

FIRST CIRCUIT

Massachusetts

On Feb. 6, the Massachusetts Chapter held its Annual Judicial Reception at the Seaport Hotel in Boston at which the chapter honored Judge Nancy Gertner, who has been on the bench since 1994. The overflow crowd of her judicial colleagues and the bar heard Judge Gertner praised by Chief Judge Mark Wolf of the District of Massachusetts and by her colleague Judge William Young, who introduced her, for her dedication to the court, her technological expertise and innovation, and her outstanding service to the bar's continuing education programs. (A profile of Judge Gertner, detailing her contributions, appears on

page 28 in this issue.) The event also provided an opportunity for the chapter to thank the many judges and law firms who contributed their time, effort, and space to the chapter's functions during the past year. At the reception, FBA President Jim Richardson also spoke of the FBA's efforts regarding judicial salaries and the independence of the judiciary. Chapter President Susan M. Weise presented Judge Gertner with an FBA Boston Rocker, on which a brass plaque is attached. The inscription reads: "The Massachusetts Chapter of the Federal Bar Association presents this chair to the Honorable Nancy Gertner in recognition of her outstanding service to the District of Massachusetts."

FIFTH CIRCUIT

New Orleans

The New Orleans Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and two co-sponsors—the Louis A. Martinet Legal Society of New Orleans and the A.P. Tureaud Inns of Court—presented a panel discussion commemorating the 75th anniversary of the seminal U.S. Supreme Court decision handed down in *Powell v. Alabama*, in which the Court outlined the premises of the right to counsel in the context of the infamous Scottsboro Boys Trials. The event was held on March 13 in the courtroom of Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle of the U.S. District Court for

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Massachusetts Chapter: At the Annual Judicial Reception on Feb. 6—(top left photo, l to r) Susan Weise, chapter president; Neil McKittrick, immediate past chapter president; and Eve Piemonte Stacey, chapter president-elect; (top right photo, l to r) Judge William Young of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, Susan Weise, and Chief Judge Mark Wolf of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts; (bottom left photo, l to r) Susan Weise and Jim Richardson, FBA president; (bottom right photo, l to r) Judge Nancy Gertner of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, the reception honoree.

the Eastern District of Louisiana. A reception, held in the courtroom of Hon. Helen Ginger Berrigan, chief judge of the Eastern District of Louisiana, followed the panel discussion.

Prof. Steven Becket of the University of Illinois College of Law began the program with an overview of the factual background and history behind the Scottsboro Boys Trials. Prof. Stephen Higginson, associate professor of law at Loyola College of Law in New Orleans, then discussed the *Powell v. Alabama* decision and Supreme Court advocacy. Majeeda Snead, clinical professor of law and criminal defense attorney, addressed the progeny of *Powell v. Alabama* in both state and federal legal systems. Virginia Schlueter, director of the Federal Public Defender's Office and chapter president, spoke about current issues in defending indigent clients in the federal system. Steven Singer, chief of trials for the New Orleans Public Defender's Office and clinical professor of law at Loyola College of Law in New Orleans, contrasted defense of indigents in federal courts with that of the state of Louisiana's criminal justice system.

An esteemed panel—including Hon. Ivan L.R. Lemelle, Hon. Bernette J. Johnson of the Louisiana State Supreme Court, and Hon. Laurie White of the Criminal District Court in the Parish of Orleans in Louisiana—offered views from their respective benches and participated in a question-and-answer session, at which the audience

had the opportunity to pose questions and make comments.

Prof. Nannette Jolivet Brown, who oversees the *Powell v. Alabama* Seminar Committee, organized the event.

TENTH CIRCUIT

Northern-Eastern Oklahoma

On March 19, the Northern-Eastern Oklahoma Chapter presented a 2.5-hour CLE program in Tulsa dealing with famous Oklahoma cases, including the case of Karen Silkwood and Kerr McGee, the criminal trial of Gov. David Hall for bribery, and the Supreme Court case involving litigation between the University of Oklahoma and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The presentations were made by the lead attorney in each case: Bill Paul, a former president of the American Bar Association and lead defense attorney for Kerr McGee; Bill Burkett, former U.S. attorney and lead prosecutor against Gov. David Hall; and Clyde Muchmore, co-lead counsel for the University of Oklahoma against the NCAA—a case that was ultimately resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court. The stories of these 20- and 30-year-old cases were remarkable and enjoyed by all.

Two days later, the chapter hosted a luncheon in Tulsa, at which the featured speaker was Mark Geragos, who has represented numerous celebrities, including Michael Jackson, Winona Ryder, Roger Clinton (President Clinton's brother),

Susan McDougal, Greg Anderson (Barry Bonds' personal trainer), and Scott Peterson. Geragos spoke about some of his fascinating celebrity trials.

Oklahoma City

The Oklahoma City Chapter conducted its annual judicial reception on April 1. More than 100 judges and attorneys attended the event, at which the work of the Western District of Oklahoma's magistrate judges was honored. Recently retired Magistrate Judge Ron Howland was recognized with a surprise honor at the reception. At the conclusion of the event, the chapter also paid special recognition to the Bob Dennis, the court clerk. During the event, Chief Judge Robin J. Cauthron of the Western District spoke on the state of the court, recognizing the judges and attorneys who devote time to the court's various committees. In addition, the chapter honored those attorneys who offered their time during the year in response to the court's requests to represent indigent litigants who were unable to afford counsel.

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

Atlanta

On Nov. 29, the Atlanta Chapter hosted a luncheon featuring Judge Reggie B. Walton of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, who had been assigned to the trial of Scooter Libby. Judge Walton spoke about the



Northern-Eastern Oklahoma Chapter: At the "Famous Oklahoma Cases" CLE presentation—(left photo, l to r) Bill Burkett, former U.S. attorney who prosecuted Oklahoma Gov. David Hall; former ABA president Bill Paul, who served as lead counsel for Kerr McGee in the lawsuit brought by Karen Silkwood; and Clyde Muchmore, who served as co-lead counsel for the University of Oklahoma in litigation against the NCAA. At the March 21 luncheon—(right photo, l to r) Mark Geragos, the featured speaker, and Judge Bob Bacharach, FBA vice president for the Tenth Circuit.

challenges of presiding over high-profile cases. His candid comments about dealing with the media were well received by those in attendance.

The chapter also welcomed FBA President Jim Richardson at a reception on Jan. 29. Richardson offered his appreciation to the chapter for hosting the 2007 FBA Annual Meeting and Convention and recognized the chapter members who had helped to make the convention a great success: Hon. Jack T. Camp and Hon. William C. O'Kelley of the Northern District of Georgia, honorary convention co-chairs; Linda Amidon and Joyce Kitchens, convention co-chairs; Robin Sangston and Phil Savrin, fundraising co-chairs; and Kerri Gildow and Chris Parker, CLE co-chairs.

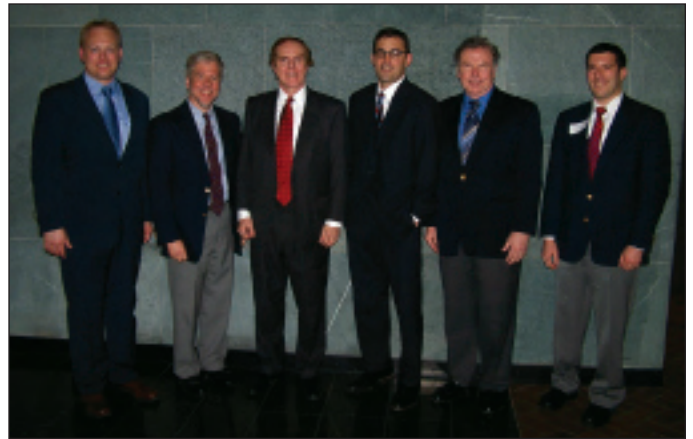
On Feb. 15, the Atlanta Chapter and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia presented a sold-out CLE seminar, entitled "Technology in the Northern District Courtroom." The seminar included presentations by Prof. Fredric Lederer of William and Mary

School of Law; Ed Buckley, an attorney with Buckley & Klein in Atlanta; and Mark Allen, the district court's technology specialist. Judge Timothy Batten of the Northern District of Georgia hosted a reception for organizers preceding the seminar. Atlanta Chapter Vice President Kevin Maxim chaired the event.

On Feb. 25, the chapter also presented the 2008 Robert S. Vance Forum on the Bill of Rights, entitled "Voter ID Laws: Preventing Fraud or Promoting Disenfranchisement?" Panelists included Emmet Bondurant of Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore in Atlanta; Neil Bradley of the ACLU Voting Rights Project; Thomas Fisher, Indiana's solicitor general, who had argued in favor of Indiana's voter identification law before the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 9, 2008; and Randy Evans of McKenna Long Aldridge LLP in Atlanta. Denis O'Hayer, a respected journalist in Atlanta who appears on WXIA-TV, moderated the forum. The Atlanta Chapter presented the forum in honor of Judge Robert S.

Vance, who was assassinated by a letter bomb in 1989. Senior Judge Emmett Ripley Cox of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit presented a tribute to Judge Vance at the beginning of the forum, which was chaired by Eric Schroeder and Michael Abramson, the Atlanta Chapter's co-chairs of the Younger Lawyers Division. **TFL**

Chapter Exchange is compiled by Melissa Stevenson, FBA manager of chapters and circuits. Send your chapter information to mstevenson@fedbar.org or Chapter Exchange, FBA, 1220 North Fillmore Street, Suite 444, Arlington, VA 22201.



Atlanta Chapter: At the January reception—(top left photo, l to r) Robin Sangston, fund-raising committee co-chair; Jim Richardson, FBA president; Joyce Kitchens, convention committee co-chair; Kevin Weimer, chapter president; and Amy Levin Weil, immediate past chapter president. At the 2008 Robert S. Vance Forum—(top right photo, l to r) Thomas Fisher, panelist; Denis O'Hayer, moderator; Randy Evans, panelist; Eric Schroeder, forum co-chair; Neil Bradley, panelist; and Michael Abramson, forum co-chair. At the "Technology in the Northern District Courtroom" CLE presentation—(left photo, l to r) Kevin Weimer, chapter president; Steve Moore, chapter Executive Committee member; Prof. Fredric Lederer, speaker; Kevin Maxim, chapter vice president and seminar chair; and Hon. Timothy Batten of the Northern District of Georgia.