

Government Contracts Section

On July 13, the section held an afternoon audio conference and evening reception, entitled “Can You Say Wassenaar? An Audio Conference on the Proposed Reforms and Likely Shape of the Future U.S. Export Controls System.” In April, the administration rolled out the key points of its much-awaited export controls reforms: (1) a single control list (combining the ITAR & EAR lists, like in the Wassenaar Arrangement), (2) a single licensing agency, (3) a single enforcement agency, and (4) a single information technology system. Although the ultimate contours of the proposed reforms are still uncertain because they will require major legislation, the history of the reforms and the existing international regimes that have shaped them provide insight into the likely new system. Accordingly, the FBA’s Government Contracts Section was pleased to present an audio conference on the proposed reforms, their history, and the existing international models for them. The discussion was led by Ira Hoffman, who is chair of the International Practice Group at Shulman Rogers, a former adjunct lecturer on international trade law at the George Mason University School of Law, the lead instructor for Federal Publications Seminars’ International Government and Commercial Contracting course,

and editor of the forthcoming *U.S. Export Controls: The Annotated EAR Desk Reference* (West, 2010).

Later that evening, the section sponsored a program entitled “A Summer Social in Honor of the Judges of the Boards of Contract Appeals” in conjunction with the Boards of Contract Appeals Bar Association Inc. and the District of Columbia Bar Government Contracts and Litigation Section. Attendees enjoyed ice cream and gelato at the offices of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney while mingling with the judges who attended the event.

Section on Taxation

On July 29, the Section on Taxation held its annual “Careers in Tax Law” luncheon. This year, nearly 75 law students attended the event, which was held at the U.S. Department of Justice building. The main speakers included Hon. Mark Holmes, U.S. Tax Court; Clarissa Potter, deputy chief counsel (technical), Internal Revenue Service; Ellen McCarthy, managing director of government affairs, Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association; Karen E. Kelly, assistant chief, Criminal Enforcement Section—Northern Region, U.S. Department of Justice’s Tax Division; Ginny Chung, attorney-adviser, Office of Tax Policy, U.S. Department of the Treasury; and Jim Lyons, tax counsel, Senate Finance

Committee. The panelists discussed their own career paths, provided advice, and gave their perspective on the practice of federal tax law.

Transportation & Transportation Security Law Section

On August 10, the section held the most recent of its Lawyers’ Lunch Series with a program entitled “Practical Solutions to Tough Problems: Case Studies by the Experts.” The panelists included Denise Krepp, chief counsel, U.S. Maritime Administration; Alais Griffin, chief counsel, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; and Kathleen Silbaugh, formerly an attorney/adviser at the National Transportation Safety Board and now at the Department of Justice. The panel was moderated by the section’s chair, Nancy Kessler, senior attorney, U.S. Department of Transportation. **TFL**

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



Section on Taxation: At the Careers in Tax Law luncheon—(left photo, seated l to r) Ginny Chung, Clarissa Potter, Karen Kelly; (standing l to r) Hon. Mark Holmes, Jim Lyons, Ellen McCarthy.



Transportation & Transportation Security Law Section: At the Lawyers’ Lunch series program—(right photo, l to r) Nancy Kessler, Denise Krepp, Alais Griffin, and Kathleen Silbaugh.