

Chapter Exchange

FIRST CIRCUIT

Puerto Rico

On July 2, the U.S. District Court for the District of Puerto Rico held an Independence Day Naturalization Ceremony presided by Hon. Gustavo A. Gelpi, district judge. Also sitting were U.S. District Judges Hon. Juan M. Perez-Jimenez, Hon. Daniel R. Domínguez, Hon. Francisco A. Besosa, and Justice Erick Kolthoff-Caraballo of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico. The group of candidates deemed fully qualified for U.S. citizenship consisted of 100 aspiring citizens from 16 different countries. Symbolic of the concept of federalism and the relationship between federal and state judiciaries was Justice Kolthoff's administering the candidates' oath to defend the Constitution of the United States, to abide by the laws of our nation, and to fulfill the duties that come with their new citizenship.

A milestone in the lifetime of the new U.S. citizens, the ceremony included heartfelt advice and a series of messages ranging from historical accounts on the formation of our nation and the importance of American citizenship to personal anecdotes concerning the diverse heritage of the speakers and the description of their inspiring struggles and

successes. The common thread of the messages was the focus on the values that serve as pillars to the nation's values of equality, liberty, and democracy, as well as the privileges, rights, and responsibilities of all U.S. citizens. Along those lines, the judge's initial remarks were followed by those of Katherine Gonzalez, president of the Puerto Rico Chapter, and the keynote speaker Hans Hertell, former U.S. ambassador to the Dominican Republic. In his speech, Ambassador Hertell noted how the American nation is nurtured and formed by our different cultures and the influence of the country's Hispanic population.

Through Judge Gelpi and Gonzalez, the new citizens were also introduced to the mission and objectives of the Federal Bar Association and specifically the Puerto Rico Chapter—including promoting compliance with the Constitution and laws of the United States and emphasizing the importance of jury duty, among other obligations that come with citizenship.

To underscore the importance of scouting, community service, and early instruction about the values that characterize our nation, a group of Boy Scouts of America from Puerto Rico's Troop 29 was included as guests at the ceremony. The ceremony was filled

with emotions and represented a true celebration of citizenship!

SECOND CIRCUIT

Eastern District of New York

On June 30, the Eastern District of New York held a panel discussion at the Alfonse D'Amato U.S. Courthouse. The program, entitled "Your Legal Career: Opportunities and Transitions," was designed to help answer attendees' questions about positions in the legal profession, skills needed, and appropriate time to move on to new positions.

FIFTH CIRCUIT

San Antonio

The San Antonio Chapter was pleased to host Lawrence Baca, FBA president, at the chapter's luncheon held in June. Baca spoke about the Supreme Court's 1982 opinion in *Plyer v. Doe*, which overturned a Texas law banning the use of public funds for the education of undocumented immigrants. He explained the history of the case and expressed his views on how the case may have been ruled on if it had been heard by the present-day Supreme Court.



Puerto Rico Chapter: At the District Court for the District of Puerto Rico's Independence Day Naturalization Ceremony—Scouts from Puerto Rico's Boy Scout Troop 29 along with (standing, l to r) Hans Hertell, former U.S. ambassador to the Dominican Republic; Hon. Gustavo A. Gelpi, U.S. district judge; Hon. Erick Kolthoff-Caraballo, justice on the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico; Hon. Daniel R. Dominguez, U.S. district judge; Hon. Francisco A. Besosa, U.S. district judge; Hon. Juan M. Perez-Gimenez, U.S. district judge; Eduardo Viera and Lucy Lazaro, scoutmasters; and Katherine Gonzalez, chapter president.



Eastern District of New York Chapter: At the chapter's panel discussion on June 30—(l to r) Gary Brown, chapter president; Hon. Mark Lesko, supervisor, Brookhaven Town; Joseph Conway, attorney at Larusso & Conway; Hon. Kathleen Tomlinson, U.S. magistrate judge, Eastern District of New York; and Hon. Timothy Driscoll, justice of New York Supreme Court.



Mississippi Chapter: At the chapter's bimonthly meeting, at which U.S. District Judge Keith Starrett was the featured speaker—(l to r) Jim Rosenblatt, dean of Mississippi College School of Law and chapter treasurer; Hon. Keith Starrett, U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Mississippi; Ben Watson, chapter president; and Ryan Beckett, chapter secretary.



Alaska Chapter: At the first Habitat for Humanity build—Chief District Judge Ralph Beistline (middle) working alongside chapter members.

NINTH CIRCUIT

Alaska

On July 20, members of the Alaska Chapter participated in the work of Habitat for Humanity for the first time. To increase the membership of its small chapter and to contribute to the community at the same time, the chapter designed a campaign to donate \$35 to the Habitat for Humanity for every new member who joins the Alaska chapter between June 1 and September 1, 2010.

Northern District of California

On July 15, the Northern District of California Chapter hosted a panel discussion, entitled "Patent Asset Valuations: Courtroom v. Board Room" in Palo Alto. Speakers on the panel, which was moderated by Daralyn J. Durie, included Hon. Jeremy Fogel, Nader Mousavi, Ronald S. Laurie, and Mark Lemley and featured a discussion of the Federal Circuit's recent decisions in *Lucent v. Microsoft* and *i4i v. Microsoft*, the role of courts as gatekeepers in advising juries on appropri-

ate patent remedies, and the valuation of corporate intellectual property assets both in the courtroom and in commercial transactions. **TFL**

ChapterExchange 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.



San Antonio Chapter: At the chapter's June luncheon—(left photo, l to r) Jeff Bizon, chapter treasurer; Meagan Gillette, past chapter president; Dawn Knepper, chapter vice president; David Rivela, chapter president; Lt. Col. William C. Kirk (ret.), past chapter president; Lawrence Baca, FBA president; Todd Hedgepeth, FBA vice president for the Fifth Circuit; Miguel Villarreal, chapter president-elect; and Gary Anderson, chapter board member.



Northern District of California Chapter: At the chapter's panel discussion held in July—(right photo, l to r) Jason de Bretteville, chapter vice president for San Jose; and the panelists discussing patent asset valuations: Daralyn J. Durie, Nader Mousavi, Mark Lemley, Judge Jeremy Fogel, and Ronald S. Laurie.