

Midyear Meeting 2007 Wrap-up

This year's Midyear Meeting was held March 23–24 in Arlington, Va., at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. The agenda for Midyear consisted of a variety of leadership meetings for national, chapter, section, and division officers.

On Friday evening, the final round of the Younger Lawyers Division's 12th Annual Thurgood A. Marshall Memorial Moot Court Competition was held at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces in Washington, D.C., at which many Midyear attendees were present. Saturday included a luncheon, National Council meeting, and finished with a reception in the evening.



Lawrence R. Banda, ex officio member, 5A Board of Directors; Ping McBride and D. Michael McBride III, Indian Law Section chair and tenth circuit vice president; 22 Juanita Jones Lee, TRA treasurer and Ron Beatty, D. Chapter board member; 31 Jose Gustavo Gelpi, member, 3A Board of Directors; Flora L. Morales, Puerto Rico chapter president; and Thomas A. Pietrantoni, Puerto Rico Chapter national delegate.

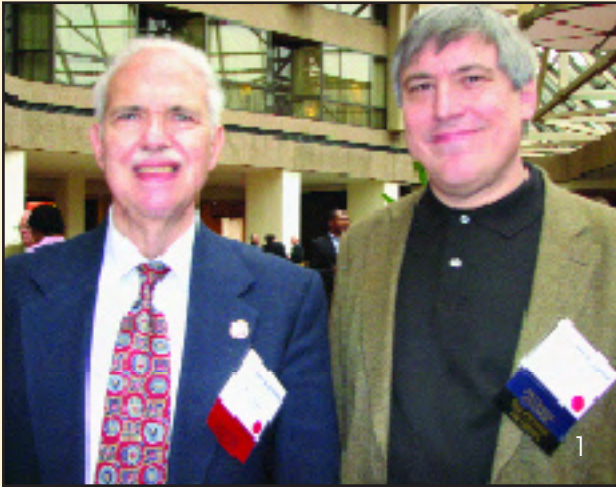
Moot Court Competition

On March 22-23, 15 teams from around the country competed in the Younger Lawyers Division's Twelfth Annual Thurgood A. Marshall Memorial Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C., held in conjunction with the FBA Midyear meeting in Arlington, Va. This year's problem presented each competitor the opportunity to advocate on behalf of petitioner and respondent as to whether racial diversity is a compelling interest that can justify the use of race in selecting students for admission to public high schools and whether a school district's efforts to achieve a desired racial balance in particular schools violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Further, competitors were asked to address whether, in reviewing a jury's award of punitive damages, an appellate court's conclusion that a defendant's conduct was highly reprehensible and analogous to a crime can "override" the constitutional requirement that punitive damages be reasonably related to the plaintiff's harm. These were the same issues before the Supreme Court earlier this year in the case of *Philip Morris v. Williams* and *Community School v. Seattle School District No. 1*.

After preliminary rounds at the D.C. Superior Court, DePaul University (Team 4), Loyola University of New Orleans (Team 8), New York Law School (Team 12), and Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law (Team 14, photo 1) advanced to the semifinal round, held at the U.S. District Court, based on a combination of their written brief, submitted prior to the competition, and oral argument scores. The final round of the competition, held at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, is based solely on oral argument performance. After the final round, Kelsey Kornick Funes, Competition Director, and Stephen Warren, Competition Assistant Director, announced this year's competition champion, Southern Methodist University (Team 14). New York Law School (Team 12, photo 1) was presented with a Second Place trophy, and Teresa Gordon from Liberty University School of Law (Team 15, photo 3) was selected as Best Oralist. Joshua Somers of Team 14 from Southern Methodist University earned the Final Round Best Oralist Award. Team 10 from Seton Hall received the Best Brief Award, Team 14 from Southern Methodist University earned the Second Place Brief Award, and Team 5 from New York Law School earned the Third Place Brief Award.



The YLD would like to thank those FBA member-volunteers who assisted with planning, judged preliminary rounds, and attended the awards ceremony. The YLD would like to extend a special thanks to Hon. Scott Stuckey, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, Patrick O'Keefe; David Horrigan; William N. LaForge, FBA president; and Jonathan E. Tobin, YLD chair, for serving as final round judges, and to William DiCicco and Hon. Andrew S. Effron, chief judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, for graciously hosting the final round at the historic court for the last 12 years.



1. Barry Lipson, Western Pennsylvania Chapter national delegate, and Francis J. DiSalle, vice president for the Third Circuit; 2. Younger Lawyers Division board members Sean M. Connolly, Eric Nowak, Stephen P. Warren, Kelsey Kornick Funes, and Jonathan E. Tobin, YLD chair; 3. Cindy Van Rassen, Eleventh Circuit vice president, and Mary Richards, North Alabama Chapter president; 4. Bruce Moyer, FBA government relations counsel; Kristine Lucius, senior counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee; Cordia Strom, assistant director for Legislative Affairs, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; and Elisabeth Cook, deputy assistant attorney general, Office of Legal Policy, Department of Justice; 5. Hon. William Strasser, Central Jersey Shore Chapter national delegate, and Dana McDonald, FBA past president and FBA Building Corporation president; 6. Joseph L. Hood Jr., El Paso Chapter national delegate; Sharon L. O'Grady, Ninth Circuit vice president; Melanie Osbourne, Alaska Chapter national delegate; and Jeffrey C. Rager, Kentucky Chapter national delegate.



1. Robert E. Kohn, Federal Litigation Section newsletter editor, and Michelle Hamilton-Burns, Federal Litigation Section chair with *Sidebar* newsletter; 2. Silvio Krvaric, D.C. Chapter president; Warren P. Burke, member, FBA Board of Directors; and Sean M. Connolly, member, FBA Board of Directors; 3. Hon. Robert Bacharach, Oklahoma City Chapter immediate past president at the National Council meeting; 4. Juanita Sales Lee, FBA treasurer addresses the National Council with William N. LaForge, FBA president, seated; 5. John D. Lenoir, Second Circuit vice president and Raymond J. Dowd, Southern District of New York Chapter president and editorial board member; 6. Craig Gargotta, *The Federal Lawyer* editor in chief, with his family.