Rhode Island

In May, Gen. William K. Suter, clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court and longtime FBA member, presided over a Supreme Court admissions ceremony at the U.S. District Court in Providence, at which more than 80 attorneys were sworn in. Gen. Suter was the chapter’s guest and the speaker at a luncheon that took place immediately following the ceremony.

The chapter co-sponsored a series of seminars focusing on federal practice with the Rhode Island Bar Association in March, April, and May 2009 at the U.S. District Court. Topics of the seminars included admiralty law, employment law, and criminal law. In February 2009, during the admissions ceremony for new federal lawyers, Chief Judge Mary Lisi invited the chapter president to speak to the newly admitted lawyers about the Federal Bar Association and its role in the profession. Immediately following the ceremony, the FBA held its annual reception for the newly admitted federal lawyers in the foyer of the U.S. district courthouse. In October, following oral argument in the courthouse in Providence, Chief Judge Sandra Lynch, Senior Circuit Judge Bruce Selya, and Circuit Judge Kermit Lipez joined chapter members for lunch and informal conversation as well as a question-and-answer session at the Renaissance Providence Hotel. Dean David Logan of the Roger Williams Law School was the moderator.

Chicago

On May 29, the Chicago Chapter joined with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois in the presentation of awards to a dozen attorneys nominated by judges of the court for exemplary public service. This is the 10th year the chapter and the federal court in Chicago have presented these awards. A special feature of the program both this year and last year was the participation of Juanita Sales Lee, president of the Federal Bar Association. The program was held in the District Court’s ceremonial courtroom with more than 100 people in attendance and was followed by a reception for the award recipients, the judges who nominated them, and well-wishers.
The program began with brief introductory remarks by Hon. James F. Holderman, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; Paul E. Freehling, president of the FBA’s Chicago Chapter; and Lisa M. Madigan, attorney general of the state of Illinois. After the introduction, FBA President Juanita Sales Lee gave a rousing keynote address, in which she stressed the importance of public service by attorneys and congratulated the individuals who received awards. Ten of the awards were for pro bono service and were given to lawyers who had been appointed by judges of the court to represent plaintiffs who could not afford private counsel.

The nominators thanked each of these lawyers individually for providing numerous hours of time and untold amounts of energy in order to assist their clients in obtaining just results. A number of the award winners have accepted appointments in more than one case, and many have been instrumental in persuading colleagues to volunteer for similar assignments. A public service award was given to an assistant state’s attorney for Cook County, Julie Ann Sebastian, who was nominated by a judge for the assistance provided in negotiating and obtaining approval of the settlement of a difficult case against a county official. Finally, a special recognition award was given to the District Court’s information officer, Joel Daly, a retired attorney and television journalist.

District of Columbia and Capitol Hill Chapters: Volunteers working at the Capitol Area Food Bank—(left photo, l to r) members of the D.C. and Capitol Hill Chapters: Kelly Loughery, Mari Kargbo, Donna Fitzgerald, and Jerry Miles; (right photo, l to r) Amy Cassidy and Susan Sawtell.

D.C. Circuit

District of Columbia and Capitol Hill

On June 20, members of the D.C. and Capitol Hill Chapters volunteered at the Capitol Area Food Bank, spending the morning learning about the workings of the food bank and then bagging snack boxes for children in an after-school program. The volunteers were treated to coffee and donuts courtesy of Mari Kargbo. Attending were Dawn Baum, Amy Cassidy, Donna Fitzgerald, Glenn Harris, Mari Kargbo, Kelly Loughery, Jerry Miles, Susan Sawtell, and Oliya Zamaray. The volunteers had a great time and packed a large number of snack boxes during the morning session. TFL

Judicial Profile Writers Wanted

The Federal Lawyer is looking to recruit current law clerks, former law clerks, and other attorneys who would be interested in writing a Judicial Profile of a federal judicial officer in your jurisdiction. A Judicial Profile is approximately 1,500–2,000 words and is usually accompanied by a formal portrait and, when available, personal photographs of the judge. Judicial Profiles do not follow a standard formula, but each profile usually addresses personal topics such as the judge’s reasons for becoming a lawyer, his/her commitment to justice, how he/she has mentored lawyers and law clerks, etc. If you are interested in writing a Judicial Profile, we would like to hear from you. Please send an e-mail to Stacy King, managing editor, sking@fedbar.org.