



Hawaii Chapter: (l to r) Chapter President Sherry P. Broder, FBA National President Mark K. Vincent, Hawaii Chapter Past President Howard McPherson, District of Utah Magistrate Judge Paul M. Warner.



Hawaii Chapter: (l to r) District of Hawaii Chief Judge J. Michael Seabright; Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, UC Irvine School of Law; District of Hawaii Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris.

NINTH CIRCUIT

Hawaii Chapter

2015 FBA Hawaii Conference (7th Annual)

The Hawaii Chapter hosted their 7th Annual FBA Hawaii Conference on Dec. 11, 2015, at the Halekulani Hotel in Honolulu. Panels included “Discussion of Significant U.S. Supreme Court Decisions Last Term,” “Discussion of Specialized Federal and State Courts for Veterans,” and “Discussion of Human Rights Law, Institutions, and Activists.” Attendees also enjoyed a reception following the event.

THIRD CIRCUIT

Eastern District of Pennsylvania Chapter

Co-sponsors Program With the Judges of “the Northern Tier” of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

On Sept. 10, 2015, the Judge Donald E. Wieand Barristers’ Inn of the Bar Association of Lehigh County hosted a record-breaking

number of attendees at a CLE program titled, “A Dialogue with the Judges of the Northern Tier: Advice and Guidance on Federal Practice.” As a result of a collaboration between various committees, including Lehigh and Northampton County Bar Associations’ Federal Practice Committees, the Eastern District’s Federal Bar Association, and the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s Federal Practice Committee, the inn welcomed an esteemed panel of judges who preside over federal cases in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania’s northern tier, an area which covers Northampton, Lehigh, Berks and Lancaster counties.

All of the federal judges currently assigned to the northern tier appeared on the panel, including Hon. James Knoll Gardner (Allentown), Hon. Lawrence F. Stengel (Reading), Hon. Jeffrey L. Schmehl (Reading), Hon. Edward G. Smith (Easton) and Hon. Joseph F. Leeson Jr. (Allentown). The panel was moderated by Hon. Henry S. Perkin (Allentown). With questions posed

by Judge Perkin, each of the judges provided guidance and insights on their expectations of attorneys appearing before them. There was specific emphasis on how important it is to refer to each judge’s specific policies and procedures, available online, as they may differ slightly from judge to judge.

To avoid one of the judges’ pet peeves, here are some helpful points that were discussed:

At the Rule 16 Conference, lawyers are expected to report the status of settlement negotiations. It is important to have at least had a conversation with your client as to what your expectations will be and a demand figure with which to start.

TAKE AWAY: Always be prepared to discuss your client’s position regarding settlement, even if there are issues that may play into the final result.

The judges do not always find oral argument useful. However, some of the judges will schedule argument when they think the issues in a summary judgment motion are close and could go either way.

TAKE AWAY: If argument is scheduled by one of the judges of the district court, it is likely that the judge may be considering granting summary judgment and so it would be wise to take preparation for argument very seriously.

The judges indicated that agreeing to allow a federal magistrate judge to preside over your trial may result in your case being heard more quickly. The district judges have to ensure speedy trials particularly for some of their criminal matters, and, therefore, in many cases, their criminal dockets will get priority over their civil dockets.

TAKE AWAY: If you want to ensure a more timely resolution, a trial with a federal magistrate judge may be a good option. ☺



Eastern District of Pennsylvania Chapter: (l to r) Judge Leeson, Judge Smith, Judge Schmehl, Judge Stengel, and Judge Gardner. At the podium, Judge Varricchio and Judge Perkin.