

| Chapter Exchange |

Chapter Leadership Training

The Chapter Leadership Training Program was held on April 24–25 at the Westin Gateway in Arlington, Va. This year, 41 chapters were represented at the program, which is designed to provide valuable information and training to incoming chapter leaders. The two-day program included presentations outlining best programs, planning for the upcoming year, budgeting, FBA resources, and membership issues. On Friday evening, participants enjoyed a reception at which they were able to network and socialize. Saturday's events included breakout sessions that provided opportunities to discuss challenges leaders face in their individual chapters and describe successful programs they have carried out. Participants walked away from the successful program with tools that will help them in their upcoming year as presidents of their chapters.

FIFTH CIRCUIT

Southern District of Texas

In April 2009, the Southern District of Texas Chapter held a reception to honor recipients of the Blask Fellowship, a program through which the chapter has awarded \$20,000 to law

students clerking with federal judges and federal agencies this summer. The awardees will be clerking with local federal agencies and with federal judges in the Southern District of Texas.

The Blask Fellowship, which is named in honor of Ronnie Blask, late U.S. magistrate judge and FBA member, is awarded annually to law students who have chosen to intern for at least part of the summer at a federal agency or at a federal court located in the Southern District of Texas. The fellowship is funded by the chapter's fundraising activities and serves to promote public service in the federal legal sector.

This year, 10 law students will share in the award: Alan Hayes, a first-year law student from the University of Texas School of Law, who will clerk for U.S. District Judge Ricardo Hinojosa; Michael Vargo, a second-year law student from the South Texas College of Law, who will clerk for U.S. District Judge Gray Miller as well as at the U.S. Department of Justice; Erika Glenn, a first-year law student at the Texas Southern University Thurgood Marshall School of Law, who will clerk with U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen; Alexandra Farias a second-year law student from the University of Miami Law School, who will clerk at the U.S. Attor-

ney's Office in Houston; Kathryn Semmler, a first-year law student from the South Texas College of Law, who will clerk for U.S. District Judge Ewing Werlein Jr. and with U.S. District Judge Gray Miller; Charlotte Simon, a first-year law student from the University of Houston Law Center, who will clerk with U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore and at the U.S. Immigration Court; Amber McKeon, a second-year law student at the University of Texas School of Law, who will clerk at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; Erin Smith, a second-year law student from the University of Texas School of Law, who will clerk at the U.S. Attorney's Office in Houston; Mallory Beagles, a first-year law student from Texas Tech University School of Law, who will clerk for U.S. Fifth Circuit Judge Jennifer Elrod; and Lauren Curbell, a first-year law student at the University of Texas School of Law, who will clerk for U.S. District Judge Hilda Tagle. **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.



Chicago Chapter: At the chapter's annual State of the Court Luncheon on April 28, which featured Chief Judge James F. Holderman of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, held at the Chicago Bar Association's headquarters—(left photo, l to r) Paul E. Freehling, chapter president and FBA vice president for the Seventh Circuit; Joel R. Skinner, FBA vice president for the Seventh Circuit; Chief Judge Holderman; and Charles L. Nesbit, immediate past chapter president.



Southern District of Texas Chapter: At the reception honoring recipients of the Blask Fellowship—(right photo, l to r) Daniel D. Hu, chapter president-elect; Kathryn Semmler and Erika Glenn, two of the fellowship awardees; and Erik Garza, chapter vice president and chair of the Blask Fellowship program.