

Honors and Awards

William N. LaForge, a lawyer in Washington, D.C., and an adjunct professor at The George Washington University, recently completed an assignment as a Fulbright specialist at Perm State University in Russia, according to the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. LaForge taught a special course during May to 4th-year students at the Perm State University law school on the subject of U.S. business-government relations and lobbying. Included in the course program were a business-government relations case study exercise and a mock congressional hearing, both of which engaged students and faculty in role-playing. LaForge is one of over 400 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad this year through the Fulbright Specialists Program. This program, created in 2000 to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, provides short-term academic opportunities (two to six weeks) to prominent U.S. faculty and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at postsecondary, academic institutions around the world. ... **Laforge** also was recognized—through his publisher, The Capitol.Net—by the Independent Book Publishers Association at the 2011 Benjamin Franklin Awards. His book, *Testifying Before Congress: A Practical Guide to Preparing and Delivering Testimony before Congress and Congressional Hearings*, took top honors among in the Professional and Technical category. ... The Ohio State Bar Association honored **Phillip A. Ranney** for his 50 years in the practice of law. Ranney is a partner in Schneider, Smeltz, Ranney & LaFond in Cleveland, and has been with the firm since he graduated from Case Western Reserve University Law School in 1961. Early in his career, Ranney was immersed in Fair Trade Law when the state of Ohio imposed limits on Sunday sales of retail goods. Over the years, Ranney moved away from litigation and came to focus on estate planning, estate and trust administration, and public and private foundation administration. Due to his

knowledge and experience, Ranney has served as a director of two New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) companies, Rohr Industries of San Diego, California, and General Housewares of Terre Haute, Indiana. Ranney served as the assistant to the mayor of Lakewood while attending law school. Later in his career, he was a member of the Lakewood Board of Education for eight years, twice serving as its president. In 1999, he was elected to the Lakewood Public Schools Alumni Hall of Fame. He is also a former trustee of the Lakewood Hospital Foundation. Ranney was honored by his colleagues and family at a special reception at the Union Club of Cleveland on April 20, 2011.

Practitioners' News

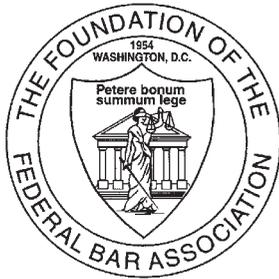
Roberto Feliberti was recently appointed by the governor of Puerto Rico, following Senate confirmation, to serve as an associate justice of the Puerto Rico Supreme Court. Justice Feliberti has been an FBA member since 1991. He served as law clerk to Hon. Raymond L. Acosta, after whom the Puerto Rico Chapter of the FBA is named. Feliberti was then in private practice for over 15 years at Cancio, Nadal & Rivera, where he became a proprietary partner. Last year, he was appointed to the Puerto Rico Appeals Court. Justice Feliberti brings to the court a wealth of federal and state litigation experience. He is a graduate of Purdue University and the University of Puerto Rico School of Law. He also served in the U.S. Navy and attained the rank of first lieutenant. ... **Jeffrey T. Kuntz**, senior associate at the Fort Lauderdale office of GrayRobinson PA, was recently appointed to the Appellate Court Rules Committee of the Florida Bar. The committee considers rule proposals and amendments to the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure and is composed of attorneys and judges with extensive experience and training in areas that call for regular and frequent use of the appellate rules. Kuntz also uses his experience in appellate law to author The Florida Legal Blog (www.floridalegalblog.org), which provides an analysis of decisions from

the Florida appellate courts and the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Kuntz is admitted to practice at both the state and federal level and focuses on appellate law and commercial litigation. He is a member of the Rosemary Barkett Appellate American Inn of Court and holds professional memberships to the Federal Bar Association and American Bar Association. In 2009 and 2010, Kuntz was named a "Rising Star" by Florida *Super Lawyers*. Kuntz earned his juris doctorate from Suffolk University Law School and undergraduate degree from Boston College. ... **Richard J. Pocker**, the former chair of the FBA Federal Litigation Section, has been elected to a position on the Nevada State Board of Governors. He is the administrative partner for the Nevada office of New York-based Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP.

Obituaries

FBA member **C. Thomas Burke** died on May 24 at age 77. He served in the administrations of five Presidents (Carter, Reagan, G.H.W. Bush, Clinton, and G.W. Bush) and was honored by numerous foreign governments for his work in developing mutual understanding and world peace initiatives. He received diplomatic training at the Foreign Service Institute in Washington, D.C., and was an active member of the American Foreign Service Association. Burke served as president, CEO, and executive director of a number of the nation's largest port authorities; he started his career in the maritime industry as assistant director of port commerce for the Port of New York/New Jersey. He also spent 10 years with the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, now the Canadian Pacific Railroad. Born Aug. 30, 1933, Burke was a graduate of Christian Brothers Military Academy in Albany, N.Y., where he received the "Outstanding Alumni Award" in 2008; Northeastern University, where he was honored with the "Outstanding Alumni Award" in 1995; and Blackstone School of Law, Chicago, Ill. He was a Fellow of the Foundation of the FBA and an

HEARSAY continued on page 22



Memorials and Remembrances Gift Program

With a tax-deductible gift to the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association, members of the legal profession, the public, business organizations, charitable trusts, or other foundations may create a memorial to a deceased person. Gifts may also be made in honor of someone, an anniversary, birthday, or any other occasion. Your gift helps fund educational and charitable programs that promote public understanding of the law and enhance the cause of justice.

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HEARSAY *continued from page 18*

FBA Vice President for the Fourth Circuit, as well as chair of the Virginia Bar Association's Transportation Committee. Burke was an associate professor at the International Maritime Institute at Old Dominion University and the School of Continuing Education at the University of Richmond. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Ross, as well as her daughter, his five children and their spouses, and 13 grandchildren. Burke's first wife—Joanne, the mother of his five children—predeceased him in 1986. ... FBA Past National President **Paul G. Dembling**, co-author of the legislation that founded NASA, died on May 16 in Florida. He was 91 years old. As general counsel to NASA's precursor, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), Dembling helped shape the agency's legislative charter, the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958. After NASA became operational, he joined the staff, eventually becoming the agency's general counsel. He also managed the agency's Legislative Affairs Office under Administrator James Webb, and served as a deputy associate administrator before retiring in December 1969. Dembling was born in Rahway, N.J., on Jan. 11, 1920. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1940 and a master's degree in 1942 from Rutgers University, and earned a J.D. from George Washington University Law School, where he served as an editor of the law review. Dembling was a member of the FBA for more than 50 years and served in numerous leadership positions including national president (1982-1983). He also served as the president of the Capitol Hill Chapter; chair of the Government Contracts Section; chair of the General Counsels Section; treasurer of the Federal Bar Building Corporation, and editor in chief of the *Federal Bar Journal*. He was a Charter Life Fellow of the Foundation of the FBA, and in 2003, he was the recipient of the FBA's Earl W. Kintner Distinguished Service Award. Dembling was buried May 19 in Fairfax, Va. He is survived by his wife, Florence Dembling, two sons, Ross and Doug, both living in Washington's Maryland suburbs, and two grandsons. ... Longtime **U.S. District Judge Jaime Pieras** died on June 11 at age 87. Born in Old San Juan, P.R., in 1924, Judge Pieras earned his bachelor's degree at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and his law degree from Georgetown University. He served as an officer in the Army from 1946 to 1947. After graduating from law school in 1948, Judge Pieras returned to Puerto Rico and worked in private practice until 1982. That year, he was nominated to the federal bench by President Ronald Reagan and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Serving on the U.S. District Court for Puerto Rico, he was given senior judge status in 1993 and continued to handle cases until falling ill. Among Judge Pieras' well-known cases was *Brown v. the Puerto Rico Bar Association*, in which he sided with the plaintiff's argument against the legality of compulsory life insurance for bar association members. That case worked through the First Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston, where the ruling was mostly upheld. **TFL**

FBA Hearsay is compiled by Sarah Perlman, FBA communications coordinator. Send your information to sperlman@fedbar.org. You can also read "Member News" online at www.fedbar.org.