



The FBA Newsletter

Federal Bar Association, Dallas Chapter

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www.fedbar.org/dallas.html

Fall 2016

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Upcoming FBA Events

November 4, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

*Fundamentals of Bankruptcy – Free Continuing Legal Education Seminar
(Registration Required by October 28, 2016)*

United States Bankruptcy Court, Earl Cabell Federal Building, 14th Floor
1100 Commerce Street, Dallas, TX 75242

November 29, 2016, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

*FBA Tax Section Event, featuring U.S. Tax Court Judge Juan Vasquez
Belo Mansion, 2101 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75201*

January 27, 2017, Full Day Event

Inaugural Northern District of Texas Bench Bar Conference (Registration Required)

Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas at Las Colinas,
4150 North MacArthur Boulevard, Irving, TX 75038

President's Message



As the Dallas Chapter turns the page on yet another fiscal year, I would like to take the opportunity to express the Chapter's appreciation to our Immediate Past President, Jason Bloom, for the many accomplishments he helped us achieve during the 2015-2016 program year. For those of you who were unable to attend this year's Annual Meeting in Ohio, the Dallas Chapter was recognized for exceeding FBA National's membership goals of 5% growth or more. Jason Jordan, last year's Membership Chair, deserves special recognition for all of his efforts on this front. Our

Chapter also received an award for its quarterly newsletter, thanks to the work of our current Vice President, Richard Guiltinan, and several individuals who contributed articles during the course of the year. We have big shoes to fill this year.

I am excited to share several new developments for 2016-2017 that will further enhance our program slate. First and foremost, we will be holding our first annual Northern District of Texas Bench Bar Conference on Friday, January 27, 2017, at the Four Seasons Resort and Club in Las Colinas. While final details are still being ironed out, the current plan is for the conference to last from 9 am to 4:30 pm, followed by a reception. Several judges have already committed to participating in the event, and we anticipate drawing attendees and speakers from all over the Northern District. Be on the lookout for an electronic save-the-date in the near future.

In March, we plan to host a CLE event that is specifically targeted to lawyers with a government practice. When the FBA began in 1920, its membership primarily consisted of government employees. Today, the Dallas Chapter has very few government attorneys among our ranks. Our hope is that the government practice event will demonstrate the benefits of FBA membership to local government attorneys and private lawyers who frequently interact with governmental agencies. The topic for the March CLE will be governmental privileges and privacy assertions.

This year, the Dallas Chapter will also participate as one of a handful of pilot chapters in FBA National’s SOLACE Initiative. SOLACE, which stands for “Support of Lawyers/Legal Personnel – All Concern Encouraged,” is a program designed to enable the FBA community to assist one another when one of our own or someone close to us experiences a death, or some catastrophic event, illness, sickness, injury, or other personal crisis. The program initially started in Louisiana and has gained glowing reviews. Examples of past SOLACE requests that have been answered include everything from securing a medical evacuation airlift from a foreign country to providing a grieving family with meals. SOLACE does not handle requests for money. The program is open to all FBA members and those related to them within the legal community, including judges, lawyers, court personnel, paralegals, legal secretaries and their families. Lisa Lambert, who is a member of the Dallas Chapter and is the FBA National Bankruptcy Section Chair, has graciously agreed to be the Dallas Chapter’s SOLACE Liaison.

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In addition to these great new programs, we will still continue to offer many of the same events we all know and love—brown bag lunches at the courthouse for young lawyers, the Fundamentals of Bankruptcy Seminar, the Judiciary Appreciation Luncheon, and the Criminal Practice Seminar. As always, we strive to ensure that our members feel appreciated and are receiving optimum value for their membership. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at cthomas@velaw.com or (214) 220-7815. If you are interested in assisting with any of our upcoming events or in becoming involved in our Executive Committee, we would welcome your help. Thank you all for your dedication to the FBA.

-Cort Thomas

Judiciary Appreciation Luncheon

Each year, the FBA and Dallas Bar Association Judiciary Committee take an opportunity to show appreciation to the judges and staff of the U.S. District Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District. This year’s luncheon was held on June 23, 2016, at the Belo. District Court Chief Judge Barbara M.G. Lynn facilitated a panel discussion on “Tips for Practicing in the Northern District of Texas: A View from the Bench.”



Pictured above is Chief Judge Lynn with Lavenia Price (above left) and Gari Gonzalez (above right).

Several judiciary staff were recognized for exceptional service during the Judiciary Appreciation Luncheon. Chief Judge Lynn presented two awards to district court employees. Lavenia Price was honored as the FBA Employee of the Year for Judiciary Support Staff, and Gari Gonzalez received the FBA Employee of the Year from the District Clerk's Office. U.S. Bankruptcy Court Chief Judge Barbara Houser and Bankruptcy Clerk Jed Weintraub presented awards to Dennis Baird, the FBA Employee of the Year for Judiciary Support Staff, and Lance Powell, the FBA Employee of the Year from the Bankruptcy Clerk's Office.



Pictured above is Chief Judge Houser with Lance Powell (above left) and Dennis Baird (above right).

Two attorneys were also presented with awards of merit. EX Martin received the CJA Attorney Award of Merit, and Rickey G. Bunch received the Pro Bono Award of Merit.



Pictured above, from left to right, are EX Martin and U.S. District Court Judge Ed Kinkeade (above left), and U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Roach, Rickey Bunch, and U.S. District Court Judge Jane Boyle (above right).

Federal Criminal Practice Seminar

The FBA hosted the eleventh Annual Federal Criminal Practice Seminar on July 20-22, 2016, along with the U.S. District Court and the Federal Public Defender's Office for the Northern District of Texas. This year, the seminar was expanded to a 3-day format to accommodate less-experienced and more-experienced practitioners. Also, for the first time, the seminar included a four-hour forum discussion for paralegals, legal assistants, and secretaries. The seminar had many participants, and attorneys received up to 23 hours of low cost, or no cost, CLE.

Again this year, special thanks go to Jason Hawkins, Federal Public Defender, and all of his staff for their excellent support. Jerry Beard took the lead in organizing the event and should be congratulated for coordinating such a

terrific program with practical topics and interesting speakers. This year's seminar was the most extensive and successful to date, and the FBA looks forward to co-hosting another one in the summer of 2017.

Pictured below, Assistant Federal Public Defender Jerry Beard speaks to attendees at the Criminal Practice Seminar.



Dallas Chapter Recognized at Annual Meeting and Convention

The Dallas Chapter was recognized in two categories during the FBA Annual Meeting and Convention, which took place in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 15-17, 2016.

In January 2016, FBA announced a "Countdown to Cleveland Chapter Challenge," with the goal of increasing national membership by 18,500 total members. To facilitate this objective, each chapter was challenged to achieve an individualized membership goal. The Dallas Chapter's goal was to increase its membership by more than 5% between December 31, 2015, and the beginning of the Annual Meeting. The Chapter surpassed this target in early 2016 and maintained an 8% increase over total membership on December 31, 2015. The Dallas Chapter received recognition at the Annual Meeting for this accomplishment, along with the other chapters who reached their membership goals.

The Dallas Chapter's Newsletter also received the "Meritorious Newsletter Award" for 2016 at the Annual Meeting. Last year's Dallas Chapter Secretary Richard Guiltinan accepted a certificate commemorating this achievement. We would like to thank all of the individuals who submitted articles to the Newsletter last year. If you are interested in contributing to the Newsletter, please contact Jason Jordan for more information.

The Honorable D. Gordon Bryant, Jr. Appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Lubbock Division

The district judges of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas selected D. Gordon Bryant, Jr. to serve as United States Magistrate Judge at the Lubbock Division. Judge Bryant began his service as a magistrate judge on August 1, 2016.

Judge Bryant received a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, with honors, from Baylor University in 1983, and a Juris Doctor degree from Baylor School of Law in 1986. Upon graduation from law school, Judge Bryant became an associate with Gibson, Ochsner and Adkins in Amarillo. In 1991, he was selected to serve as an

Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas at Amarillo, and was later appointed Senior Litigation Counsel within the U.S. Attorney's Office. Judge Bryant has also frequently served as an instructor and faculty member at the Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center, working with Department and agency attorneys in the areas of trial advocacy and motion practice in federal court.

Afternoon at the Courthouse

On June 9, 2016, the FBA co-hosted the "Afternoon at the Courthouse" program with the DFW Association of Young Bankruptcy Lawyers. The program introduced young associates, summer clerks, and interns to the federal court.



Pictured above are Jason Bloom (above left) and U.S. District Court Judge Sidney Fitzwater (above right).

New Law Clerk Reception

The FBA continued its support of the Northern District's Annual New Law Clerk Reception, which was held on October 13, 2016, in the Jury Assembly Room at the Earl Cabell Federal Building. A number of the FBA executive board members were in attendance.

Pictured on the right, from left to right, are Jason Jordan, Karen Mitchell, U.S. District Court Judge Jane Boyle, Cort Thomas, and Joshua Smeltzer.

Proposed Rule Amendments Published for Public Comment

The Judicial Conference Advisory Committees on Appellate, Bankruptcy, Civil, and Criminal Rules have proposed amendments to their respective rules and forms. The proposed amendments and the advisory committees' reports explaining the proposed changes are posted on the Judiciary's website at: <http://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/proposed-amendments-published-public-comment>.

The proposed amendments are open for public comment through February 15, 2017.

