

| Sections and Divisions |

Indian Law Section

On Oct. 17, the 10th Annual D.C. Indian Law Conference was held at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. The daylong conference included panels entitled “Creative Strategies for Budget Politics: Meeting the Financial Needs of Indian Country in an Era of Shrinking Budgets”; “Winning Over the Roberts Court in Indian Law Cases: A Continuing Dialogue”; “Existing Disparities and New Opportunities: The Role of Tax Policy in Native American Economic Development”; and “Advocating Effectively Under New Lobbying and Ethics Rules.”

Section on Taxation

At the Airlie Conference Center in Warrenton, Va., congressional staff, current and former administration officials, academics, and tax practitioners met for the 10th Biennial Conference on Tax Administration and the Legislative Process. The discussion-based conference covered topics such as the implications of tax policy on the new presidential elections, health care reform, climate change and its effects on the tax system, revenue options, alternative tax systems, and the U.S. role in a global economy.

On Oct. 23, the Women in Tax Law group sponsored an event called “Selecting Wine for Business Events,” which featured Tim Healy as the main speaker. He has worked in the wine industry for the past seven years as a retail manager, as an operations manager for an importer and distributor, and as a wine and cheese buyer for Balduccis. The group met at White and Case LLP and enjoyed the informative lecture and wine tasting followed by a networking reception. This unique event was the fifth in the section’s popular Women in Tax Law Series.

Financial Institutions Section

On Nov. 12, the section’s Banking Law Committee held its annual General Counsels’ Reception and Dinner at the Promenade of the Westin Grand Hotel in Washington, D.C. The reception and dinner were followed by a panel discussion led by five general and chief

counsels of major agencies that deal with financial institutions: Scott Alvarez, general counsel at the Federal Reserve Board; John Bowman, chief counsel at the Office of Thrift Supervision; Robert Fenner, general counsel at the National Credit Union Administration; Julie Williams, chief counsel at the Office of Comptroller of the Currency; and John Thomas, general counsel at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The section also presented the 2008 Richard Peterson Award to John D. Hawke Jr. More information about Hawke and the Peterson Award is described in *TFL*’s Hearsay column on page 25.

Government Contracts Section

On April 23, the section’s Federal Grants Committee sponsored a panel discussion focusing on issues involved in grants law. The event, held as part of the National Grants Management Association’s Annual Training Conference at the International Trade Center in Washington, D.C., featured attorneys Stacia Davis LeBlanc, Richard Stern, Wendel Askew, Tom Armstrong, and Jana Patterson Gagner. The panelists fielded questions on a range of issues from an audience of more than 100 professionals in the grants community. Topics included earmarks, for-profit- or fee-based arrangements, multiyear awards, bona fide needs, account closing, indirect costs, and international concerns.

TFL

Sections and Divisions is compiled by Adrienne Woolley, FBA manager of sections and divisions. Send your sections and divisions information and photos to awoolley@fedbar.org or Sections and Divisions, Federal Bar Association, 1220 North Fillmore Street, Suite 444, Arlington, VA 22201.



Government Contracts Section: At the panel sponsored by the Federal Grants Committee during the National Grants Management Association’s Annual Training Conference—(l to r) Stacia Davis LeBlanc, senior counsel at Feldesman, Tucker, and former section chair; Richard Stern, executive officer of the Office of Management and Policy in the Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Wendel Askew, assistant general counsel at the Assistance Law, Civil Rights and Finance Law Office, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Tom Armstrong, assistant general counsel at the Appropriations and Budgeting Office, U.S. Government Accountability Office; and the panel’s moderator and co-chair of the committee, Jana Patterson Gagner, senior counsel at the Federal Assistance Law Division, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Commerce, and committee co-chair.



Financial Institutions Section: At the Banking Law Committee’s annual General Counsels’ Reception and Dinner—(l to r) John Thomas from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Julie Williams from the Office of Comptroller of the Currency; Robert Fenner from the National Credit Union Administration; John Bowman from the Office of Thrift Supervision; and Scott Alvarez from the Federal Reserve Board.



Indian Law Section: At the 10th Annual D.C. Indian Law Conference—(left photo, l to r) Donald Pongrace of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP; Eamon Walsh of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs; Katherine Brodie, counsel at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP; and Vanessa Ray-Hodge of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP; (right photo, l to r) Ed Gehres of Patton Boggs; Gavin Clarkson from the University of Houston Law Center; Telly Meier of Holland & Knight; and Herbert Stevens of Nixon Peabody LLP.



Section on Taxation: At the 10th Biennial Conference on Tax Administration and the Legislative Process—(left photo, l to r) Terry Dinan from the Congressional Budget Office; Christopher Berendt of Pace Global Energy Services LLC; and John Gimigliano of KPMG LLP. At the Women in Tax Law group’s event, “Selecting Wine for Business Events”—(right photo, l to r) Nicole Reuling of Mayer Brown LLP; Teresa Trissell from the IRS Office of Chief Counsel; Tim Healy, featured speaker; Kari Larson of Latham & Watkins; and Jeanne Ross from the U.S. Treasury Department.