

FIFTH CIRCUIT

Mississippi Chapter

The Mississippi Chapter hosted U.S. Magistrate Judge David Sanders, who sits in Aberdeen in the Northern District of Mississippi. Judge Sanders shared some experiences and insights with the members in his energetic and engaging style. Before becoming a magistrate judge, he served as a federal prosecutor.

The new officers of the chapter

assumed their positions during the September luncheon meeting at the Capital Club: Dean Jim Rosenblatt of the Mississippi College School of Law is chapter president; Ryan Beckett of Butler Snow is chapter vice-president; Professor Meta Copeland of Mississippi College School of Law is chapter secretary; and Kate Margolis of Bradley Arant is chapter treasurer.

TFL

Chapter Exchange is compiled by

Melissa Stevenson, FBA manager of chapters and circuits. Send your information to mstevenson@fedbar.org or Chapter Exchange, FBA, 1220 N. Fillmore Street, Suite 444, Arlington, VA 22201. Visit www.fedbar.org for the latest chapter news and events.



Mississippi Chapter: At the chapter's September Meeting—(l to r) Kate Margolis, chapter treasurer; Ryan Beckett, chapter vice-president; Judge David Sanders, featured speaker; Dean Jim Rosenblatt, chapter president; and Professor Meta Copeland, chapter secretary.



Chicago Chapter: At the chapter's Annual Meeting Luncheon featuring an address by Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.)—(l to r) Maria Z. Vathis, vice president for the Seventh Circuit; Fern C. Bomchill, national FBA president; Mark E. Furlane, chapter secretary; Sen. Mark Kirk; Hon. James D. Wascher, chapter president; Margaret H. McCormick, chapter 2nd vice president; George Jackson III, chapter 1st vice president.

| Letter to the Editor |

To the Editor

I read Michael J. Davidson's article in the September 2011 issue of TFL about medals and veterans and basically how some people take advantage of such medals. It is great to know that the kinds of laws the author describes exist. Nevertheless, there is a sadder story behind the scenes: most of the recipients of the Bronze Star for service in Iraq were officers who sat at their desks doing paperwork there—not enlistees on the front lines. Those medals were legally approved, but most of them were not won. An example

of this is the 343rd Military Police CI/EPW Counterintelligence Detachment from Fort Dix, N.J. A soldier from that unit was medically evacuated because of medical issues, but he did not even get a U.S. flag after serving his country. After the war in Iraq, surgery on his left knee, treatment for the bulging disk in his lower back, and treatment for erosive GERD, the soldier was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, 100 percent of which was connected to military service. He has injuries that cannot be seen and does not have a Purple Heart.

At least this veteran went to law school after he left the service, and thanks to the VA, he recently received his J.D. He took the bar exam and is awaiting the results. Perhaps you are asking how the writer of this letter knows so much about the military unit and medals, and whether or not they were improperly given or won. I was that soldier from Iraq.

*José David Colón Custodio J.D.
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