Practitioners’ News


Honors and Awards

Puerto Rico Chapter Past President Alfredo A. Castellanos was presented with an award “in special recognition of your continued support and contributions to the Fellows program of the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association” on March 29. The award was given to him by David Rosenbaum, president of the Foundation of the FBA, at the Fellows Annual Dinner held in conjunction with the Federal Bar Association’s midyear meeting in Arlington, Va. … Board of Directors member and Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter member Lt. Col. Robert J. DeSousa was awarded the Bronze Star for serving with distinction during a yearlong deployment with the Allentown-based 213th Area Support Group in Balad, Iraq. DeSousa, a member of the Army National Guard, is the chief executive officer of the Vartan Group. While deployed, he is serving as command judge advocate for the 213th Area Support Group and also deputy staff judge advocate for his unit’s higher command, the Corapolis-based 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command. DeSousa, who resides in Harrisburg with his wife, Elizabeth, and their four children, is expected to return to Pennsylvania with his unit in May 2008. … Foundation of the Federal Bar Association fellow and immediate past president of the Puerto Rico Chapter, Veronica Ferraiouli, was honored in the San Juan Star as one of Puerto Rico’s 2008 Women in Leadership. … Judge Nancy Gertner of the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts has been selected to receive the 2008 Thurgood Marshall Award of the American Bar Association’s Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities in recognition of her contributions to advancing human rights and civil liberties; the award is scheduled to be presented on Aug. 9, 2008. Gertner took a lead role in litigation establishing that the Massachusetts constitution protects women’s right to choose, thereby protecting abortion rights in that state in the event that the Roe v. Wade decision is overturned. She won suits involving workplace discrimination for women in all levels of employment, from those in manufacturing jobs to executives and academics, and she represented the Concerned Black Educators of Boston in formulating remedies in that city’s school desegregation case. Gertner, only the second woman to receive the Marshall Award, has served on the federal bench since 1994. She previously practiced law in Boston for 22 years, during which she also taught at Boston University School of Law and was a visiting professor at Harvard Law School. (A judicial profile of Judge Gertner appears on page 28.) … The American College of Trial Lawyers, widely considered the premier professional organization composed of pre-eminent trial lawyers in the United States and Canada, recently held its 58th Spring Meeting in Tucson, Ariz., at which 90 new Fellows were inducted, among them 10 FBA members: Glenn M. Cooper, Bethesda, Md.; Michael J. Fitzgerald, Milwaukee; Joseph S. Friedberg, Minneapolis; Brian J. Hennigan, Los Angeles; Michael J. Hoffert, San Diego; Mary A. Wells, Denver; James E. Williams, Montgomery, Ala.; and Timothy F. Maloney, Greenbelt, Md. Fellowship in the college is limited to the top 1 percent of the total lawyer population of any state or province. Fellowship status is extended by invitation only, after careful investigation, to those experienced trial lawyers who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility, and collegiality. Lawyers must have a minimum of 15 years of trial experience before they can be considered for fellowship.

Obituary

Paul S. Wallace Jr., a lifelong member of the FBA, died on Jan. 3, 2008. Born in 1941 in Wilmington, N.C., Wallace obtained both B.S. and J.D. degrees from North Carolina Central University and later went on to work with the Congressional Research Service, American Law Division of the Library of Congress, where he worked until his death. As one of the first African-Americans at Congressional Research Services, he paved the way for others to follow and was a mentor to many. Wallace also made history within the FBA as the first, and only, African-American Capitol Hill Chapter president, serving from 1979–1980. He was an integral supporter of the Foundation of the FBA from its inception, and was a Sustaining Charter Fellow. Wallace not only supported the Foundation financially, but also gave his time and leadership skills as a Foundation director, treasurer, and Foundation president from 2003–2004. Wallace was very active in the community, including extensive involvement within the Peoples Congregational Church, Alpha Delta Phi Law fraternity, Omega Psi Phi fraternity, and was a lifetime member of the North Carolina Central University Alumni Association. TFL.

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