



Sections and Divisions

Banking Law Section

General Counsels' Dinner

On Nov. 28, 2012, the Banking Law Section presented its annual General Counsels' Dinner at the hotel Monaco in downtown Washington, D.C. The event was moderated by Jean Veta of Covington & Burling LLP and featured the following guest speakers: Scott Alvarez, general counsel, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Meredith Fuchs, general counsel, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Michael McKenna, general counsel, National Credit Union Administration; Richard Osterman, acting general counsel, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and Daniel Stipano, acting chief counsel, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

The Richard Peterson Award was presented during the program. The award is given to a person who had active involvement in laws, regulations, litigation, or policy affecting the banking and financial services industry and has personal qualities of the highest order. This year's recipient was Julie L. Williams, former first senior deputy comptroller, chief counsel of the office of the Comptroller of the Currency. The General Counsels' Dinner was the inaugural event of the Banking Law Section, which is the newest section of the Federal Bar Association.

Indian Law Section

Tribal Courts and the Federal System

On Nov. 8–9, the Indian Law Section presented a conference on Tribal Courts and the Federal System, coordinated by section member Professor Robert Anderson, Oneida Nation visiting professor at Harvard Law School. The conference took place in Cambridge, Mass., and was also made available via live stream on the Federal Bar Association's website. The conference brought together tribal judges and attorneys, tribal, state, and federal government policymakers, and scholars to explore issues Indian tribal courts currently face in criminal and civil enforcement, jurisdiction, and lawmaking. Topics included tribal criminal jurisdiction theories and practices, inter-governmental cooperation among tribes and states, and tribal civil law developments.

Immigration Law Section

Seminar on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

On Oct. 31, the Immigration Law Section of the Federal Bar Association, along with the Capitol Hill Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and the American Immigration Lawyers Association, DC Chapter co-sponsored the Federal Bar Association's District of Columbia Chapter program

entitled "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Nuts and Bolts Seminar."

The event featured three panels on the latest developments and practical "nuts and bolts" guidance for immigration and nonimmigration lawyers on the implementation of Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano's guidance memorandum on deferred action signed June 15, 2012, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) implementation of the program. Speakers included Stephen Legomsky, Chief Counsel, USCIS; Sandra Grossman, attorney, Grossman Law; Anna Gallagher, attorney, Maggio & Kattar; Dree Collopy, attorney, IDEAS Consultation and Coaching, LLC; and Prena Lal, DREAM activist and law student.

Section on Taxation

Webinar on Tax Credit Transactions

On Nov. 13, the Section on Taxation presented a webinar entitled "Historic Boardwalk Hall: Implications for Investments in Tax Credit Transactions" which discussed the Third Circuit's recent decision in *Historic Boardwalk Hall LLC v. Commissioner* and its implications for investors in tax credit transactions. Topics included the court's application of substance-over-form principles to partnership inter-



Immigration Section: At the seminar—(l to r) Prakash Khatri of Khatri Law Firm, conference chair, and Barry Frager of The Frager Law Firm PC, moderator.



Section on Taxation: At the Young Tax Lawyers Group Meet and Greet—(l to r) Group Co-Chairs Ryan Kelly of Baker McKenzie and Mark Milton of the Department of Justice Tax Division.

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ests, potential impact beyond Historic Tax Credits, including New Market Tax Credits and Renewable Energy Tax Credits, and potential for new IRS guidance. Featured panelists included David Blair, Crowell & Moring; Jeffrey Davis, Mayer Brown; Allison Carmody, IRS Office of Associate Chief Counsel; and Jerry Breed, Bryan Cave.

Young Tax Lawyers Meet and Greet

On Nov. 14, the Young Tax Lawyers Group hosted a networking event at Penn Quarter Sports Tavern in downtown Washington, D.C. Over 60 lawyers (public and private sector) and law students (LLM and JD) attended the “meet and greet.” The event was a great opportunity for prospective FBA members to meet current members of the FBA Section on Taxation, as well as other D.C. tax practitioners. In early 2013, the Young Tax Lawyers Group will host a substantive panel discussion for FBA members and is also organizing a low-income tax return preparation volunteer effort. For more information about the Young Tax Lawyers Group, please contact co-chairs Ryan Kelly (ryan.kelly@bakermckenzie.com) or Mark Milton (mark.c.milton@usdoj.gov).

Transportation & Transportation Security Law Section

Counsels' Reception Honors Transportation Security Lawyer of the Year

On Oct. 18, the section held its annual Counsels' Reception in honor of the Transportation & Transportation Security Law general counsels and chief counsels and the recipients of the section's awards. This year, the FBA is pleased to recognize Marc L. Warren as the Transportation Security Lawyer of the Year. Marc L. Warren had previously served in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, from which he retired in 2007 after having been selected

for promotion to Brigadier General. He was the American Bar Association Outstanding Young Army Lawyer and has received the Florida Bar Association Clayton B. Burton Award of Excellence, and is in the University of Florida Hall of Fame. He currently works as the Deputy Chief Counsel at the Federal Aviation Administration. For the first time, the section bestowed to the Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, Department of Transportation, a Meritorious Award for their hard work and service this year. Hector Huezo, immediate past section chair, was honored for his dedication and commitment to the section. ☉



Transportation and Transportation Security Law Section: At the Counsels' Reception—(l to r) Immediate Past Section Chair Hector Huezo, Transportation Security Lawyer of the Year Marc L. Warren, and Section Chair Monica Hargrove.

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You make it riskier by making it public.”

One of the website's early successes has been with the State Transport Department of Karnataka, which was repeatedly cited in bribe reports - prompting transport commissioner Bhaskar Rao to invite the I Paid A Bribe team to present their findings to his staff.

“I wanted to use that website to cleanse my department,” he said. “If I try to do things on my own here, I may run into rough weather... But the evidence on this website gives me some internal support to bring about reforms.”

“People in the office are realizing that if they take money, it definitely is not something just between the giver and the taker. It is spreading out of this room, and now across the globe, on the web. “So everybody in the world gets to know that this office is not a good office and institutional pride is hurt.”

The website team helped Bhaskar Rao's department to identify the procedures most prone to corruption. Twenty senior officers have been cautioned, and technology is now being introduced to minimise the opportunities for bribe-taking.

It cannot be doubted that Swati Ramanathan and her husband are already having a compelling effect on civic life, and civic morality, in Bangalore.

Conclusion

India clearly is an amazing country. Our two weeks there hardly scratched the surface, despite our hosts' attempts to provide us with detailed information and perspective, and to open doors that only a privileged few can enter. Deplorably, my rather superficial knowledge of India had stemmed largely from a few Rudyard Kipling and E. M. Forster books and a few movies.

It was inspiring and refreshing to observe the good works spawned by the generosity of the very talented team of Radha and Dipak Basu and their Anudip Foundation, by the resourcefulness of Narayana Murthy (and his wife, who heads the Infosys worldwide charitable foundation), and by the breathtaking courage of Swati Ramanathan and her husband and their Janaagraha foundation.

All saw things that never were and said “why not?” They all responded with technological solutions that have made India, and the world, a better place. I submit that there is a profound lesson to be learned by all of us in Cyberia from this new “passage to India.” ☉