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### Immigration Law Section

In May, the Immigration Law Section held its annual Immigration Law Seminar in Memphis, Tenn. Organized by the section's vice chair, Barry Frager, the two-day seminar featured well-known immigration lawyers in the areas of consular processing and worksite enforcement, removal hearing experts, and appellate practitioners. In addition, the seminar featured outstanding speakers representing the government, including the lead attorney for the Office of Immigration Litigation, Thomas Hussey; the chair of the Board of Immigration Appeals, Juan Osuna; Sixth Circuit Judge Julia Gibbons; and two local immigration judges, Lawrence Burman and Charles Pazar. The seminar was well attended by FBA members from all over the United States. Next year's seminar will be held on May 21–22 in Memphis.

### Section on Taxation

On June 24, the Section on Taxation hosted its annual Careers in Tax Law brown-bag lunch on Capitol Hill for summer associates, law clerks, and young lawyers considering a career in tax law. Panelists from several agencies and all three branches of government discussed their own career paths, provided advice, and gave their perspectives on the practice of federal tax law. Panelists included Hon. Mark Holmes, U.S. Tax Court; Deb Meland, chief, Office of Review, Tax Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Clarissa Potter, acting chief counsel, Internal Revenue Service; Ginny Chung, attorney-adviser, Office of Tax Policy, U.S. Department of Treasury; and Tony Coughlan, tax counsel, Senate Finance Committee.

### Transportation and Transportation Security Law Section

On June 16, the Transportation and Transportation Security Law Section sponsored a panel that discussed transportation security in the nonaviation modes. The event was hosted by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and attended primarily by employees of the TSA and the Department of Transportation. John



**Section on Taxation:** At the Careers in Tax Law luncheon—(l to r) Ginny Chung, attorney-adviser, Office of Tax Policy, Department of Treasury; Deb Meland, chief, Office of Review, Tax Division, Department of Justice; Hon. Mark Holmes, U.S. Tax Court; Clarissa Potter, acting chief counsel, Internal Revenue Service; and Tony Coughlan, tax counsel, Senate Finance Committee.

Wasowicz, TSA legislative counsel, moderated the panel, which included Howard Goldman, senior counselor to the acting TSA administrator; Sarah Tauber, TSA assistant chief counsel for civil enforcement/multimodal operations; Michael Lovelace, attorney-adviser, TSA criminal enforcement; Melissa Porter, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and Denise Krepp, senior counsel, House Committee on Homeland Security. Panelists updated attendees on surface transportation security efforts and initiatives, focusing on current challenges, future plans, and congressional priorities.

During the panel discussion, Howard Goldman provided an overview of security in the nonaviation modes from the inception of the TSA to the present, noting the agency's limited organic staff and the initial lack of direction and funding for surface transportation security. However, he indicated that the TSA has been ramping up new programs intended to tackle the fundamentally different security challenges for surface transportation, which is both larger in scale and more open than aviation transportation. He

also explained the TSA's ongoing efforts to comply with the numerous requirements of P.L. 110-53, Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, which demands short deadline rulemaking and increased agency reporting.

Sarah Tauber spoke about the TSA's ongoing efforts to enforce compliance with security initiatives in the surface transportation modes. She gratefully acknowledged Congress for the new teeth that the 9/11 Commission Act provided the agency, but she noted that regulations are necessary for true enforcement and that those regulations are still in progress. At present, the TSA is achieving its enhanced security goals by disseminating best practices and seeking compliance agreements from stakeholders.

Denise Krepp emphasized the House's strong and continuing interest in the completion of the Transportation Worker Identification Card (TWIC) program, indicating that members and staff are growing impatient for the introduction of card readers. Currently, port workers are required to show their TWICs at port entrances, but the cards cannot be electronically read to

ascertain authenticity. Krepp stated that fraudulent TWIC cards have been reported, and readers must be deployed immediately in order to secure U.S. ports against unauthorized and fraudulent entry. In addition, Krepp relayed Congress' ongoing frustration with extended waiting times encountered by port workers seeking to obtain TWICs. She explained that the backlog is preventing employees from doing their work, thus creating an unacceptable situation in the current climate of economic challenges and unemployment. Krepp affirmed the House's renewed focus on security in surface transportation. She also indicated that Congress is watching to see how the TSA will use the powers provided in the 9/11 Commission Act.

Melissa Porter discussed organizational changes in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and indicated that staff is adjusting to the new leadership priorities of the committee's chair, John D. Rockefeller (D-W.Va.), and the ranking member Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas). These priorities include port security and cybersecurity and issues on which bills are either in progress or have been introduced. Porter also reiterated Congress' interest in implementing the 9/11 Commission Act and added that her subcommittee is pleased with the increased interest it has observed in

the security of surface transportation.

Michael Lovelace provided insight into one of the TSA's security initiatives, known as VIPER (Visible Intermodal Protection and Response). Intended to provide enhanced security and to promote users' confidence in all modes of transportation, VIPER teams are made up of federal law enforcement personnel and transportation security inspectors, who work jointly with local level officials to conduct surveillance and counter potential terrorist activity in places like subway stations and on ferries. Although the number of these teams is relatively small, the program is slated for growth, and Lovelace indicated that the TSA's 2010 budget request includes \$50 million to fund 15 new VIPER teams. In addition, Lovelace noted that the program has received bipartisan support on Capitol Hill.

In closing, Wasowicz, the moderator of the panel, acknowledged the contingent of employees from the Department of Transportation who were present, and Goldman recognized the ongoing partnership between TSA and the Transportation Department as the overlap and interconnectivity between TSA's security mission and the department's safety mission continues to be defined.

#### Younger Lawyers Division

On June 26, the 2009 Summer Law Clerk Program began with its kickoff

session at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The program allows law clerks working in the federal sector to meet federal government lawyers and gives the law students an opportunity to discuss career development, agency missions and operations, and employment opportunities with government lawyers. This year more than 400 law student interns from agencies throughout the federal government—including the U.S. Department of Justice, Public Defender Service for D.C., Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Coast Guard, and Environmental Protection Agency—registered for the program.

The guest speaker, Paul Stern of the U.S. Department of Justice, spoke about his journey from law student to his current position as a trial attorney in the Torts Branch of the department's Civil Division. Students were then given an opportunity to register for agency visits and roundtables that were held throughout the month of July. **TFL**

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*Sections and Divisions is compiled by Adrienne Woolley, FBA manager of sections and divisions. Send your section and division information and photos to [awoolley@fedbar.org](mailto:awoolley@fedbar.org) or Sections and Divisions, Federal Bar Association, 1220 North Fillmore Street, Suite 444, Arlington, VA 22201.*



**Transportation and Transportation Security Law Section:** Panelists at the transportation security in the nonaviation modes discussion sponsored by TSA—(l to r) Michael Lovelace, attorney-adviser, TSA criminal enforcement; Sarah Tauber, TSA assistant chief counsel for civil enforcement/multimodal operations; Howard Goldman, senior counselor to the acting TSA administrator; Melissa Porter, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Denise Krepp, senior counsel, House Committee on Homeland Security; and moderator John Wasowicz, TSA legislative counsel.



**Younger Lawyers Division:** At the Summer Law Clerk Program kickoff—(l to r) Dawn Goodman, trial attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division; Paul Stern, trial attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division; Capt. Jeremy Steward, training officer, U.S. Army Legal Services Agency.