

2015 Foundation of the FBA Chapter Community Outreach Grant Recipients

Dayton Chapter

Clemency Project 2014 Gala

The Dayton Young Lawyers Division hosted a gala to raise awareness of volunteer opportunities with Clemency Project 2014. The project is composed of federal public defenders, the American Civil Liberties Union, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, the American Bar Association, and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. The project provides pro bono assistance to nonviolent federal prisoners who would have likely received a shorter sentence under current laws. The chapter decided on this project because the project's mission was important to the chapter, the project is desperately in need of volunteers, and the chapter hoped that it would raise awareness for the group and influence members of our local bar to volunteer their efforts in the future.

Eastern District of New York

Event Honoring Female Veterans

The Eastern District of New York Chapter received a grant to host an event honoring female veterans of military service, with an educational component highlighting legal and social issues that are available to assist female veterans with the unique challenges that they face. Photos available on page 9.

Oklahoma City Chapter

OKC FBA Mentorship Program

During 2013, the Oklahoma City Chapter became aware of the need for mentoring young lawyers as they begin the practice of law, particularly in the federal sector. Ethics Counsel for the Oklahoma Bar Association informed the chapter that lawyers who do not have experienced attorneys to guide them encounter issues, including bar complaints from clients, within the first five years of practice. It was with this problem in mind that a committee of the chapter spent the last 15 months strategizing, researching, and organizing a mentorship program to serve FBA practitioners who have zero to five years' experience.

Orlando Chapter

Civil Pro Se Project

The Orlando Chapter is applying for a grant from the Foundation to assist with launching the chapter's Civil Pro Se Project. The Middle District of Florida, where the Orlando Chapter is located, had the second-highest number of pro se filings nationwide in FY 2013. This statistic is likely due to the fact that Coleman Federal Prison, the largest in the nation, is within the district. Thus, all pro se prisoner cases are handled by the Middle District. Because this is the most likely type of pro se case that will be referred to the Civil Pro Se Project, the grant helped to fund a series of four training sessions

on issues that volunteer attorneys are likely to encounter in the pro se cases they accept from the Civil Pro Se Project. The chapter currently has a list of volunteer attorneys willing to take cases, but case appointments will not likely be in their practice area.

Voting Rights Symposium

The Orlando Chapter's grant sponsored a Voting Rights Symposium to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. Both the Orlando Chapter and members from sister chapters benefited from the symposium by increasing their awareness of voting rights issues, particularly in Florida, where recent redistricting efforts have disproportionately affected minority voters. Through a series of breakout sessions led by federal judges and distinguished speakers, the symposium allowed participants to brainstorm on potential legislation that might be enacted at the federal level to address the *Shelby County v. Holder* holding.

Massachusetts Chapter

Job Interview Workshop

The Massachusetts Chapter organized the Job Interview Workshop in conjunction with two programs that are run out of the U.S. District Court of Massachusetts' Probation Department: Court Assisted Recovery Efforts (CARE) and Re-Entry: Empowering Successful Todays and Responsible Tomorrows (RESTART). The workshop helps probationers who are pursuing employment as a condition of their probation. Each participant does three mock interviews during which FBA members play the role of interviewers and mentors/coaches. The program includes a motivational speaker for the probationers and provides all of the volunteer FBA members (and prospective members) an opportunity to do some community service in their jurisdiction.

Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter

Introducing the Federal Courts to Local High Schools

The Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter developed a program that brings local high school students into each of the courthouses in the area to introduce them to the court system and explain the different roles of people in the courthouse. The program promotes awareness and understanding of the legal system and, in particular, the federal court system.

San Diego Chapter

Women in the Law Conference

The San Diego Chapter's Chapter Community Outreach Grant is assisting with the cost of hosting its inaugural Women in the Law Conference, entitled "Pathways to Leadership: Progress, Challenges, and Opportunities." The half-day conference on Oct. 29 began

with a lunch, followed by a keynote speaker, two panels, and a cocktail reception. To foster improvements in the practice of federal law, the conference analyzed specific hurdles to women's leadership in the legal profession, with the goal of providing concrete information and strategies for overcoming these challenges on both an individual and institutional level.

Tampa Bay Chapter Staying in the Game II

The Tampa Bay Chapter proposed a leadership program designed to address an issue that affects us all: retention of female attorneys and the gap between female representation and female leadership in the legal profession. The program consisted of a yearlong symposium that began with a kick-off CLE followed by quarterly small meetings among lawyers and judges and a series of dinners for law firm leaders, diversity experts and business leaders. The symposium will conclude with recommendations for organizations for addressing the gap between female representation and female leadership in the legal profession.



Presentation of the Colors in the atrium of the Long Island Federal Courthouse at the May 14, 2015, program (Photo Credit: Cole Augello)

New Orleans Chapter YLD Angola Prison Tour

The New Orleans Chapter wishes to expand a multidimensional conflict resolution program for at-risk teenagers. The program provides positive instruction regarding conflict resolution and firsthand knowledge of the consequences of bad decisions. The program centers around a visit to Angola, the largest maximum security prison in the United States with more than 5,000 inmates and more than 1,800 staff members. In 2010, we began the program with 100 students and have held it periodically. We will bring at-risk students during the school year on a tour of Angola and use it as an opportunity to use a conflict-resolution curriculum and to provide mentorship. ☺



E.D.N.Y. District Judge Joanna Seybert (Photo Credit: Ron Pacchiana)



Keynote speaker Major Aimee Bateman (Photo Credit: Ron Pacchiana)



E.D.N.Y. Magistrate Judge A. Kathleen Tomlinson (Photo Credit: Ron Pacchiana)



Left to right: E.D.N.Y. Chief Judge Carol Bagley Amon, lifetime achievement award recipient Marian Egan O'Sullivan, E.D.N.Y. Chapter President Russell Penzer, and E.D.N.Y. President-Elect Dina Miller (Photo Credit: Douglas Palmer)