

CAPITOL ASSETS



The Newsletter of the Capitol Hill Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS ADDRESSES CHAPTER

A record one hundred Chapter members and guests filled the West Conference Room of the Supreme Court on May 22, 2007 for the Capitol Hill Chapter's Annual Supreme Court Luncheon Program. This year's special guest was Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.

The Chapter has been honored to sponsor this annual event for more than 30 years, and has now hosted all of the currently sitting Justices except for the Court's newest member, as well as the three most recent Chief Justices.

After dining at the head table with FBA President Bill LaForge, Chapter President Susan Sawtelle, Chapter President-Elect Adam Bramwell, Council Member Cynthia Rapp, and other Chapter members and guests, Chief Justice Roberts shared insights on a variety



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Susan D. Sawtelle

Greetings, Capitol Hill Chapter Members!

When I took the reins as Chapter president in October 2006, I knew I had a tough act to follow. Under our former president, Warren Burke, the Chapter enjoyed an outstanding year. At the end of Warren's term, the Chapter received a Presidential Citation Award and was one of only 11 chapters in the nation to receive a Presidential Excellence Award, the highest honor presented by the FBA to a chapter.

As our Annual Meeting approaches on September 11, 2007 (with Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, as keynote speaker, see page 6), I want to express my heartfelt gratitude and thanks to our officers and council members. Their creativity and hard work has produced another great year!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Calendar of Upcoming Events	2	Dorsey Reveals How Drafting Laws "Really Works"	5
Architect of the Capitol Addresses Chapter	3	Annual Meeting - Sept. 11, 2007	6
A Behind-the-Scenes Look at the CVC Site	3	Lawyers Have Heart	6
Winship Addresses Chapter	4	Get Involved with Chapter Activities	7
AO Director Duff Speaks	4		

Parting Shots *Back Page*

of issues and responded to questions from the audience. Among other topics, he spoke of the history of the Court and previous Chief Justices, the workings of the Court today, and such timely issues as judicial pay and separation of powers disputes.



Above: Chief Justice Roberts with FBA President Bill LaForge



Left: The Chief Justice with Chapter Treasurer T.J. Halstead, Immediate Past President Warren Burke, Former President Bruce Kasold, President Susan Sawtelle, President-Elect Adam Bramwell, and Secretary Richard Litsey

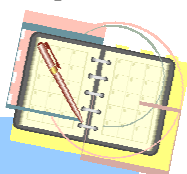
Please see *President's Message* on page 2

President's Message, from page 1

The year began with the Chapter's first in its "How Capitol Hill Really Works" series, on the nuts and bolts of law practice on Capitol Hill. Chapter Council Member and author Toby Dorsey led off the series by speaking to American University law students and Chapter members about ins and outs of the legislative drafting process (see page 5).

The Chapter then hosted monthly Distinguished Speakers Luncheon Programs throughout the year, following its September 14, 2006 annual meeting with keynote speaker former U.S. Senator John Breaux. Our monthly high-profile speakers included:

- U.S. Architect of the Capitol Alan Hantman (see page 3);
- International Association of Women Judges Executive Director Joan Winship and IAWJ Human Rights Education Director Anne Goldstein (see page 4);
- Director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts James Duff (see page 4);
- U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD);
- Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts, Jr. (see page 1);
- Constitutional lawyer and author David O. Stewart (*The Summer of 1787: The Men Who Invented the Constitution*); and
- ABC News Legal Correspondent and author Jan Crawford Greenburg (*Supreme Conflict: The Inside Story of the Struggle for Control of the U.S. Supreme Court*) (see back page).



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Tues., Sept. 11, Breakfast Program— Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), Annual Meeting, details on page 6

Thurs., Oct. 4, Luncheon Program— Kenneth Feinberg, Special Master of the September 11th Fund and recently named Administrator of the Virginia Tech Memorial Fund, e-mail announcement to follow

Contact T.J. Halstead at THalstead@crs.loc.gov to reserve seats for you and your guests.

The Chapter also participated as part of an FBA D.C. Circuit team in the American Heart Association's "Lawyers Have Heart" race (see page 6) and arranged for a behind-the-scenes tour of the U.S. Capitol Visitors Center site (see page 3). Chapter members helped represent the FBA at two public service career recruiting events at George Mason University School of Law and, with the D.C. and Pentagon Chapters, sponsored a summer Happy Hour at La Tasca Tapas Bar in Penn Quarter to welcome and recruit new members.

Finally, this year has presented many opportunities to participate in events together with our sister D.C. Circuit FBA chapters—the District of Columbia Chapter and the Pentagon Chapter. In addition to cross-publicizing each others' events, as mentioned, the three chapters co-sponsored a successful recruiting happy hour this summer, and the Capitol Hill and Pentagon Chapters were well represented on the D.C. Circuit team in the Lawyers Have Heart Run in June. It has been a pleasure to work with D.C. Chapter President Silvio Krvaric and Pentagon Chapter President Kathleen Duignan, and I am confident the three chapters of the D.C. Circuit will continue to work closely together.

I am leaving the Chapter presidency in excellent hands. Adam Bramwell, General Counsel to the Secretary of the Senate, is our incoming Chapter president, and I encourage you to introduce yourself and share your ideas with him for the coming year.

Again, my thanks for the opportunity to serve the Chapter as president this past year and to work with so many dedicated professionals. It's been a privilege and a pleasure, and I look forward to seeing all of you at future events.

—Susan Sawtelle

CHAPTER HEARS FROM ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

Alan M. Hantman, the 10th Architect of the Capitol, addressed the Capitol Hill Chapter at a luncheon in the Library of Congress’ Madison Building in December 2006. Mr. Hantman began by noting the breadth of the Architect’s duties to the United States Congress: he is responsible for the maintenance, operation, development, and preservation of the entire United States Capitol Complex, which includes the Capitol, the House and Senate office buildings, the Library of Congress buildings, the Supreme Court and Marshall Judiciary buildings, the U.S. Botanic Garden, the Capitol Power Plant, and other facilities and over 300 acres of land. In total, Mr. Hantman explained, he is responsible for about 15 million square feet of space and about 2,200 staff.

Mr. Hantman then spoke in detail about two of the Architect’s largest current projects: the modernization of the Supreme Court building and construction of the new Capitol Visitors Center. Now under construction under the East Capitol Grounds, the CVC will be about three-quarters the size of the Capitol itself and will welcome visitors in a secure public environment.

Overall, Mr. Hantman said, it is a tremendous responsibility to work on such historic buildings, both from a technical and architectural standpoint, and he is always mindful and respectful of the work of his predecessors, the previous Architects of the Capitol.



Artist’s renderings of the new Capitol Visitors Center now under construction. Mr. Hantman explained that most of the CVC will be located underground to preserve the historic landscape and views of the Capitol.

A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE CAPITOL VISITORS CENTER SITE

Following the Architect of the Capitol’s December 2006 speech to the Chapter (see above), on February 21, 2007, Chapter members received a tour of the Capitol Visitors construction site by AOC project officer Tom Fontana ~



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN JUDGES GROUP SPEAKS TO CHAPTER

The extraordinary work of the International Association of Women Judges was the focus of the Capitol Hill Chapter's January 2007 luncheon program. IAWJ Executive Director Joan Winship and Human Rights Education Director Anne Goldstein spoke to the Chapter.

The IAWJ is a non-partisan, non-profit, non-governmental organization of more than 4,000 judges in 89 nations around the world. Since its formation in 1991, Ms. Winship noted, the group has brought together women judges from diverse legal and judicial systems who share a commitment to equal justice and the rule of law.

Ms. Winship explained that the IAWJ conducts innovative educational programs to address critical legal and judicial problems in such locations as Afghanistan, Jordan, Central America, and Southern Africa. Ms. Goldstein—who had just returned from a judicial teaching mission in Afghanistan—gave moving accounts of the extraordinary hardships faced by IAWJ member judges in seeking to apply the rule of law.

A number of participants commented on the compelling nature of this chapter event, which focused on some of the human rights violations faced by many around the world. The program also highlighted the extreme difficulties faced by judges, particularly women judges, in attempting to redress these violations. This Chapter event has been selected to receive a 2007 FBA Presidential Citation Award, and a forthcoming issue of *The Federal Lawyer* will feature the work of the IAWJ.

DIRECTOR DUFF SPEAKS, PAST PRESIDENT BURKE HONORED

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts Director James Duff, appointed in 2006 by Chief Justice Roberts, addressed the Capitol Hill Chapter at a luncheon program on March 22, 2007 in the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building's Mechem Conference Center. The AO is the central support entity for the judicial branch and facilitates communication within the judiciary and, on the judiciary's behalf, with Congress, the executive branch, and the public. Director Duff provided

insights into a variety of practical and strategic issues facing the courts today and responded to probing questions from Chapter members.

Following Mr. Duff's presentation, Chapter Immediate Past President Warren Burke was honored for his exemplary service and efforts in 2005-2006. Chapter President Susan Sawtelle presented him with a plaque expressing the Chapter's appreciation and he received good wishes and thanks from all.



Left: AO Director Duff speaks to the Capitol Hill Chapter

Right: Chapter Immediate Past President accepts kudos from President Susan Sawtelle

DORSEY REVEALS HOW DRAFTING LAWS "REALLY WORKS"

In 1901, the head of Britain's legislative drafting office, Sir Courtenay Ilbert, remarked that laws in the United States were drafted by amateurs. It was true then, Capitol Hill Chapter Council member Toby Dorsey told a gathering of American University law students and Chapter members at the chapter's first "How Capitol Hill Really Works" program, and it remains true today, at least at the federal level. To ensure that federal statutory language is precise and professionally drafted, Mr. Dorsey explained at one of the Chapter's first events of the 2006-2007 year, Congress created a legislative drafting service in 1919. And his office—the Office of Legislative Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives—has recently been called “the world's best.”

Following an informal dinner at the law school and socializing with Chapter members, the students heard these and many other insights from Mr. Dorsey, author of the new book, *Legislative Drafter's Deskbook: A Practical Guide*. He shared first-hand practical and strategic knowledge, as well as personal anecdotes and career advice. His remarks were much appreciated by the eager student audience. This Chapter event has been selected to receive a 2007 FBA Presidential Citation Award.

The "How Capitol Hill Really Works" series focuses on the nuts and bolts of practicing law on the Hill



Toby Dorsey, attorney in the Office of Legislative Counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives and author of a new book on legislative drafting, speaks to law students at American University's Washington College of Law.

REMINDER—EVENT NOTICES

Remember that as of 2006, information about all Chapter events is now being sent solely by e-mail.

If you have not received notice of recent events or are having difficulty receiving e-mails from the FBA, please contact FBA staff at membership@fedbar.org to update your e-mail information.

You may also contact Chapter President Susan Sawtelle or President-Elect Adam Bramwell (contact information on page 8) with any suggestions about this new policy.



Chapter Council members Amy Bowser, Craig Winslow, Paul Vamvas, and Warren Burke conferring before the dinner program, co-sponsored by the law school's Law and Government Society

**~ANNUAL MEETING~
SEPTEMBER 11, 2007**

This year's annual meeting of the Capitol Hill Chapter will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2007. It will be a special **BREAKFAST** meeting from **8:00 to 9:15 AM** in Room H-137 of the Capitol.

Congressman Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, will be the keynote speaker. Reservations may be made until Friday, September 7, by contacting T.J. Halstead at THalstead@crs.loc.gov or by mail to:

FBA Capitol Hill Chapter
P.O. Box 75971
Washington, DC 20013

Space is limited and cost, including breakfast, is \$15 for FBA members and \$20 for non-members. Checks should be made payable to "FBA Capitol Hill Chapter."

Chapter members should already have received a detailed e-mail announcement of this event.

TEAM FBA RUNS FOR GOOD CAUSE

To aid the fight against heart disease and stroke, on June 9, 2007, the Capitol Hill and Pentagon Chapters fielded an 11-member team representing the FBA D.C. Circuit, in the annual Lawyers Have Heart 10K Run and 3K Walk to benefit the American Heart Association. During the last decade, Lawyers Have Heart has raised more than \$3.7 million for the American Heart Association.

Starting from the Georgetown waterfront, the D.C. Circuit team had an excellent race on a warm summer's day. Team members were Capitol Hill Chapter members and guests Bill LaForge (FBA President), Warren Burke and wife Monique, Jim Scott, Susan Sawtelle, Paul Vamvas, and T.J. Halstead, and Pentagon Chapter members Kathleen Duignan, with two guests, and Jeffrey Good. A celebratory brunch ensued at Nathans Restaurant.



On your mark . . . get set . . . go!



The FBA D.C. Circuit team in post-race mode

GET INVOLVED IN CHAPTER ACTIVITIES!

The best way to meet fellow Chapter members and participate in activities is to join one or more Chapter committees. Committee membership is open to all Chapter members, and we encourage you to join! The Chapter will be seeking new members for the following committees for the upcoming 2007-2008 year:

Programs Committee

The Programs Committee is responsible for recommending, arranging for, and publicizing effective Chapter programs. Vice President Paul Vamvas, pvamvas@fjc.gov, is the current Chair.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is responsible for increasing Chapter membership and promoting the Chapter to eligible attorneys. Immediate Past President Warren Burke, Warren.Burke@mail.house.gov, is the current Chair.

Professional Affairs Committee

The Professional Affairs Committee is responsible for the Chapter newsletter and continuing education programs. Council Member Toby Dorsey, Toby.Dorsey@mail.house.gov, is the current Chair.

Younger Lawyers Division and Younger Lawyers Committee

The FBA Younger Lawyers Division is composed of all members 36 and under, or admitted to practice for less than 3 years. The YLD's purpose is to provide services and information of particular interest to younger members of the federal legal profession. Council Member Brady Young, Brady.Young@mail.house.gov, is the current liaison to the YLD and Chair of the Capitol Hill Chapter's Younger Lawyers Committee.

"My first year working on Chapter committees has been fantastic. It's provided opportunities to get involved, to lead, and to meet other lawyers working on the Hill."

*-- Capitol Hill Chapter Younger Lawyers
Committee and Council Member Amy Bowser*

CAPITOL HILL CHAPTER OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS 2006-2007

~THANKS TO ALL~

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Parting Shots



*Left: ABC News Legal Correspondent Jan Crawford Greenburg, author of *Supreme Conflict: The Inside Story of the Struggle for Control of the U.S. Supreme Court*, shares observations with Chapter Vice President Paul Vamvas and President-Elect Adam Bramwell following Ms. Greenburg's luncheon presentation to the chapter at the Library of Congress Madison Building on July 20, 2007. Ms. Greenburg told the Chapter that she performed much of the documentary research for her book in the Madison Building.*

Right: Chapter Council Member Cynthia Rapp, Vice President Paul Vamvas, and Architect of the Capitol project manager Tom Fontana during the Chapter's tour of the Capitol Visitors Center construction site on February 21, 2007.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

