

### Practitioners' News

**David J. Beck** of Beck, Redden & Secrest LLP in Houston recently became president of the American College of Trial Lawyers at its annual meeting. ... **Alan Blakley**, a law professor, former managing partner in a firm that handled plaintiffs' class action suits, author of numerous articles and books on electronic discovery, and a practitioner who has overseen discovery in complex cases, has joined RLS Legal Solutions in Houston as senior director of e-Discovery Consulting. ... **Augustine Chung** and **Daniel Supalla** have joined Briggs and Morgan as associates in its Business Litigation Section in the firm's Minneapolis office. ... The international law firm of Thompson & Knight LLP has announced that **Jason Davis** has rejoined the firm as a trial partner in the Austin office. Davis returns after running his own private practice in San Antonio and serving as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Western and Southern Districts of

Texas. ... Chief Judge R. Fred Lewis of the Supreme Court of Florida has appointed **Michael J. Higer**, a partner with the law firm of Higer Lichter & Givner LLP in Miami, to the Supreme Court Committee on Standard Jury Instruction, Contract, and Business Cases. Higer's practice focuses on commercial litigation matters with an emphasis on debtors' and creditors' rights as well as intellectual property matters. ... **Michael J. Newman**, a partner in the law firm of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP, has been named chair of the Labor and Employment Law Appellate Practice Group. ... Irwin Fritchie Urquhart & Moore LLC is pleased to announce that **Douglas J. Moore** has become a member of the firm. ... **Terry L. Elling**, a member of Venable LLP's Government Contracts Group, has been promoted to partner at the firm. ... **Pamela J. White**, formerly chair of Ober Kaler's Employment and Labor Group, has been appointed circuit judge for Baltimore City and was

sworn in on Feb. 8. White was selected for the *Maryland Super Lawyers* 2007 issue, published in January. White is listed in the "Top 50" Super Lawyers section as well as in the "Top 25 Women" Super Lawyers section.

### Judicial Appointments

Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has announced the appointment of **Robert Kwan**, currently an assistant U.S. attorney in Los Angeles, as a bankruptcy judge for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. Kwan's 14-year term commenced on Jan. 2. **TFL**

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*Hearsay is compiled by Karla Smith, FBA editorial manager. Submissions may be sent to [ksmith@fedbar.org](mailto:ksmith@fedbar.org) or Hearsay, FBA, 2011 Crystal Drive, Suite 400, Arlington, VA 22202.*

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### MARTIN *continued from page 15*

be a fair jurist. Judge Martin let the committee know that she describes herself as "very much a rule follower" and that she has never been concerned about her ability to be fair. She was confirmed by the Senate on June 16, 2000, and received her commission on Aug. 3, 2000.

Judge Martin starts every day by reviewing her docket and determining what cases she can close. Endlessly efficient, she likes to get opposing parties into court, because she has found that cases move faster that way. Although she sometimes feels isolated by her position as a U.S. district judge, she plays an integral role in the evolution of societal mores. Her first trial on the bench was an employment discrimination case in which older white women working in a public library had been demoted because of their race, age, and gender; the jury returned a verdict of nearly \$23 million. The judge also sat on a three-judge panel, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2284(a), on a case that was brought to challenge the constitutionality of a state law redistricting three Georgia Senate districts shortly before the Senate race. The panel worked together to hand down its decision promptly, thereby allowing the law to stand without delaying the election and impeding the printing of ballots by only one week.

In addition to her judicial duties, Judge Martin finds time to travel abroad to such places as Latvia and Thailand in order to participate as a panelist in the Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training Program, which trains judges and prosecutors in developing countries in coordination with various government agencies and U.S. embassies. No matter how small her role may be, Judge Martin derives great satisfaction from knowing that she has contributed to improving people's lives.

Although her modesty would never allow her to admit it, Judge Martin has built a career based on the consistent discovery of the ethical paths presented to her throughout her life, epitomizing Justice Warren's definition of a woman of character. **TFL**

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*Ann Marie Fitz is a federal defense attorney in Atlanta, where she focuses on federal practice.*