

| Chapter Exchange |

FIRST CIRCUIT

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Chapter was the proud recipient of one of the FBA's 2008 Chapter Activity Presidential Achievement Awards. This award was presented at the association's Annual Convention in September 2008, in Huntsville, Ala. The award was based upon events and activities that occurred in the 2007–2008 year.

The activities for which the chapter was rewarded included its breakfast series, which afforded members an opportunity to meet various judges in an informal setting for a question-and-answer session on topics that included e-discovery and federal practice, practice tips for jury trials, how and why litigation in federal courts is different from other courts, and litigation involving health care fraud.

The chapter's Young Lawyers Division hosted a series of seminars on topics at local law firms; title of the seminars included "Mediation: Practical Tips for Success" and "Federal Clerks' Perspective: Practical Tips from the Front Line." The Young Lawyers Division also hosted a brown-bag lunch series focusing on practice tips, such as the "nuts and bolts" of class actions involving securities, of depositions, and of expert discovery in federal and state courts.

Finally, apart from a number of events that the chapter co-sponsored with local

law schools, the chapter hosted its annual event, the Annual Judicial Reception honoring District Judge Nancy Gertner, which was attended by more than 200 guests and more than 20 members of the federal bench. Featured speakers at the reception included former FBA President Jim Richardson, Chief Judge Mark L. Wolf, former Chief Judge William G. Young, Judge Patti B. Saris, and Magistrate Judge Marianne B. Bowler.

Rhode Island

On Oct. 8, 2008, the Rhode Island Chapter hosted a luncheon with the First Circuit's judges. Following oral argument in the federal district courthouse in Providence, Chief Judge Sandra Lynch, Senior Circuit Judge Bruce M. Selya, and Circuit Judge Kermit Victor Lipez joined chapter members for lunch and a question-and-answer session at the Renaissance Providence Hotel. Several district court judges and magistrate judges were also present, including Chief Judge Mary Lisi, Judge William Smith, Judge Ernest Torres, Magistrate Judge Lincoln Almond, and Magistrate Judge Jacob Hagopian. Dean Logan of Roger Williams Law School served as the moderator of the session.

FIFTH CIRCUIT

Dallas

On Nov. 12, 2008, the Dallas Chap-

ter, in collaboration with the office of the Clerk of Court for the Northern District of Texas, sponsored a swearing-in ceremony conducted by the chief judge for the Northern District of Texas, Hon. Sidney Fitzwater. Chief Judge Fitzwater swore in 51 new attorneys as members of the Texas state bar, and many of them became members of the bar of the Northern District of Texas. The chapter sponsored a welcoming reception in the courthouse's central jury room after the swearing-in, and the president of the chapter, Patrick McLain, gave a brief talk on the virtues of membership in the association.

Del Rio

On Dec. 9, 2008, the chapter held a dinner for chapter members at the Ramada Inn in Del Rio, Texas, to raise funds for scholarships for local high school students. The scholarship fund is funded by monies raised at the dinner and donations from local attorneys. The guest speaker at the successful fund-raising event was District Judge Thomas F. Lee, who entertained guests with a talk about the practice of law in the old days in West Texas. Judge Lee, who was the district attorney for the 63rd judicial district before serving as a judge in that district for eight years, retired shortly after the event. He will be moving to Hondo, Texas, after a long and well-respected legal career in Del Rio.



Rhode Island Chapter: At a luncheon with the First Circuit's judges—(left photo, l to r) Stacey Nakasian, chapter president-elect; Robin Feder, chapter president; David Logan, dean of Roger Williams Law School and moderator; Chief U.S. District Judge Mary Lisi; and Senior Judge Bruce Selya and Judge Kermit Victor Lipez of the First Circuit. Photo by Scott Kilpatrick.

Dallas Chapter: At the reception and swearing-in ceremony of new members of the bar—(right photo, l to r) Chief Judge Sidney Fitzwater, Clerk of Court Karen Mitchell, chapter President Patrick McLain.

Gregory Torres, last year's Lawyer of the Year recipient, awarded Javier Riojas the Lawyer of the Year Award for 2008. This honor, which is given to the lawyer who most exemplifies the true essence of a federal lawyer, is based on votes cast by members of the chapter. Javier Riojas played a crucial role in the successful award of seven scholarships to area high school students; he almost single-handedly reviewed more than 100 scholarship applications. Brandi Hardin, an attorney in the office of U.S. Magistrate Judge Dennis G. Green, organized the event.

San Antonio

On Oct. 23, 2008, several members of the chapter participated in an event honoring the U.S. Constitution at Fox Technical High School in downtown San Antonio. Led by Outreach Chair Dawn Knepper, the chapter hosted a contest among social studies students on constitutional law. The format was similar to the popular television show *Jeopardy*. This event dovetails with another program sponsored by the chapter—a project in which the chapter pays the tuition and book expenses for four Fox Tech students taking an undergraduate law course at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

In November, the chapter was pleased to be a principal sponsor of the San Antonio legal community's farewell reception held to honor U.S. District Judge W. Royal Ferguson Jr. for his 14 years on the bench in the Western District of Texas. He is taking senior status and moving to the Northern District of Texas. At the event, which was co-chaired by the president-elect of the chapter, Meagan Gillette, the chapter presented Judge Ferguson with an FBA plaque in honor of his membership and support of the chapter's goals and activities.

The chapter was honored to have the clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court, Maj. Gen. William K. Suter (Ret.), as its guest in November. On the evening of Nov. 18, the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas and the chapter co-hosted a reception for Gen. Suter in the rotunda of the John H. Wood Jr. Federal Courthouse. The next day, the chapter held its November luncheon, at which Gen. Suter shared his observations on the workings of the U.S. Supreme Court and then administered the admissions oath to 29 new members of the Supreme Court bar.

NINTH CIRCUIT

Inland Empire

On Dec. 12, 2008, Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit gave the keynote address during a luncheon meeting of the Inland Empire Chapter. Judge Kozinski's address, entitled "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the 9th Circuit ... But Were Afraid to Ask," was given at the Historic Mission Inn in Riverside, Calif. In addition, on Nov. 6, 2008, the chapter held its installation luncheon, at which Judge Virginia Phillips swore in the chapter's new officers. **TFL**

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



Inland Empire Chapter: At the chapter's December luncheon meeting (l to r)—Hon. Oswald Parada, U.S. magistrate judge; Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and keynote speaker; Jesus Bernal, chapter secretary; Dan Roberts, chapter president-elect; and Jacqueline Carey-Wilson, chapter president.



Del Rio Chapter: At the recent fundraising for scholarships dinner (l to r)—Javier Riojas, the 2008 Lawyer of the Year receives the award from last year's recipient Gregory Torres.



San Antonio Chapter: At Fox Technical High School (l to r)—FBA members Beth Smith and John Franco; Dawn Knepper, chapter secretary; Maricela Lazaria, social studies teacher at the high school; David Rivella, chapter vice president; and Col. William Kirk (Ret.), chapter president.