

Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Section

For the second consecutive year, the FBA Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Section co-sponsored Tulane University Law School's Annual Environmental Conference on Law, Science, and the Public Interest. Held in New Orleans on April 4–5, the title of this year's conference was "Climate Change: In the Community and the Courtroom."

Last year, the section's co-sponsorship of the conference was limited to providing a single speaker (a senior attorney from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) to participate on a panel on nuclear power. This year, the section expanded its sponsorship by supplying its own panel of national and international scholars.

The panel discussion focused on the Collaborative Program on the Ethical Dimensions of Climate Change (CPED-CC) and likely future directions for domestic and international climate change policy. Ken Gelburd, an attorney at Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection and CLE chair of the section, planned the panel and served as moderator. The three panelists were Donald Brown, associate professor of environmental ethics, science, and law at Pennsylvania State University and a CPEDCC founder; John Dernbach, professor of law at Widener's Harrisburg campus and author of numerous publications on the subject; and Bobby McKinstry, a partner in the Litigation Department, the Environmental Group, the Energy and Project Finance Group, and the Climate Change Group at the law firm of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll LLP.

Professor Brown began the panel discussion by presenting an overview of the ethical issues associated with climate change. Professor Dernbach then described the evolution of ethical concepts in international law dealing with climate change, including an examination of the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and a recounting of his personal experiences and those of his daughter at the United Nations Climate



Taxation Section: At the April program focusing on women in tax law—(l to r) Carol Campbell, division counsel for wages and investments at the IRS; Terry Coles, vice president of tax for Shell Oil's Americas region; Sarah Hall Ingram, chief of IRS appeals; Paula Junghans of Zuckerman Spaeder; Pamela Olson of Skadden, Arps, Meagher and Flom; and Karen Gilbreath Sowell, deputy assistant secretary for tax policy at the U.S. Treasury Department.

Change Conference in Bali. McKinstry concluded by discussing state, regional, federal, and international initiatives and proposals for addressing climate change. A lively question-and-answer period followed the presentations.

Taxation Section

On April 17, the Taxation Section sponsored an event focusing on women in tax law held at the law firm of Miller & Chevalier in Washington, D.C. More than 60 women were in attendance at the event—entitled "Breaking Through the Glass Ceiling"—which featured a panel discussion addressing a variety of issues ranging from career choices to balancing home and professional life, followed by smaller breakout groups in which participants were given the opportunity to talk more closely with the individual panelists. Panelists included Carol Campbell, division counsel for wages and investments at the Internal Revenue Service; Terry Coles, vice president of tax for Shell Oil Company's Americas region; Sarah Hall Ingram, chief of IRS appeals; Paula Junghans of Zuckerman Spaeder; Pamela Olson of Skadden, Arps, Meagher and Flom; and Karen

Gilbreath Sowell, deputy assistant secretary for tax policy at the U.S. Treasury Department.

Indian Law Section

On April 10–11, the Indian Law Section held its 33rd Annual Indian Law Conference, entitled "Identity in Flux: Challenging Outsider Definitions of Tribalism," in Albuquerque, N.M. More than 750 participants and exhibitors attended the conference. One of the more popular panels—entitled "Facing the Consequences of Climate Change in the Absence of Government Action"—featured Stanley Tom, tribal administrator for the Village of Newtok, who discussed the massive relocation of his village that was forced by global warming. S. James Anaya, James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law, was the luncheon speaker on Friday. During the luncheon, the section presented Lawrence Baca, retired deputy director of the Office of Tribal Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice and former senior trial attorney in

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ant has died from the disabling impairment or taken one's life from the stress of lack of resources, without the benefit of temporary assistance from the Social Security Administration."

In the face of such human tragedy, why is the SSA's backlog of appeals even allowed to exist? Largely because, over the past decade, the Social Security Administration has lacked sufficient funding from Congress to hire enough administrative law judges and support personnel to properly stay apace with the increasing numbers of appeals being filed, particularly as the baby boomer generation ages. "In the starkest and simplest of terms," Judge Waitsman explained to Congress, "we do not have the resources locally to handle the cases we are assigned. ...

The bottom line is that SSA sorely needs a substantial increase in its funding so that meaningful justice can be promptly and fairly delivered to the hundreds of thousands of disability claimants who await an answer to their appeals."

The good news is that the SSA received more funding than the President requested last year, and Congress may repeat that step again this year. The agency plans to hire at least 175 new administrative law judges. Without those new hires, even longer waits and more heartbreak may result from the uncertainty of justice delayed. **TFL**

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the Civil Rights Division, a Lifetime Achievement Award for more than 30 years of service to the Native American community. The Thursday evening dinner and reception was held at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

The National Native American Bar Association, the National Native American Law Students Association, and the University of New Mexico continued their support of the annual conference this year. **TFL**

Send your sections and divisions information to Adrienne Woolley, awoolley@fedbar.org or 1220 North Fillmore Street, Suite 444, Arlington, VA 22201.



Indian Law Section: At the 33rd Annual Indian Law Conference—(top photo, l to r) Lawrence Baca, FBA treasurer and Hon. D. Michael McBride, section chair; (left photo, l to r) Natalie Landreth, conference co-chair, Native American Rights Fund; Billy Frank, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Nisqually Tribe; Stanley Tom, tribal administrator for the Village of Newtok; and Heather Kendall-Miller, senior staff attorney, Native American Rights Fund; (right photo) S. James Anaya, James J. Lenoir Professor of Human Rights Law and Policy at the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law.