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**FIRST CIRCUIT**


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**Massachusetts**

On April 14, the Massachusetts Chapter hosted a judicial reception at the Seaport Hotel in Boston. Thomas M. Menino, the mayor of Boston, and Alan Bersin, commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection for Homeland Security, were the keynote speakers. Both speakers extolled the virtues and achievements of the honoree, Judge Richard G. Stearns of the District of Massachusetts.

As part of the Breakfast with the Federal Bench series, the chapter welcomed Judge Stearns to lead a discussion of the availability and practicality of Rule 11 sanctions held in the Judicial Dining Room at the Moakley Federal Courthouse. The format of the meeting, which allows members of the bar to sit around the table with the federal judiciary, once again lent itself to a fascinating and open dialogue between bench and bar. In addition to Rule 11, the discussion also included Rule 37 as an option for sanctions, the increased potential for Rule 12 to “knock out” frivolous cases in light of the U.S. Supreme Court’s rulings in the *Iqbal* and *Twombly* cases, and the impact increased economic pressures may have on these issues.

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**FIFTH CIRCUIT**


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**Mississippi**

Newly appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge Keith Ball addressed more than 70 members and guests of the Mississippi Chapter at the chapter’s bimonthly meeting, which was held at the Capital Club in Jackson. Ben Watson, president of the chapter and an attorney with Butler Snow, introduced Judge Ball to the overflowing audience. In his remarks, Judge Ball, the federal judge most recently appointed in Mississippi, shared his views on the operation of his court in Jackson.

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**EIGHTH CIRCUIT**


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**Minnesota**

On April 8, four outstanding law students, one from each of the state’s metro-area law schools, received an award



**Mississippi Chapter:** At the chapter’s bimonthly luncheon—(l to r) Jim Rosenblatt, chapter secretary and dean of the Mississippi College School of Law, Magistrate Judge Keith Ball, and Ben Watson, chapter president.

from the Minnesota Chapter, which is proud to sponsor the Law Student Award Program—a program that has been recognizing outstanding law students for more than 20 years. The awards recognize excellence in the study of federal law and practice. Each recipient, a graduating student who is selected with the help of faculty members and deans at his or her law school, receives an engraved plaque and a check for \$2,000. Each of the four awards is named for an individual who has contributed significantly to the federal legal system in Minnesota.

The award for a University of St. Thomas student is named for Hon. Earl J. Larson, who served as a federal district judge in the District of Minnesota. Hon. John R. Tunheim, once a clerk to Judge Larson, presented the award to third-year student Amanda Schmall.

Hamline University’s award, named for Hon. Jacob Dim, who served as a federal bankruptcy judge in the District of Minnesota, was presented to third-year student Brian Rochel by Hon. Donovan W. Frank, a Hamline alumnus.

The University of Minnesota’s award is named for Hon. Edward J. Devitt, who served as chief judge of the District of Minnesota for more than 25 years and authored a landmark guide to federal jury practice and instructions. Hon. Michael J. Davis, current chief judge

of the district, presented the award to third-year student Jessica Edwards.

The award given to Ellen Aherns, a third-year student at William Mitchell College of Law, is named for Harry A. Sieben, who served as clerk of court for the district. Hon. Joan N. Ericksen of the District of Minnesota presented the award.

On Saturday, May 1, the chapter hosted its Annual Judges Dinner-Dance at the historic Minikahda Club in Minneapolis. The event, organized by Rachna Sullivan, an attorney with Fredrikson & Byron, was a sold-out success, attended by more than 300 members of the FBA and numerous federal judges. During dinner, Lora Friedemann, outgoing chapter president, expressed how much she had enjoyed her year of service to the chapter. She observed that the members of Minnesota’s federal bar are extremely lucky to practice before such smart, passionate, and fun judges—a sentiment with which the crowd wholeheartedly agreed. After dinner, guests enjoyed a “casino” and a live band. **TFL**

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