman

7th Circuit.....Paul E. Freehling

**Group 4** .....Sean M. Connolly  
Qualifier: FBA member in good standing and has served as an FBA chapter officer, a national FBA YLD officer or board member, or as an FBA chapter leader with YLD responsibilities. In addition, at the time of election, the person must be age 36 or younger.

8th Circuit.....Lora Esch Mitchell

9th Circuit.....Sharon O’Grady

10th Circuit.....Cass Butler

11th Circuit.....Robert W. Thielhelm

D.C. Circuit.....James G. Scott

**EXCHANGE** *continued*

**NINTH CIRCUIT**

**Inland Empire**

On July 31, the Inland Empire Chapter held a lunchtime presentation in which the panelists discussed California’s medical marijuana laws. Featured speakers at the presentation, titled “Medical Marijuana: Legal Issues for Civil and Criminal Practitioners,” were Marc Erlich, an attorney with Best, Best & Krieger; M. Allen Hopper of the American Civil Liberties Union; Michael Johnsen of the Office of the California Attorney General, and Robert Stacy from the U.S. Attorney’s Office

and member of the board of directors of the FBA Inland Empire Chapter. The speakers discussed the types of conduct that are permitted and prohibited under California’s medical marijuana laws and how California law interacts with federal legislation generally prohibiting the sale and possession of marijuana. The panel also addressed the concerns not just of individuals seeking marijuana for medicinal purposes but also of other entities, who often find themselves caught between seemingly contradictory federal and state laws, such as municipalities and landlords. The audience was enthusi-

astic, and the speakers took questions from attendees long after the allotted time. **TFL**

*Chapter Exchange is compiled by Melissa Stevenson, FBA manager of chapters and circuits. Send your chapter information and photos to mstevenson@fedbar.org or Chapter Exchange, Federal Bar Association, 1220 North Fillmore Street, Suite 444, Arlington, VA 22201.*