



FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION

SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

Message From the President

The South Florida chapter of the Federal Bar Association is strong and poised to become a leading voice in the national FBA – the only association dedicated to advocating exclusively for the federal bench and bar, and to advancing all aspects of federal practice. As you will read in the highlights from each of our committees, our chapter has made amazing strides in the areas of outreach and diversity, membership (we're now the largest chapter in the Eleventh Circuit and the 12th largest in the nation), continuing education, and our commitment to improving federal practice through consistent, educational, and meaningful interaction between

the bench and bar and among federal practitioners from both the public and private sectors.

For the second year in a row, our chapter will be presented a Presidential Award of Excellence from the national FBA at its annual meeting later this month.

Congratulations to our board and all of our membership on this important recognition of our achievements – it really is a team effort! And thank you to the members of our federal judiciary, who have been a constant support to all our programming and made this award possible.

I am especially proud of our new Law Clerks/Young Lawyers Division, now well into its second year and growing fast.

Approximately 50 current and former law clerks regularly attend our events. Federal law clerks have long sought an organization to keep them in touch with each other, both during and after their clerkships, and now they have it! The group is also a community and pro bono services arm of our chapter. Personal thanks to our LC/YLD committee and, in



Brett A. Barfield,
Partner, Holland &
Knight LLP

particular, to Ben Brodsky for his impressive (and tireless!) work building this division.

Tonight we celebrate our new president, Bernie Pastor, as well as all of our new officers and board members, and we honor our own Kathleen Williams, the 2012 recipient of the Edward B. Davis Award for Service to the Federal Bench & Bar.

We are so happy that Mrs. Pat Davis joins us again this year to say thank you to Judge Williams for her decades of service to the federal system and to her community, including as the Federal Public Defender and as our former FBA chapter president.

I have been honored and humbled to hold the title of president of this amazing group. We all look forward to building on our successes and to taking our chapter to new heights under Bernie's leadership and with the vision and hard work of our new officers, the board, and all our committees. Thank you for all your support. Cheers!

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Edward B. Davis Award for Service to the Federal Bench and Bar.

This year's recipient of the Honorable Edward B. Davis Award for Service to the Federal Bench and Bar is the Honorable Kathleen M. Williams. The "NED," as the award is affectionately named, is given annually to honor our own and those who most exemplify the values and actions we treasure as a legal community.

Judge Williams, who joined the federal bench on August 4, 2011, is no stranger to public service. She has been serving the Southern District of Florida since 1984, first as an Assistant United States Attorney until 1988, and then as the Chief Assistant Federal Public Defender from 1990 to 1995, whereupon she was appointed as our Federal Public Defender. In addition, from 1999 to 2000, at the request of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, she assumed duties as the Acting Federal Public Defender for the Middle District of Florida.

We are grateful for all that Judge Williams has so selflessly contributed to our legal community. Tonight we honor her and her service to our district.



FBA, South Florida Chapter Committee Chairs

Awards/Installation Dinner – Vanessa Snyder
Bankers' Club Lunch Series – Kevin P. Jacobs
Boardroom Lunch Series – Stephen Warren
Education / CLE – Ana Maria Martinez
Federal Judicial Reception – Brett Barfield
IT/Social Media – Oliver Ruiz
Law Clerks / Young Lawyers – Benjamin Brodsky
Membership – Stephen Warren
Mindfulness In The Law – Candace Duff
Newsletter – Yara Lorenzo & Clayton Solomon

Boardroom Lunches. The FBA organizes a series of "boardroom" lunches (featured above) that are open only to FBA members. Boardroom lunches are limited to 25 guests, do not involve speeches, and consist of conversational, question-and-answer type interchange. The primary benefit of these lunches – in addition to being free – is that they provide a group of attorneys the opportunity to get to better know distinguished members of the bench and bar in an informal, intimate setting. This year, the Boardroom Lunch Committee held four lunches. Our guests of honor included Chief U.S. District Judge Federico Moreno, U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams, U.S. Magistrate Judges Edwin Torres and John O'Sullivan, and U.S. Attorney Wifredo Ferrer.



Looking Forward. I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve as the president of the FBA's South Florida Chapter, and feel especially privileged to carry on the tremendous work of our outgoing president, Brett Barfield, who has worked tirelessly for our organization over the past two years, leading us to incredible growth. Among many other accomplishments, Brett has assembled a diverse team of skilled and energetic lawyers and judges to assist the Board and me in accomplishing our ambitious goals in the coming year – chief among them, to encourage the many fine attorneys who regularly attend our events, but who are not yet members, to join our Chapter. I look forward to a great year ahead! *Incoming FBA South Florida Chapter President, Bernardo "Bernie" Pastor.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bankers' Club Luncheon
The Federal JNC
October 10, 2012

Bankers' Club Luncheon
November 14, 2012

Bankers' Club Luncheon
January 9, 2013

Federal Judicial Reception
February 21, 2013

Bankers' Club Luncheon
March 13, 2013

Bankers' Club Luncheon
April 10, 2012

FBA Luncheon at the Hyatt
Regency
Gen. William Suter
May 8, 2013

*Inaugural Federal Courthouse
Orientation & Luncheon
December 7, 2012*

Patterned after a similar, successful annual program hosted by the Palm Beach FBA chapter, we will hold our first guided courthouse tour, orientation and luncheon on December 7th, 2012. The aim of the event is to familiarize young lawyers with federal court practice and procedure, and to provide a guided tour of the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr., United States Courthouse. The event will include a walk-through of a state-of-the-art courtroom for insight into the technology available to practitioners appearing in court. It will also provide participants the opportunity to meet and interact with some of our federal district court judges and magistrate judges, as well as representatives from the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Public Defender's Office, the United States Marshall Service and the Court Security Office.

Law Clerks / Young Lawyers Division. The Law Clerks/Young Lawyers Division is devoted to providing networking and pro bono/community service opportunities to current and former federal law clerks. It has been a very busy and productive year for the LC/YLD. At our bimonthly "law clerk lunches," we have hosted a number of distinguished guests who have presented on a wide variety of pro bono opportunities for young lawyers and community service activities for current law clerks who cannot perform legal services while clerking. For example, we hosted the Honorable Ursula Ungaro, who talked about the Legal



Up! Program, and Randy Berg of the Volunteer Lawyers' Project for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

The LC/YLD has also been fortunate to team up with other local organizations to host some terrific events for our current and former federal law clerks, including a joint happy hour with the Young Lawyers' Committee of the

Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Southern District of Florida, and a nighttime tour of the historic Dade County Courthouse with HistoryMiami, which was led by Judge Scott J. Silverman (Ret.). In the coming year, the LC/YLD will continue its bimonthly lunches and social events, beginning on Saturday, September 29, 2012, when we will be sponsoring teams for the First Annual "Bowl For Books" Bowl-A-Thon, a worthwhile event of the Gwen S. Cherry Black Women Lawyers Association. Proceeds from the event will provide book awards and book stipends for deserving law students and undergraduate students preparing for the LSAT.

31st Annual Judicial Reception. On February 9th, we held our 31st Annual Federal Judicial Reception honoring the Federal Judiciary of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida, and the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida. We had an impressive 700 guests, including more than 20 federal judges. We also had many law students and professors in attendance, including our traditional volunteers from the three local law schools who helped make the evening a success. Undoubtedly our most popular event each year, the Federal Judicial Reception features no speeches and no fuss—just a good time among friends, colleagues, the bench, and the bar. This event raises most of the funds for our annual programming and we could not do it without the generous support of our sponsors, to whom we want to give special thanks. We hope you can join us at our next Judicial Reception on February 21, 2013.



Membership. The FBA's Membership Committee is tasked with attracting and retaining members of the South Florida Chapter. In 2012, our efforts have resulted in phenomenal growth, increasing more than 20% in only six months! That represents largest percentage increase of all FBA chapters with more than 100 members, and ranks the South Florida Chapter as the 12th largest FBA chapter in the country. Significantly, for the first time, we are the largest chapter in the Eleventh Circuit. If you are not already a member, join today!

FBA CLE Program.

The Federal Bar Association held its first CLE Program of the year on March 8th, 2012, when over 250 federal practitioners from around South Florida met at the Hyatt Regency for the Ethics in Federal Practice CLE Program. Attendees heard the latest on ethical issues from the perspective of several of our federal judges, seasoned lawyers, and other professionals from the Bar.

The half-day program included three panels made up of judges and attorneys who tackle various ethical issues as a part of their daily routine. The first panel, which was titled Civil Ethics Issues, was comprised of Federal District Court Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga, Federal Magistrate Judge Jonathan Goodman, and the head of South Florida litigation at Holland & Knight, Adolfo Jimenez. The panel was moderated by Candace R. Huff of Greenberg Traurig.

The second panel on Ethics & Discipline included Federal District Court Judge Paul C. Huck, Florida Bar Counsel Jennifer Moore, and the Chair of the United States District Court Attorney Grievance Committee, John Delionado. The panel was moderated by Ana M. Martinez, AUSA.

The Final Panel on Criminal Ethics Issues was comprised of Federal District Court Judge Kathleen M. Williams, Assistant Federal Public Defender Miguel Caridad, and First Assistant United States Attorney Ben Greenberg. The panel, which was moderated by David O. Markus of Markus & Markus, focused on ethical obligations such as proper discovery and other issues that arise in criminal cases.

We look forward to offering more CLE events in the near future.

Mindfulness in the Law Task Force.

The Mindfulness in the Law Joint Task Force was formed by the DCBA and the FBA South Florida Chapter to introduce our legal community to the practice of mindfulness in the law. Mindfulness is the practice of paying attention to what is taking place in the present moment. Neuroscience research suggests that practicing mindfulness offers a series of benefits that can enhance the personal and professional lives of attorneys, judges, and other members of the legal profession.

On March 20, 2012, the Joint Task Force held its inaugural meeting, which was attended by more than forty federal and state court judges, attorneys, law professors and students. Since then, the task force has organized subcommittees that are developing mindfulness in the law programming and a website for the Joint Task Force. We have also conducted monthly sittings for mindfulness practitioners at the DCBA office.

On April 27, 2012, District Judge Alan Gold, Magistrate Judge Chris McAiley, and U.M. law professor Scott Rogers presented a much touted and very well attended mindfulness in the law session at the Southern District Biennial Bench and Bar Conference. Upcoming mindfulness in the law events include a retreat to be held in October 2012, and a program to be presented at the National Association of Women Judges Annual Conference on November 9, 2012.

Bankers' Club Lunch Series.

The Chapter's monthly luncheons at the Bankers' Club of Miami once again drew capacity crowds this year. The May event set an attendance record, as members and non-members came out in droves to ask Judge Adalberto Jordan questions about his recent appointment to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. This season we will have more luncheons than ever, with events planned for September (featuring Judge Rosemary Barkett), October (Florida's Federal Judicial Nominating Commission), November, January, March, April, and May. We anticipate that the May luncheon will be the largest in the event's history, with the Clerk for the United States Supreme Court, General William Suter, joining us to speak at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Miami. You won't want to miss this event, which will be preceded by a U.S. Supreme Court swearing in ceremony.



Brett Barfield, President, FBA South Florida Chapter, Wifredo Ferrer, United States Attorney, Bernie Pastor, Assistant County Attorney and FBA South Florida Chapter President-Elect, Eduardo Sanchez, Assistant United States Attorney, Vanessa Snyder, Associate, Hogan Lovells

To join or become active in an FBA committee, visit our chapter website, www.fedbar.org/Chapters/South-Florida-Chapter, or send an email to federalbar.southflorida@gmail.com