

**ELEVENTH CIRCUIT**

**South Florida Chapter**

The chapter held its fourth Boardroom Lunch of the summer on September 13, 2012. The lunch featured Wilfredo “Willy” Ferrer, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. Mr. Ferrer provided an overview of the Office’s responsibilities and organizational structure and explained

the most prominent types of cases local federal prosecutors are currently handling, including healthcare fraud, tax-refund fraud, human trafficking, and international narcotics. Responding to a wide variety of questions from attendees, Mr. Ferrer, who has been the U.S. Attorney for two years, discussed topics ranging from regional cooperation to combat Latin American “bandas criminales” and community outreach efforts to settlement authority in civil

cases and fielding communications from Members of Congress and federal judges. The lunch was held at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the King Federal Building in downtown Miami. **TFL**

*Chapter Exchange is compiled by Jane Zaretskie, FBA manager of chapters and circuits. Send your information to [jzaretskie@fedbar.org](mailto:jzaretskie@fedbar.org). Visit [www.fedbar.org](http://www.fedbar.org) for the latest chapter news and events.*



**Puerto Rico Chapter:** At the Swearing-In Ceremony for the Puerto Rico Chapter Board (l to r)—Oreste R. Ramos, president, Andrés W. López, president-elect, Manuel A. Pietrantonio, immediate past president, Mariano Mier, Roberto Cámara, Hon. Silvia Carreño-Coll, Salvador J. Antonetti-Stutts, Ricardo Ortiz, Maritza Gómez, Natalia Morales, and José L. Ramírez Coll.

**A Story of Service to the Federal Legal Community**

The Federal Bar Association’s Minnesota Chapter is a strong supporter of Continuing Legal Education Programs (CLEs) that focus on access to the justice system for people with disabilities. But what makes these CLE programs particularly unique and extraordinary is the participation of a remarkable individual, Karen Loven.

Karen was born with a developmental disability and is devoted to advocating for people with disabilities. But Karen is more than a self-advocate. Karen contributes to the legal profession in unprecedented ways through her participation in these CLE programs. The presentations are particularly meaningful because they allow judges and attorneys to address legal issues relating to disability law, and also give attendees the opportunity to hear directly from Karen. By bringing first-hand knowledge, experience, and perspective about how the justice system treats people, including those with disabilities, Karen teaches the audience what access to justice for people with developmental disabilities really means. Karen’s messages are powerful because they are unbridled and unfiltered; Karen does not let people’s stereotypes, political views, or general opinions shape what she has to say. Indeed, Karen is steadfast when telling others what is most important to her: “I would like to teach those people they have rights because every person that lives around the world should have a right to either be a judge, or be listening to a judge on a case or working for them or when they need help. I’d be glad to help a judge or a person that has a disability. I wouldn’t let them go.”

When Karen participates on a CLE panel, you can see the

audiences’ preconceptions about people with developmental disabilities drop away. It becomes clear that Karen has the same hopes, dreams, and aspirations as all other people. Seeing Karen and hearing her speak is a perpetual reminder that the justice system extends equally to all individuals.

For more information on access to the justice system for people with disabilities and to see an interview with Karen Loven and Judge Donovan Frank, please visit [www.mnfdc.org/institutions-to-independence/karenFrank.html](http://www.mnfdc.org/institutions-to-independence/karenFrank.html). **TFL**



At the CLE entitled “Ensuring a Voice for People with Developmental Disabilities in the Justice System” (l to r)—Presenters Shamus O’Meara, Chris Messerly, Tiffany Sanders, Self-Advocate Karen Loven, Jim Backstrom, and Hon. Donovan Frank.