I write to you as we enter month five of my DC Chapter presidency. I appreciate the opportunity the members have given me to serve the Chapter and am thankful for our Board of Directors’ commitment. Indeed, we are fortunate to have a Board that is 17 members strong, and growing.

Due to the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina, we may now have overtaken the New Orleans Chapter as the largest chapter in the FBA, with approximately a thousand members. Of course, considering the destruction that Katrina wrought, we would all, I am sure, be happy to cede that title. That said, as a leading chapter of the FBA, we have the responsibility and opportunity to sponsor programs and events that other chapters can emulate. Our luncheon series is an example of our success; it has attracted large audiences of judges and prominent Washington lawyers. We are grateful for the able assistance of the FBA National and specifically Anne Daugherty, for ensuring the smooth operation of these events. In case you were unable to attend our most recent event, we have included an article about the January luncheon in this issue of The FORUM.

We continue to take advantage of opportunities to co-sponsor programs with nearby chapters, including the Pentagon and Northern Virginia Chapters. For example, Judges Royce C. Lamberth and Gerald B. Lee of the U.S. District Courts of the District of Columbia and the Eastern District of Virginia, respectively, presented a program, “Judicial Perspectives on Daubert in D.C. and Virginia Federal Courts,” at the Army/Navy Club on Arlington on March 1, 2006. On December 8, 2005, our Chapter joined the Pentagon Chapter in co-sponsoring the annual Department of Defense Legal Leadership Reception at the Pentagon Executive Dining Room.

We continue to search for and attract new leaders and Board Members who are excited about the opportunity to take on or develop new programs. To-wit, Board Member Patricia Ryan to whom I would like to extend...
President’s Message, Continued from page 1

my gratitude for spearheading and organizing the return of the Tom C. Clark Award. This award is given to a career federal attorney deemed to have given outstanding service in his or her career in the federal government. We will be announcing the recipient and presenting the award in the coming weeks. I look forward to continuing and strengthening the tradition of the award.

Please contact me at cdevorsetz@a-dlaw.com, or at (202) 969-8220, should you have any questions, programming ideas or to discuss how you can be more involved with the Chapter.

Spagnoletti Luncheon, Continued from page 1

The Office of the Attorney General (formerly Corporation Counsel) conducts all of the District’s legal business and litigates all suits instituted by and against the government. The Attorney General also furnishes opinions in writing to the Mayor, whenever requested to do so. The Office of the Attorney General is structured much like a private law firm, with sections devoted to legal specialties. There are approximately 240 lawyers and currently the office consists of nine major divisions with specialty sections including: Appellate, Civil Litigation, Commercial, Legal Counsel, Public Safety, Child Support Enforcement, Family Services, Support Services, and the Immediate Office of the Attorney General. The office handles about 22,000 cases and matters a year, which cover about 300 different subject areas.

Prior to becoming the Attorney General for the District of Columbia in 2003, Mr. Spagnoletti had more than 15 years of legal experience, including 13 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. Starting in 1998, he served as the Chief of the Sex Offense and Domestic Violence Section of the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. That assignment followed his appointment in 1995 as Chief of the Domestic Violence Unit. As Chief of the Sex Offense and Domestic Violence Section, he was responsible for more than 50 Assistant U.S. Attorneys and support staff, prosecuting nearly 8,000 cases each year. Attorney General Spagnoletti has also taught trial practice at Georgetown University Law Center for the last several years.

Before joining the government, Attorney General Spagnoletti was a litigation associate for Mayor Day Caldwell & Keaton, in Houston, TX and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in New York and D.C. He has also served on several councils and committees, including the Mayor’s Commission on Violence Against Women; the D.C. Superior Court Domestic Violence Project; the District of Columbia Domestic Violence Coordinating Council; and the Asian Pacific Island Domestic Violence Resource Project.

In addition to his impressive legal and public service career, he has received several awards, among them the 2002 Sullivan Award presented by the Assistant United States Attorney Associa-
Please Join the DC Chapter in Supporting the Federal Bar Association’s Work to Help the Victims of Hurricane Katrina

By John Connolly

In September, the Board of Directors of the DC Chapter contributed $1,000 of its operating funds to support the vital initiative of the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association to provide funds for legal assistance and/or professional support for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. As we all are well aware, this terrible natural disaster has had a devastating impact on the people of New Orleans and the coastal communities of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. The Foundation of the Federal Bar Association established a special dedicated fund and is providing legal aid and professional support to the victims of this terrible storm and its tremendous aftermath. It may seem that this event is history and that the communities are getting back on their feet to conduct business as usual. This is far from the case, however. While the people of New Orleans have shown great courage and character in holding its famous Mardi Gras, this is only the most visible of the efforts of the people of New Orleans and other coastal communities to rebuild their lives and communities to the extent possible. As with most things involving dramatic damage to people and property, while the devastation and loss of life was immediately visible, the legal issues of the neediest victims and the entire communities have only begun to be identified and addressed. Resolution of these issues will take years, and the need of these people for pro bono legal services supported by contributions from the Federal Bar Foundation and many other sources also will continue for a number of years.

WOULD YOU PLEASE HELP!
The Board of the DC Chapter decided to make its $1000 contribution out of operating funds in the same spirit as many of you have made other types of contributions in a joint effort to aid the Katrina victims and to reconstruct these coastal communities. Our Board decided to make our contribution through the Foundation of the FBA because it is an excellent way of providing targeted legal aid through our own national bar association. As we know here in DC, pro bono assistance is always a critical goal of attorneys and law firms in our own community, but the distress in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast poses a special and important challenge for bar associations, attorneys, and law firms nationwide to provide needed support beyond their own communities. This is particularly true for the FBA because the New Orleans Chapter, a fellow chapter to the DC Chapter, has been a leading chapter of the FBA for many years.

Now it is the turn of the New Orleans Chapter and their Gulf Coast neighbors to receive our support.

Please take the opportunity right now to provide your support. Every contribution helps regardless of whether you make a $10 contribution as a new lawyer or a substantial contribution on behalf of your law firm. The best way to show your support is through making an online contribution at the following website:

FBA Foundation’s Katrina Fund at http://fedbar.org/foundation.html#katrina

IN MEMORIAM

“Steadfast Home-Rule Soldier” Wilhelmina J. Rolark

By Darnellena C. (Christie) Burnett

On February 14, 2006, DC’s “Steadfast Home-Rule Soldier” Wilhelmina J. Rolark died of colon cancer at the age of 89. Many Washington-area residents remember this activist from when she fought against poverty and crime for those in Southeast Washington, fought for jobs and services for black residents, fought for home rule in this city, fought beside Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy and Reverend Martin L. King, Jr. with respect to voter registration and fought beside Calvin R. Rolark, her husband, to establish the United Black Fund of Greater Washington. The legacy of Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks and Wilhelmina J. Rolark reminds and encourages us to continue with the Civil Rights Movement. On February 18th, Howard University School of Law honored her with a special tribute.
Call for Articles

The FORUM encourages contributions of informative, relevant, timely articles and upcoming events. The submissions deadline for our Summer Edition is May 20, 2006. Send your submissions to Wendy M. Miller, Newsletter Production Editor, via e-mail to: Wendysww@aol.com. All articles will be reviewed by the editorial committee. Please include the identifying captions with all photos submitted.

Some Attendees at the January 12, 2006 Distinguished Lawyer Speaker Series Luncheon Hosted by the DC Chapter

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tion; the 1977 Young Lawyer of the Year Award, presented by the Bar Association of the District of Columbia; and Special Achievement Awards for four years in a row from the Office of the United States Attorney.