



The FBA Newsletter

Federal Bar Association, Dallas Chapter

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www.fedbar.org/dallas.html

Fall 2015

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Upcoming FBA Events

October 16, 2015, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Young Lawyers Brown Bag Luncheon Featuring Fifth Circuit Justice Catharina Haynes and United States Magistrate Judge David Horan

Earl Cabell Federal Building, 1100 Commerce St., Courtroom 1351,
Dallas, TX 75242

October 23, 2015, 2:30 p.m.

Investiture Ceremony for the Honorable Mark X. Mullin (Registration Required)

Eldon B. Mahon U.S. Courthouse, United States District Court, 2nd Floor Courtroom
501 West 10th St., Fort Worth, TX 76102

November 6, 2015, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

"Starting Out Right" Bankruptcy Practice Seminar (Registration Required)

United States Bankruptcy Court, Earl Cabell Federal Building, 1100 Commerce St.,
Dallas, TX 75242 (Morning sessions)

Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, LLP

901 Main St. #5500, Dallas, TX 75202 (Lunch and afternoon sessions)

November 17, 2015, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Swearing-In Ceremony for New Attorneys (Registration Required)

Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201

January 20, 2016

Civil Practice Seminar with Keynote Speaker Judge Ken Starr (Registration Required)

Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201

President's Message



The Dallas Chapter of the Federal Bar Association is already off to a great start as we begin our 2015-2016 program year. We begin this year with two primary goals: to ensure that the value of membership exceeds the cost and to continue to grow our membership base. With those goals in mind, we have a number of great programs and new initiatives in place this year.

Looking back, we had a great Judicial Appreciation Lunch this past June, where Fifth Circuit **Chief Justice Carl Stewart** presented the keynote speech, followed by the Federal Criminal Practice Seminar in July.

Looking forward, the “Starting Out Right” Bankruptcy Practice Seminar is scheduled for November 6th, and our Civil Practice Seminar will be on January 20th, with **Judge Ken Starr** presenting the keynote speech. We will also be offering a number of Brownbag CLE lunches at the Federal Courthouse, including our first on October 16th, and will again sponsor the Judicial Appreciation Lunch on June 23rd. All of these events are free or steeply discounted for FBA members.

On the membership front, we are teaming up this year with the Dallas Association of Young Lawyers to sponsor a swearing-in ceremony for new attorneys on November 17th. The Executive Committee has also added Robert Banowsky as our law student liaison, and we are working to start law student chapters at SMU and other local law schools. Additionally, Joshua Smeltzer has agreed to serve as our Government Liason to assist us in efforts to grow our government-attorney membership.

We are looking forward to what is already shaping up to be a great year for the Dallas Chapter. We know that the FBA is one of many local and national bar associations available to our members, and we want to make sure that we are doing everything we can to return optimal value to our membership. To that end, please do not hesitate to contact me at jason.bloom@haynesboone.com if you have any questions or suggestions, or if you are interested in getting involved with the Executive Committee or any our Chapter’s upcoming events. Thanks, and I look forward to a great year.

-Jason Bloom

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Federal Criminal Practice Seminar

For the tenth year in a row, the FBA hosted a Federal Criminal Practice Seminar with the U.S. District Court and the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Northern District of Texas. This year, the seminar included two days of excellent programming, including a separate track for attorneys who are new to federal criminal practice. More than 200 attorneys participated and received low cost, or no cost, CLE.



Special thanks go to Jason Hawkins, Federal Public Defender, and all of his staff for their superb job of supporting the seminar. Jerry Beard, Assistant Federal Public Defender in Dallas, took the lead in organizing the entire event. He should be congratulated for coordinating a successful blend of relevant topics and interesting speakers. The seminar was the most successful federal criminal practice seminar to date. The FBA looks forward to co-hosting another one in 2016.

Photo: Federal Public Defender Jason Hawkins, Keynote Speaker Michael Morton, and Clerk of Court Karen Mitchell at the 2015 Federal Criminal Practice Seminar

Judiciary Appreciation Luncheon



Stacey G.C. Jernigan and Patricia Blunt, Administrative Support Specialist in the U.S. Bankruptcy Clerk's Office.

FBA Dallas Chapter Board Member Carolyn Hill received the 2015 CJA Award of Merit at the Judiciary Appreciation Luncheon. Carolyn has served for many years as the national Criminal Justice Act representative for the Northern District of Texas, and she also serves on the court's CJA advisory committee. Carolyn is pictured with Magistrate Judge Paul Stickney and Chief Judge Jorge Solis.

The Judiciary Appreciation Luncheon is sponsored each year by the Federal Bar Association and the Dallas Bar Association Judiciary Committee. This year's luncheon was held on June 19, 2015, at the Belo. Judge Carl Stewart, Chief Judge of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, was the luncheon speaker. Chief Judge Stewart is pictured here with outgoing FBA Dallas Chapter President Michael Stockham.

Judiciary staff received recognition at the luncheon for exceptional service. Winners this year from the district court were Shawn McRoberts, Court Reporter for Judge Jorge Solis and Oscar Anguiano, Information Systems Technician in the U.S. District Clerk's Office. Winners from the bankruptcy court were Anna Saucier, Judicial Assistant to Judge



Jed G. Weintraub Appointed as the Clerk of Court Designee for the Bankruptcy Courts of the Northern District of Texas

Mr. Jed G. Weintraub has been appointed as the Clerk of Court Designee for the United States Bankruptcy Courts of the Northern District of Texas. He will fill the vacancy created when Ms. Tawana Marshall, the current Clerk of Court, retires. He currently serves as Clerk of Court for the Bankruptcy Courts of the Western District of Tennessee.

Jed grew up in the South Bronx, New York, just a stone's throw away from the old Yankees Stadium. Predictably, he grew up as a Yankees and Giants fan, allegiances he still holds. Though there is no word as to when he plans to switch his allegiance to the Rangers and the Cowboys, immovable our hope remains.

After high school, Jed began his academic career at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey, where he pursued a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. After graduating, he decided he wanted a career in legal administration. At the time, only two universities offered a Masters of Public Administration/Judicial Administration – the University of Southern California and the University of Denver. He decided to pick the California sun over the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

While taking graduate courses at USC, Jed worked with the Los Angeles County Justice Systems Division. During the summers, he traveled to the East Coast to work with the Bergen County Superior Court in Hackensack, New Jersey. He applied for a full time position there after graduation, but ultimately accepted a job with the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York. After working there for three years, he moved to

Miami, Florida to work as the Assistant Administrative Manager for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. A year later, he was promoted to Director of Judicial Operations.

Then, in 1987, Jed was appointed to the position of Clerk of Court for the United States Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the 9th Circuit in Pasadena, California. It was there that he tried his hand at law school at Southwestern School of Law. However, the hour-long commutes both to work and to class quickly discouraged him from a career practicing law. He decided to stick with judicial administration, and a year later he was appointed Clerk of Court for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Tennessee, where he has been for the past 25 years.

Jed brings experience serving on several Administrative Office committees, including the Bankruptcy Clerks Advisory Group, which he has also chaired. He likewise has chaired the Federal Judicial Center's Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Court education, and has staffed the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System.

Jed is happy about his move to Dallas because it affords him the opportunity to be near part of his family. He is also looking forward to getting involved with the local cycling community. In his free time, Jed enjoys competing in "century" rides, which span one-hundred miles or more (he has completed about a dozen century rides so far). Jed and his wife, Jayne, have one daughter, Benay, who recently graduated from Whittier College in California. They also have a Basset Hound, Beulah.

By Sam Genovese, 2015 Summer Extern to the Hon. Harlin D. Hale (Bankr. N.D. Tex.)

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New Bankruptcy Clerk for the Eastern District of Texas

Jason McDonald, Quality Process Manager in the U.S. District Clerk's Office for the Northern District of Texas, has been selected Clerk of Court for the Eastern District of Texas Bankruptcy Court. Jason is pictured here with Chief Deputy of Operations for the Northern District of Texas, Leigh Lyon. Jason's primary office will be in Plano.

Afternoon at the Courthouse

On June 12, 2015, the FBA co-hosted the "Afternoon at the Courthouse" program with the DFW Association of Young Bankruptcy Lawyers. The program introduced summer clerks/interns and young associates to the federal court.



New Law Clerk Reception and Seminar

The FBA has partnered with the court in various ways over the years to support an annual law clerk reception and orientation. Some of the FBA executive board members attended this year's new law clerk reception on September 2 in Dallas.



Photo: Jill Bindler, Karen Mitchell, Loretta Robinson, and the Honorable Irma C. Ramirez

Bankruptcy Clerk Tawana Marshall Looking Forward to a Well-Deserved Retirement

Tawana Marshall, longtime Clerk of Court for the Bankruptcy Courts in the Northern District of Texas, has announced her plans to retire in December of 2015. Her departure is a great loss to the district, deeply felt by many.

Ms. Marshall began her career in the United States government in 1983, when she was hired by the Western District of Texas. She worked in that district's finance department, helping to manage a new financial management system which was to take the place of manual books. From 1983 until 1991, she progressed through numerous roles in the Western District, including: Civil Arbitration clerk, Operations Manager of the Bankruptcy Court, and Manager of the Central Violations Bureau.

Then, in 1991, she was offered the position of Director of the Administrative Services Department in Dallas, for the Northern District of Texas. It was not long before she was promoted and became director of the Operations Department. In 1993, she was named Clerk of Court to the United States Bankruptcy Courts of the Northern District of Texas. Since her appointment 22 years ago, she has served the Northern District of Texas well, guiding the courts and the people in her care through three administrations and numerous policy changes.

Thanks in large part to Tawana's efforts, the bankruptcy courts in the Northern District of Texas enjoy a reputation for excellence and efficiency. These qualities should make the transition easier on the incoming Clerk of Court, Mr. Jed Weintraub. Ms. Marshall hopes the incoming Clerk of Court will take time to get to know the culture of the courts in the Northern District and its experienced staff before making sweeping changes.

The part of the job that Tawana will miss most after retirement is the daily interaction with her co-workers, along the variety of challenges that the job presented. She says that the most memorable of those challenges will always be the implementation of CM/ECF. She also will cherish the warm welcomes she received from the staff and local bar associations throughout the district. On the other hand, she certainly will not miss dealing with budget issues and cuts.

When she retires, Ms. Marshall plans to spend more time with her grandchildren, Julian, Isiah, Cora, Maya, Ethen, and her great-grandchild, Elijah. She also plans to spend as much time as possible with her father, who is turning 90 and lives in Tennessee. As well as being with her family, she wants to continue wine collecting, wine tasting, and visiting vineyards.

Tawana Marshall ends her career a nationally known and respected Clerk of Court. She will be greatly missed. Let us wish her a wonderful retirement as a just reward for a job well done.

By Sam Genovese, 2015 Summer Extern to the Hon. Harlin D. Hale (Bankr. N.D. Tex.)

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