



The FBA Newsletter

Federal Bar Association, Dallas Chapter
2807 Allen Street, Suite 344, Dallas, Texas 75204
www.fedbar.org/dallas.html

Spring/Summer 2016

FBA Executive Committee

President

Jason Bloom
Haynes and Boone, LLP
214.651.5655
jason.bloom@haynesboone.com

President-Elect

Cort Thomas
Vinson & Elkins LLP
214.220.7815
cthomas@velaw.com

Vice President

Mackenzie Wallace
Thompson & Knight
214.969.1404
mackenzie.wallace@tklaw.com

Treasurer

Carolyn Hill
Carolyn A. Hill Attorney at Law
214.418.3867
Carolynhilllatty@gmail.com

Secretary

Richard Gultinan
Haynes and Boone, LLP
214.651.5228
richard.gultinan@haynesboone.com

Membership Chair

Jason Jordan
Haynes and Boone, LLP
214.651.5434
jason.jordan@haynesboone.com

Young Lawyers

Sheria Smith
United States District Court for the
Northern District of Texas
214.753.2200
sheria_smith@txnd.uscourts.gov

Government Liaison

Joshua Smeltzer
U.S. Department of Justice, Tax Division
214.880.9735
Joshua.D.Smeltzer@usdoj.gov

Law Student Liaison

Robert Banowsky
469.569.3387
rbanowsky@mail.smu.edu

Immediate Past President

Michael Stockham
Thompson & Knight
214.969.2515
michael.stockham@tklaw.com

Upcoming FBA Events

June 9, 2016, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Afternoon at the Courthouse

Earl Cabell Federal Building, 1100 Commerce St., Courtroom 1546,
Dallas, TX 75242

Register at: <http://cf.txnd.uscourts.gov/www2/forms/RegistrationForm.cfm>

June 23, 2016, 12:00 p.m.

Judicial Appreciation Luncheon and CLE

The Pavilion at the Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201

Register at: http://cf.txnd.uscourts.gov/www2/forms/FBA_Registration.cfm

July 21-22, 2016

Criminal Practice Seminar

Location TBD

President's Message



"How did it get so late so soon?" - Dr. Seuss

I can hardly believe how quickly this year has passed. It seems like just yesterday that I was outlining our goals for the 2015-2016 program year. In particular, we wanted to grow our membership base by ensuring that the value of membership exceeds the cost while continuing to offer great CLE programs and social functions for the Dallas legal community. I am pleased to report that we have already exceeded our membership goal for

this year. That's in large part due to the number of fantastic events that we have been able to host, but primarily due to those of you who have renewed your membership and helped recruit others to join our organization.

Although having my term come to an end is bittersweet, I am excited to pass the torch to President-Elect **Cort Thomas**. Cort has been a dedicated member of the Executive Committee for many years, and I look forward to watching the FBA Dallas Chapter flourish under his guidance. He has some great ideas that will build on the momentum that we've established over this past year.

Inside This Issue

Upcoming FBA Events.....	1
President's Message	1
30 th Annual Civil Practice Seminar	2
Reception for Judge Jorge Solis	3
Young Lawyers Brown Bag Luncheons	4
The Honorable Hal Ray Appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Wichita Falls Division	4

If you have ever wanted to get involved with the Executive Committee or any of our Chapter's upcoming events, now would be a great time! We are about to start planning our 2016-2017 program year and will have plenty of opportunities available. Please contact Cort at cthomas@velaw.com if you have any questions, suggestions, or just want to get involved with the Chapter. We know that the FBA is one of many bar associations available, and we want to make sure that we are doing everything we can for our members.

-Jason Bloom

30th Annual Civil Practice Seminar

On January 20, 2016, the Chapter hosted its 30th Annual Civil Practice Seminar at the Belo Mansion. The seminar included presentations and panel discussions featuring judges, professors, and practitioners from the Dallas area as well as a Keynote Address by Judge Ken Starr, who served on the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Attendees earned 5 hours of MCLE credit, including 2 hours of Ethics credit. In addition, FBA members received a steep discount on admission plus free lunch and parking.

The seminar opened with a presentation by Justice Douglas Lang, Texas Fifth District Court of Appeals, and a panel discussion on Civility & Ethics featuring Justice Lang, Professor Fred Moss, Jerry Alexander, and Pat Long. Next, Judge Sidney Fitzwater, Judge Irma Ramirez, and Judge David Horan offered guidance on how to be effective advocates in the courtroom. After that, representatives from Ericsson, AT&T, and ARGO Data Resource Corporation shared their perspective on practicing in-house.

After these three panels, Justice Scott Brister presented some tips on effective legal writing. Judge Royal Ferguson, Dean of the UNT Dallas College of Law, followed with a speech about the importance of expanding the availability of civil legal services. The seminar concluded with Judge Starr's Keynote Address, which previewed upcoming religious freedom cases on the Supreme Court's docket.

Please join us in thanking all of the panelists and presenters for generously volunteering their time and helping make this year's Civil Practice Seminar a huge success.

Photos: Civility & Ethics panel (top right); In-House Panel (bottom left); Keynote Speaker Judge Ken Starr (bottom right)



Reception for Judge Jorge Solis

The Honorable Jorge Solis, Chief Judge for the North District of Texas, took a well-deserved retirement this year. Judge Solis was nominated to the federal bench in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush, and he assumed the responsibilities of Chief Judge on November 13, 2014. To honor Judge Solis for his years of public service, the FBA Dallas Chapter, the FBA Fort Worth Chapter, the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association, and the DBA Business Litigation Section co-sponsored a reception for Judge Solis at the Belo mansion on April 28. The reception included brief remarks recognizing Judge Solis's many contributions over his illustrious career as a criminal district attorney, a special prosecutor, and a federal judge.

Although we will miss having Judge Solis on the bench, we know he will enjoy having more time to relax and spend with his loving family. Judge Barbara M.G. Lynn succeeded Judge Solis as the Chief Judge for the Northern District of Texas on May 1, 2016.



Below: Judge Jorge Solis with members of the FBA Dallas Executive Committee (Karen Mitchell, Sheria Smith, Cort Thomas, Richard Guiltinan, Carolyn Hill, and Jason Bloom)



Young Lawyers Brown Bag Luncheons

The Dallas Chapter regularly sponsors brown bag CLE luncheons for young lawyers at the Earl Cabell Federal Courthouse. At these lunches, which are free to all attorneys, judges speak on a variety of topics relevant to attorneys starting out their career. In 2016 alone, Judge Barbara Lynn, Judge Sidney Fitzwater, Judge Jane Boyle, Judge Stacey Jernigan, Judge David Godbey, and Judge Harlin Hale have all presented. These CLE lunches provide great opportunities for attorneys to interact with federal judges and get valuable insight on starting their legal careers. For more information, please contact Sheria Smith, Young Lawyers Chair for the Dallas Chapter.

Photo: Jason Jordan, Richard Guiltinan, Sheria Smith, Judge Lynn, and Cort Thomas after a brown bag luncheon.

Not pictured: Judge Fitzwater, who generously gave up his lunch break in the middle of a trial to speak at the event. Because he had to return to chambers immediately afterward, we saved an empty spot in the photo in his honor.



The Honorable Hal Ray Appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Wichita Falls Division

Hal Roberts Ray, Jr. has been selected by the district judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas to serve as a United States Magistrate Judge at the Wichita Falls Division. Mr. Ray will begin his service as a magistrate judge next month after he takes the oath of office. A formal investiture ceremony has not yet been scheduled.

Mr. Ray received a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, with highest honors, from the University of Texas at Austin in 1981; a Juris Doctor degree, with honors, from the University of Texas School of Law in 1984; and a Master of Laws degree, with merit, from the University of London in 2006. Upon graduation from law school, Mr. Ray served as law clerk to Chief United States District Judge Halbert O. Woodward in Lubbock, Texas, from 1984 to 1985. Following his clerkship, Mr. Ray worked as an associate with Thompson & Knight, LLP, in its Dallas and Fort Worth offices from 1985 to 1988 and from 1990 to 1994 and with Sherrill & Pace, P.C., in Wichita Falls from 1988 to 1990. Mr. Ray served as an assistant attorney general of Texas from 1994 to 1997. In 1997, he became a partner in Pope, Hardwicke, Christie, Schell, Kelly & Ray, LLP, in Fort Worth.

Mr. Ray is a member of the State Bar of Texas and is admitted to practice in the United States Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and District of Columbia Circuits and the United States District Courts for the Northern, Eastern, Western, and Southern Districts of Texas. He is board certified in Civil Trial Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and is a member of the American Law Institute. Mr. Ray is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a Sustaining Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and a Fellow of the Tarrant County Bar Foundation.

A magistrate judge merit selection panel chaired by Hank Anderson, Esq., assisted the court in screening applicants for the magistrate judge position. Panel members included: Allyson Ho, Esq.; Kevin Brooks, Esq.; Matthew Kacsmayk, Esq.; Mr. Duane Snyder; Lonny D. Morrison, Esq.; Robert G. Estrada, Esq.; Ms. Nancy Marks; H. Carter Burdette, Esq.; Robert L. Ginsburg, Esq.; Lars L. Berg, Esq.; and Mr. F.W. Rabalais.

- *Contact Person: Karen Mitchell, Clerk of Court for the Northern District of Texas, 214-753-2150*