

FIRST CIRCUIT

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Chapter was pleased to host another successful session in its Breakfast with the Bench series on June 30, in the intimate setting of the judicial dining room in the John Joseph Moakley Federal Courthouse. The program featured Hon. Richard Stearns, who discussed new Local Rule 16.6, which governs scheduling and procedures in patent cases and was adopted by the District Court for the District of Massachusetts on Nov. 4, 2008. Judge Stearns discussed the background behind the rule and the approach taken in its development, which, he noted, was spearheaded by a task force made up of leaders in the patent bar. Judge Stearns explained that Local Rule 16.6 is largely advisory—it suggests guidelines for scheduling rather than mandatory time limits—and it is his understanding that judges and litigants are fairly uniformly following the guidelines. Judge Stearns also commented that the rule is consistent with his view that Markman hearings should be held early in most cases and that claim construction should be limited to only those terms

that truly need construction. There was a lively discussion between the members of the bar and the judge about the rule and patent law issues, and the judge invited members of the bar who had further comments or feedback regarding implementation of the rule to report to him.



Mississippi Chapter: At the chapter's June luncheon—(l to r) Eileen Shaffer, chapter president; guest speaker Cynthia Eldridge; Jim Rosenblatt, chapter secretary and dean of Mississippi College School of Law; and Jonathan Garza, president of the chapter's student division, Mississippi College School of Law.



Puerto Rico

On April 30, the Hon. Raymond L. Acosta Puerto Rico Chapter's University of Puerto Rico Law School Division hosted Hon. Sonia Sotomayor, President Obama's nominee for the

U.S. Supreme Court, who spoke about federal jurisdiction and practice as well as the importance of the Federal Bar Association to attorneys in federal practice.

On June 4, the chapter's council of past presidents met with current chapter leaders and members of the federal bench and dined at the Jose Garden Restaurant in San Juan.

FIFTH CIRCUIT

Mississippi

The Mississippi Chapter met in June at a luncheon that featured a presentation by Cynthia Eldridge, during which she spoke about her work in Albania with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial De-



Puerto Rico Chapter: Members of the chapter board with guest speaker Hon. Sonia Sotomayor—(upper photo, l to r) Manuel Pietrantonio, Carlos Valdejjully, Katherine Gonzalez, Hon. Sonia Sotomayor, Hon. Gustavo Gelpi, Joanne Pardo, Oreste Ramos, Ricardo Ortiz, and Roberto Aponte-Toro, dean of the University of Puerto Rico Law School; Former chapter presidents at the June 4 dinner (lower photo, l to r) standing, David C. Indiano, Manuel Quillichini, Francisco Troncoso, Alfonso Christian, Dora Monserrate, Ricardo Casellas, Hon. Gerardo Carlo, Antonio Pagan-Nieves, Jose A. Fuentes-Agostini, Russell Del Toro, and Alfredo Castellanos, immediate past president of the chapter and chair of the council of past presidents; sitting, Carlos Cebollero, Hon. Charles Cordero, and Hon. Gustavo A. Gelpi.

velopment, Assistance, and Training. This office helps to bring prosecutions against government officials engaged in public corruption.

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

North Central Florida

On June 19, the North Central Florida Chapter hosted a reception to honor Stephan P. Mickle's appointment as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida. Approximately 250 judges, attorneys, family members, and friends helped Judge Mickle celebrate this special occasion at the University of Florida's President's House.

The reception included a program during which several speakers—including Margaret Stack, 2008–2009 president of the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, and Robert H. Jerry II, dean of the University of Florida Levin College of Law—addressed many of Judge Mickle's accomplishments leading up to his appointment to chief judge as well as his extensive history in Gainesville, Fla. In addition, Senior U.S. District Judge William Terrell Hodges (formerly chief judge for the Middle District of Florida) spoke about the role of the chief judge. Judge Mickle was also presented with an engraved rocking chair that could provide him with comfort and support when he will need to make tough decisions as chief judge. To close the program, Judge Mickle remarked that he was thankful to all his supporters, especially U.S. District Judge Robert L. Hinkle, who made his appointment to chief judge possible. Judge Mickle stated that he was looking forward to carrying out all the duties of chief judge.

His appointment to chief judge is the culmination of Judge Mickle's many years of hard work and dedication in the field of law. To name of few of his accomplishments. Judge Mickle was the first African American to graduate from the undergraduate program at the University of Florida in 1965, the first African-American to establish a private law practice in Gainesville in 1972, the first African-American to become a county judge in Alachua County in 1979, the first African-American to become a circuit judge in the Eighth Judicial Circuit in 1984, the first African-American (and only lawyer) from the Eighth Judicial Circuit to be appointed to Florida's First District Court of Appeals in 1993, and the first African-American to become a federal judge in the Northern District of Florida in 1999.

The chapter would like to thank the Federal Bar Association, the Eighth Judicial Circuit Bar Association, and the University of Florida's Levin College of Law for their support in hosting this reception. **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.



North Central Florida Chapter: At the reception honoring Chief Judge Stephan P. Mickle—(upper above photo) Judge Mickle and his wife Evelyn; (lower above photo) Elizabeth Waratuke, member of the chapter's board of directors, presents Judge Mickle with an engraved rocking chair.

San Antonio Chapter: At the Fox Tech High School Magnet Program for young women on March 27—(l to r) Wendy Reyes; Maricela Lazarin, Fox Tech High School; Josie Gonzales, Fox Tech High School; Magistrate Judge Pamela Mathy, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas; Karla Pascarella; Teacher at Fox Tech High School; Dawn Knepper, chapter community outreach chair; Beth Smith, FBA membership chair; Lucy Schott, U.S. marshal; Shirley Saathoff, U.S. marshal; Monica Trollinger; Cynthia Orr; Loretta Sorensen; and Marissa Najera.

