THE ROCKET DOCKET NEWS

The Newsletter of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

MARCH 2015

The President's Report

by Caitlin K. Lhommedieu

When I clerked for Judge Jones, I had the privilege of catching a glimpse of how a court makes the difficult decisions we ask it to make every week. How does the court decide how much time and money a corporate defendant has to spend trying to find documents from five years ago that might or might not still exist, that might or might not be relevant? When should an accused criminal have to give up his passport or be incarcerated pending trial? Should the federal government order the Commonwealth of Virginia to produce old DNA evidence for post-conviction testing? These are questions of fairness for which there is no right or wrong answer, but even such a routine decision might impact our economy, our safety, or our faith in the system.

What I learned from this peek behind the curtain was unbelievably reassuring. The way that this court makes these difficult decisions is simply good judgment and hard work. Even the briefest interaction with any judge in this court left me with the impression that if I ever had to put my life in someone else's hands, I would trust any one of these judges to make the right decision. Moreover, I also trusted that before making any decision, each judge would put in the time required to learn all the relevant facts and consider all the possible alternatives.

This might be true of many other courts, but what makes the Rocket Docket even more

IN THIS EDITION . . .

The President's Report (cont'd)

impressive is that it strives to do all this in a minimal amount of time. Shortly following my clerkship, I litigated a patent infringement case in another jurisdiction. In that case, after six years (six years!) of expensive litigation, pending motions to compel remained undecided, and no date had been set for the close of discovery. My client, who had sought to enforce his right to exclude a competitor from infringing the patents at issue, eventually decided to settle the case rather than pursue endless litigation. I had presumed that all courts moved as quickly as possible, taking only enough time to be confident of reaching the right decision. I was shocked to learn that it's not just an adage: justice can be delayed so long that it is effectively denied.

A cynic might view this denial of the right to enforce patents as merely another big company not maximizing their profit from R&D. Call me an idealist, but I believe that we have all this fabulous technology because of the incentives offered by our patent system, which incentives are eliminated when a patentee cannot prevent others from profiting by infringing. The imperative is not some arbitrary short-fuse deadline or a race to earn the title of the fastest court in the nation; rather, the imperative is reaching the right result in a short enough time to still be meaningful. The bench in the Rocket Docket puts this philosophy to work every day.

On February 28, the Honorable T. Rawles Jones, Jr., U.S. Magistrate Judge, retired after 21 years on the bench. For an interview with the Judge, please see page 3. We thank him for his service, and wish him all the best.

At the same time, Michael S. Nachmanoff, previously the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Virginia, took the bench as a U.S. Magistrate Judge on March 2, 2015. For an interview with Mr. Nachmanoff, please see page 8. We thank him for his service, and welcome the prospect of seeing more of him at the courthouse.

I also take this opportunity to thank Damon Wright of Venable LLP, who led this Chapter of the Federal Bar Association over the past year, served on the Board of Directors for six years before that, and continues to work to make this Bar one of the most vibrant in the country. I thank Damon for his service, his kindness, and his wisdom.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Obtaining and Admitting Electronic Evidence in Federal Courts – March 26, 3:00-5:00
National Federal Bar Association Mid Year CLE, presented in collaboration with Federal Litigation Section, Federal Evidence Committee, D.C. Chapter and MD Chapter. At DC Federal Courthouse. Networking reception to follow from 5:00-7:00. *See flyer at the end of the newsletter.*

Introduction to the Courthouse – Afternoon of April 17
Annual program introducing new lawyers to our courthouse, its personnel and processes. *Details to come by e-mail.*

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Members of the Northern Virginia Chapter are encouraged to submit articles or news information of interest to other members of the Northern Virginia Chapter for possible publication in the Rocket Docket News. Please submit any proposed articles or news information to the Editors at the telephone numbers and e-mail addresses listed above. The Editors reserve the right to decide on publication, and any articles accepted for publication are subject to editing.

Interview with the Honorable T. Rawles Jones, Jr., U.S. Magistrate Judge: A Peek behind the Curtain

On the occasion of his retirement, Judge Jones was kind enough to tell The Rocket Docket Newsletter a little about himself in the form of a Proust Questionnaire.

RD: Who is your favorite Supreme Court Justice of all time (and why)?
TRJ: Lewis Powell. In addition to being a native of Suffolk, Virginia, he admirably assumed the role of the justice he replaced, Hugo Black, as a centrist who could be a realist without being an activist. And when, as in *Hardwick*, he thought he'd missed that mark, he could admit it.

RD: What is your favorite new music?
TRJ: Rach Two and Three, or Florence and the Machine.

RD: What movie did you most recently see in a theater (and did you enjoy it)?
TRJ: *The Imitation Game*. Superb.

RD: What is the quality you most admire in others?
TRJ: Integrity.

RD: What is your most recent luxury or indulgence?
TRJ: A bottle of Cragganmore.

RD: What is the achievement of which you are most proud?
TRJ: Consistently trying to apply the Bail Reform Act [unconditional or conditional release, or temporary or pre-trial detention?] and Fed. R. Civ. P. 1 [the Federal Rules "should be construed and administered to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action"] and 26(b)(1) [the scope of discovery includes "any non-privileged matter that is relevant"] as written.

RD: What is the last book you read for pleasure (and did you enjoy it)?
TRJ: *The Boys in the Boat*. Yes.

RD: What is the best advice you ever received?
TRJ: Some people just aren't going to like you, and you can't make them.

RD: What will you say for yourself at the pearly gates?
TRJ: I tried to do the best I could with what I had.

RD: What is your most treasured possession?
TRJ: My relationship with my family.

RD: What is your favorite city to visit (and why)?
TRJ: New York. So much to do and so easy to get to.

RD: When is the last time you traveled by train?
TRJ: To New York to see a show last year.

Chapter CLE materials now available online!

Find materials from the Chapter's past CLE presentations on our website:

http://www.fedbar.org/Chapters/Northern-Virginia-Chapter/Recent-Events.aspx

Interview with the Honorable T. Rawles Jones, Jr., U.S. Magistrate Judge: A Peek behind the Curtain (cont'd)

RD: What is the last museum you visited?
TRJ: The Phillips Collection to see "Made in the USA."

RD: What is your greatest pet peeve?
TRJ: Dan Snyder, or poor situational awareness. Come to think about it.....

We take this opportunity to thank Judge Jones for his good judgment, his hard work, and his commitment to getting it right. We will miss his dry sense of humor, his modest manner, and his southern graciousness, and hope to see him back on the bench as often as possible.

The Honorable T. Rawles Jones, Jr., U.S. Magistrate Judge and Caitlin Lhommedieu.

Judges Provide Insight at Annual Patent CLE

The Chapter sponsored its annual and highly popular CLE on patent litigation in the "Rocket Docket" on January 28, 2015 at the Courthouse. The panel included our own Judge Gerald Bruce Lee, Judge Liam O'Grady, Judge Anthony J. Trenga, Magistrate Judge T. Rawles Jones, Jr. and Magistrate Judge Thomas F. Anderson, as well as Chief Judge James D. Smith and Vice-Chief Judge Scott R. Boalick from the U.S. PTO/PTAB.

Thanks to Chip Molster and Andrew Sommer from Winston & Strawn and Kathleen Holmes from Holmes Costin & Marcus for organizing and presenting this excellent program.

New Amendments to the Federal Rules of Evidence Go Into Effect: Rule Changes Effective December 1, 2014

by Daniel D. Mauler
Redmon, Peyton & Braswell, LLP

While federal litigators are awaiting the major changes to discovery scheduled to go into effect one year from now in December, 2015, they should not overlook the more modest - yet significant - amendments to the Federal Rules of Evidence that became effective on December 1, 2014.

These amendments make changes to the hearsay rules in two areas: 1) the admissibility of prior consistent statements to be used to support a witness's testimony, and 2) the burden of proof to admit business records and other documents into evidence.

Prior Consistent Statements More Easily Admitted.

The first change is found in Rule 801(d)(1)(B) and provides that prior consistent statements from a witness are admissible under the hearsay exemption in two situations: 1) to rebut an express or implied charge that the witness recently fabricated testimony or acted from a recent improper influence or motive in so testifying, and 2) to rehabilitate the declarant's credibility when attacked.

This change is intended to eliminate meaningless and confusing distinctions between, on the one hand, the admission of a witness's prior consistent statements as substantive evidence, and on the other, admission of such statements only to support the credibility of the witness. As the Report of the Judicial Conference Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure stated, "Under the current rule, some prior consistent statements offered to rehabilitate a witness's credibility--specifically, those that rebut a charge of recent fabrication or improper influence or motive--are also admissible substantively under the hearsay exemption. In contrast, other rehabilitative statements--such as those that explain a prior inconsistency or rebut a charge of faulty recollections--are admissible only for rehabilitation but not substantively."[1]

New Fed. R. Evid. 801(d)(1)(B)
(with new content underlined):

(d) Statements That Are Not Hearsay. A statement that meets the following conditions is not hearsay:

(1) ***A Declarant-Witness's Prior Statement.*** The declarant testifies and is subject to cross-examination about a prior statement, and the statement:

* * *

(B) is consistent with the declarant's testimony and is offered:

(i) to rebut an express or implied charge that the declarant recently fabricated it or acted from a recent improper influence or motive in so testifying; or

(ii) to rehabilitate the declarant's credibility as a witness when attacked on another ground; * * *

[1] Committee on the Judiciary, Amendments to the Federal Rules of Evidence, H. R. Rep. No. 113-164, at 10 (2014) available at http://www.uscourts.gov/uscourts/RulesAndPolicies/rules/rules-amendments-2014/house-doc-113-164.pdf [last visited: Dec. 26, 2014].

New Amendments to the Federal Rules of Evidence Go Into Effect: Rule Changes Effective December 1, 2014 (cont'd)

As most trial lawyers would agree, such a fine legal distinction between substantive versus rehabilitative evidence is usually lost on a jury, and the Judicial Conference recognized the issue. "There are two basic practical problems in distinguishing between substantive and credibility use as applied to prior consistent statements. First, the necessary jury instruction is almost impossible for jurors to follow. The prior consistent statement is of little or no use for credibility unless the jury believes it to be true. Second, and for similar reasons, the distinction between substantive and impeachment use of prior consistent statements has little, if any, practical effect."[2]

This change will streamline the process to admit a witness's prior consistent statements. No longer will a proponent need to parse a prior consistent statement for substantive evidence as opposed to mere credibility-bolstering material – and a court will no longer have to issue meaningless instructions to a jury about the differences between substantive and credibility evidence.

Opponent has burden to demonstrate "Untrustworthiness" of Business Records.

The remaining changes are found in Rules 803(6)-(8)—the hearsay exceptions for business records, absence of business records, and public records. According to the Judicial Conference, "[t]hese exceptions originally set out admissibility requirements and then provided that a record that met these requirements, although hearsay, was admissible 'unless the source of information or the method or circumstances of preparation indicate lack of trustworthiness.' The Rules did not specifically state which party had the burden of showing trustworthiness or untrustworthiness."[3]

While a majority of district courts have held that the burden to demonstrative untrustworthiness is on the party opposing the introduction of evidence, this holding was not uniform across the circuits. Some courts (including some state courts interpreting similar state evidence rules) placed the burden to demonstrate trustworthiness on the party introducing the evidence, even after the proponent had already satisfied all other admissibility requirements of Rules 803(6)-(8). This led to inconsistent application of the hearsay exceptions in different districts across the circuits.

New Fed. R. Evid. 803(6)
(new content underlined while deleted content shown by strike through)

Rule 803. Exceptions to the Rule Against Hearsay – Regardless of Whether the Declarant is Available as a Witness

The following are not excluded by the rule against hearsay, regardless of whether the declarant is available as a witness:

* * *

(6) Records of a Regularly Conducted Activity. A record of an act, event, condition, opinion, or diagnosis if:

(A) the record was made at or near the time by – or from information transmitted by – someone with knowledge;

(B) the record was kept in the course of a regularly conducted activity of a business, organization, occupation, or calling, whether or not for profit;

(C) making the record was a regular practice of that activity;

(D) all these conditions are shown by the testimony of the custodian or another qualified witness, or by a certification that complies with Rule 902(11) or (12) or with a statute permitting certification; and

(E) neither the opponent does not show that the source of information nor or the method or circumstances of preparation indicate a lack of trustworthiness.

[2] *Id.* at 10-11
[3] *Id.* at 16

New Amendments to the Federal Rules of Evidence Go Into Effect: Rule Changes Effective December 1, 2014 (cont'd)

The change to the well-known "business records rule" is shown in the figure above. The amended language is found at Fed. R. Evid. 803(6)(E). Similar language is replicated in Rule 803(7)(C) (absence of business records) and Rule 803(8)(B) (public records).

The new changes are intended to fix this problem and to make certain that once a proponent satisfies the basic admissibility requirements, the opposing party has the burden to demonstrate untrustworthiness. If unsuccessful, the evidence will be admitted under the hearsay exceptions.

Conclusion

These admittedly modest changes to the Federal Rules of Evidence serve as mere appetizers prior to the major discovery changes to Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(e) that are on track to go into effect on December 1, 2015, absent intervention by Congress. Until then, federal practitioners should be mindful of the new hearsay rules while they prepare for larger changes in less than a year.

Dan Mauler is a partner with Redmon, Peyton & Braswell, LLP. He focuses his practice on commercial litigation in the Rocket Docket with an emphasis on electronic evidence / electronic discovery issues. Feel free to contact him with questions about this article at (703) 684-2000 or dmauler@rpb-law.com.

A Brief Introduction to Magistrate Judge Michael S. Nachmanoff

by Ellen D. Marcus

Michael S. Nachmanoff recently was sworn in as the newest magistrate judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, filling the opening created by Magistrate Judge Rawles Jones, Jr.'s retirement. As Judge Nachmanoff was handing off his duties as the Federal Public Defender and preparing for new challenges, this reporter had the good fortune of chatting briefly with him about his path to the bench and lessons along the way.

Where did you grow up and what was that like?

I grew up in Arlington, Virginia, as the youngest of three boys. The Nachmanoff household was a lively place filled with music, sports, and many spirited discussions. My father, Arnold Nachmanoff, devoted a substantial part of his career to public service, serving in the Navy, the Foreign Service, the Budget Bureau, the National Security Council and the Treasury Department. My mother was even busier raising her three children. When I was twelve years old, our family moved to the United Kingdom where I attended the American School in London. It was a fascinating time to live overseas, and I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to understand my own country from outside the United States and to travel extensively. I discovered a love of languages and international affairs at that time, which I pursued through high school and college.

You graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1995, where you had been on the Articles Review Board for the Virginia Law Review. Then what happened?

I was fortunate enough to be selected to serve as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Leonie M. Brinkema. It was the first (and last) time that Judge Brinkema hired two clerks with the same first name – Michael Huppe and me. The clerkship was an invaluable experience – the cases were fascinating and the opportunity to see the judicial process from the inside had an enormous impact on my development as a lawyer.

Had you always intended to practice law in Virginia?

In college, I considered a variety of career options related to international issues, but I concluded that law school would be the best path – I liked the idea of being a trial lawyer. After working for in the Office of International Affairs in the Criminal Division at the Department of Justice, I knew that law school would be a good fit. As for practicing in Virginia, I had a great experience working in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Alexandria after my first year of law school, and it gave me my first exposure to the "rocket docket." After that summer, I knew that I wanted to come back to the Eastern District of Virginia and practice in this Court.

A Brief Introduction to Magistrate Judge Michael S. Nachmanoff (cont'd)

What is your favorite memory of being in private practice? Do you miss anything about it?

I have great memories of working at Cohen, Gettings & Dunham. I worked with some of the best lawyers you will ever find. We worked hard, but we also had a lot of fun. My favorite memory from private practice is Frank Dunham's laugh from down the hall. It was impossible to miss and brought everyone to his office to hear his latest joke or story.

One thing I do not miss about private practice is turning away potential clients because they could not afford to pay. Although the firm did a substantial amount of pro bono work and I represented indigent clients under the Criminal Justice Act, there were times when I had to tell people that we could accept their case because they simply did not have the resources to retain us. I do miss the camaraderie of Cohen, Gettings & Dunham – it was a very special group of people. I learned a tremendous amount about how to practice law and how to run a law firm during my time there.

What drew you to join the Federal Public Defender's Office in 2002?

As soon as Frank Dunham told me that he had been selected to serve as the first Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Virginia, I was determined to go with him. I had three primary motivations – (1) I wanted to fulfill my dream of pursuing a career in public service, (2) I wanted to continue to work with Frank who was a truly wonderful mentor and teacher, and (3) I viewed the chance to help build the office from the ground up as a unique and exciting opportunity.

When you became the Federal Public Defender in 2007, what did you regard as your biggest challenge and how did you meet that challenge?

It was a tremendous honor to be selected to serve as the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Virginia, but it is an honor I would have gladly traded away in a heartbeat to have Frank back. After Frank fell ill in 2005, the biggest challenge I faced was trying to maintain and build upon the extraordinary culture that we had nurtured in the office – a culture that valued quality, compassion, creativity, and zealousness in the representation of our clients but that also encouraged a sense of humor, fair play, and camaraderie within the office and with the rest of the court family. Frank never took anything personally. He loved a good fight in the courtroom, but he was always willing to shake hands at the end of the day. I have tried my best to follow in that tradition.

A Brief Introduction to Magistrate Judge Michael S. Nachmanoff (cont'd)

When faced with substantial cuts to the funding for federal public defender services in 2013, you took a leadership role among your fellow federal public defenders in educating Congress and the public on the detrimental effects of the cuts and why they should be reversed. How did that come about and what did you learn from the experience?

The sequester posed an enormous challenge to the Judiciary. It was a disheartening time for the federal courts, which only became more so when it became clear that some other parts of the government would receive relief from Congress while others would not. The federal defender program was hit particularly hard, and my colleagues from all over the country really banded together to wage a campaign to fight for the program. I had the privilege of testifying on behalf of the federal defender program at a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee on the impact of the fiscal crisis on the courts. Fortunately, Congress eventually provided the Judiciary, including the federal defender program, with the funds needed to continue to operate effectively, but our office lost valuable employees and suffered a serious blow. I wish that I could say that important lessons were learned from the sequester which guaranty that Congress will not let it happen again, but I am afraid that may not be the case.

How do you expect that your 13 years of representing indigent criminal defendants will shape your outlook as a judge? How have the years shaped your outlook in general?

I have found that it requires patience, diligence, a deep knowledge of the law, and cordial and professional relationships with opposing counsel, law enforcement agents, Probation, and many others to effectively represent indigent defendants. I think those are all qualities that apply in equal measure to serving effectively and fairly as a judge. As advocates, we often think about what we will say in court or to our client or to opposing counsel, but I believe that listening – to our clients, to witnesses, to the court, and to opposing lawyers – is more important that what we say. I know that listening will be even more important in my new job. Indigent defendants – many of whom face substantial hurdles, including mental illness, poverty, cultural challenges – want to be heard and treated fairly. I think that is true for all litigants. My goal will be to make sure that everyone who comes before the Court has the opportunity to be heard.

What qualities do you most value in a judge?

The qualities I value most are the ability to listen, to be well prepared, and to be able to make a prompt decision. Ultimately, judging is about fairness and respect – being fair and respectful to the litigants, the lawyers, the public and the court staff.

A Brief Introduction to Magistrate Judge Michael S. Nachmanoff (cont'd)

Have you been receiving a lot of advice lately about being a judge? What of it is resonating with you most right now?

I have been receiving a fair amount of advice and am receptive to it. The advice that is resonating most with me right now is to always be mindful that judges are no longer advocates. That means that, a lot of the time, they should be quiet and let the lawyers talk.

Who have been your most important mentors in law and in life, and why?

I have been fortunate beyond all measure throughout my life to have had mentors who have provided me with their wisdom and guidance. My mother and father set an example for their children that all three of us strive to emulate with our own kids. My father's career in public service has been an inspiration to me. He is the son of immigrants, and he instilled in us the belief that we all have an obligation to make the world a better place for our children as his parents did for him. Judge Brinkema and Frank Dunham, to whom I owe so much in my professional career, provided me with extraordinary opportunities in my career. They are the gold standard by which I am guided. Their passion for the law and their compassion for others gave me a solid foundation upon which to build my career as a lawyer and I will be forever in their debt.

What do you do for fun?

I have been a musician all my life, and I still play music for fun. My brothers and I played together for years, and my oldest brother is a professional musician. We try to play music whenever we get together. In addition to music, I have practiced Shotokan Karate for more than 25 years along with my wife. My children have now taken it up, and my oldest daughter passed her black belt exam last summer. Finally, I love watching my older daughters dance and play high school volleyball and my youngest play basketball.

Torrey Armstrong Memorial Lecture, 2014

The Chapter's annual Torrey Armstrong Memorial Lecture and Judicial Law Clerk Reception was held on September 29, 2014, at the George Washington Masonic Memorial in Alexandria. This is an annual event named in honor of Torrey Armstrong, a past president of our Chapter and the Alexandria Bar Association. Torrey Armstrong was a highly regarded trial lawyer who was extremely active in the local legal community. Following his death in 2001, in recognition of the loss to our legal community his law partners, friends, the Alexandria Bar Association and our Chapter established and endowed the Torrey Armstrong Memorial Lecture as way to honor his service to the legal community. The Chapter combines the Torrey Armstrong Memorial Lecture with the annual introduction of, and reception for, the judicial law clerks for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

This year, the keynote speaker was Stuart A. Raphael, the Solicitor General of Virginia, who spoke about the history of the Defense of Marriage Act and his role on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia in *Bostic v. Rainey*. We are grateful for his remarks.

The Chapter membership also had the opportunity to meet the newest law clerks of the Eastern District of Virginia, including clerks for the District Court Judges, Magistrate Judges and the Bankruptcy Court judges. We were delighted to have the opportunity to meet them and we welcome them to our Chapter.

Many thanks to everyone who attended the program. If you were unable to attend this year, please be sure to join us next year!

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Special thanks to Intelligent Office for providing the space for our Chapter's monthly meetings at their great location just down the street from the Courthouse, where they offer temporary office space and conference room rentals. Contact Matt Whitaker for details at 703-224-8800 or mwhitaker@intelligentoffice.com.

NoVa FBA Golf Tournament a Smash

The annual NoVa FBA Golf Classic was held on October 30, 2014 at Army-Navy County Club in Arlington. Great participation (including Judge Claude M. Hilton), strong competition and warm camaraderie were enjoyed by all. The team from Wiley Rein (Attison Barnes, Matt Michaels, Tom O'Leary and Kevin Peterson) walked away from the field in the scramble format, combining to shoot an excellent score of 60. The foursome from Hogan Lovells and Time-Warner Cable finished a distant second.

Special thanks to sponsors HaystackID, Blankingship & Keith, Hogan Lovells and Wiley Rein for making the event a financial success as well.

Very special thanks to our Golf Classic "Commissioner" George Kostel from Polsinelli PC, for doing an outstanding job organizing this outstanding event.

George Kostel , Shareholder, Polsinelli PC. Former Chapter Vice President and "Commissioner" of the NoVa Federal Bar Association Golf Classic

Raj Kumar, Time Warner Cable Group Vice President and Associate General Counsel

N. Thomas Connally, III, Partner, Hogan Lovells US LLP

Zenas J. Choi, Partner, Hogan Lovells US LLP

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The Federal Litigation Section, Federal Evidence Committee,
Northern Virginia Chapter, D.C. Chapter, And Maryland Chapter

Obtaining and Admitting Electronic Evidence in Federal Courts, Including Trial-Like Demonstrations

Featuring:
The Honorable Liam O'Grady, U. S. District Judge, EDVA
The Honorable J. Mark Coulson, U. S. Magistrate Judge, DMD
The Honorable John M. Facciola, U. S. Magistrate Judge, DDC
Daniel D. Mauler, Esq., Redmon, Peyton & Braswell LLP

Moderator:
Charles B. Molster, III, Esq., Winston & Strawn LLP

March 26, 2015 - 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Networking Reception at the Courthouse - 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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Obtaining and Admitting Electronic Evidence in Federal Courts, Including Trial-Like Demonstrations

March 26, 2015 – 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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