



FBA MIDYEAR MEETING

March 29, 2014

The Federal Bar Association's leadership had the privilege of hearing three of the most influential voices on the subject of Judicial Vacancies. Bruce Moyer moderated a panel that included Russell Wheeler, a visiting fellow of governance studies with the Brookings Institution; Maggie Whitney, Judiciary Committee majority counsel for nominations, U.S. Senate; and Ted Lehman, Judiciary Committee minority counsel for nominations, U.S. Senate. The panel spoke on a number of issues, including a statistical analysis of judicial appointments in a historical context and the hot-button issue of blue slips and the role that they play in the Senate Judiciary Committee's confirmation process. Following the Government Relations Committee Panel, Christopher Kang, deputy counsel to the president in charge of the selection, vetting, and confirmation of President Obama's judicial nominees, spoke during a special luncheon event.

SIXTH CIRCUIT

Chattanooga Chapter

Chapter Mentors High School Students

On Feb. 19, 2014, members of the

Chattanooga Chapter mentored students at Howard High School in downtown Chattanooga. Mentors and their students meet at least once a month to discuss college and career plans and just have fun. Mentors also arrange for job shadowing in the field in which the mentee expresses an interest. With the mentoring program in its third year, some of the students are now in college and continue to keep in touch with their mentors. Mentors provide valuable support for and insight to their mentees, most of whom are first-generation college students, concerning the typical stresses of college life, such as homesickness, roommates, and exams. One of the goals of the program is to continue the mentor relationship so that, upon the student's graduation from college, mentors can assist with job networking and offer job search advice.

SEVENTH CIRCUIT

Chicago Chapter

Event Commemorates 50th Anniversary of Criminal Justice Act

The Chicago Chapter commemorated the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Criminal Justice Act on February 13 in the ceremonial courtroom in the federal build-

ing in Chicago. Speakers included Hon. Matthew Kennelly, District Court Judge and second vice president of the Chicago Chapter, who moderated the program; Geoffrey Cheshire, the chair of the FBA Criminal Law Section; Jonathan Rapping, president and founder of Gideon's Promise in Atlanta; Professor Randolph Stone, director of the Criminal Justice Project at the University of Chicago; Carol Brook, executive director of the Federal Defender Program for the Northern District of Illinois; and longtime FBA chapter board member Hon. Joan Gottschall, District Court Judge and head of the federal re-entry program in Chicago. In addition to the inspired comments from the speakers, clips were shown of the award-winning film "Gideon's Army," as well as rarely seen footage of the real Clarence Earl Gideon and his lawyer Abe Fortas. The program was open to the public, and more than 150 people attended.

NINTH CIRCUIT

Alaska Chapter

Two Recent Events Feature Local Judges

The tenth and last meeting of the Alaska Chapter in 2013, titled "Taking It Up—Appellate Practice and Procedure with



FBA Midyear Meeting: At the symposium on judicial vacancies—(l to r) Bruce Moyer, FBA government relations counsel; West Allen, chair, FBA Government Relations Committee; Ted Lehman, Judiciary Committee minority counsel for nominations, Hon. Gustavo A. Gelpí, FBA national president; Christopher Kang, deputy counsel to President Barack Obama; Maggie Whitney, Judiciary Committee majority counsel for nominations; and Russell Wheeler, visiting fellow of governance studies, Brookings Institution.



Massachusetts Chapter: At Suffolk University School of Law—(l to r) Suffolk University School of Law student Stephanie Alleman, Massachusetts Chapter President Michelle Schaffer, Hon. Marianne Bowler, Hon. Gustavo A. Gelpí, and New England School of Law student Kelsey Baran.

Judge Morgan Christen,” took place on Dec. 19, 2013. Our own Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge, Morgan Christen, shared her experiences and observations after more than a year with the Ninth Circuit. Judge Christen recounted a historic event, the first “all Alaskan” Ninth Circuit panel, which convened in Pasadena, Calif., in October. The members of the panel, who were randomly assigned, consisted of Senior Circuit Judge Andrew J. Kleinfeld of Fairbanks, Circuit Judge Morgan Christen of Anchorage, and Senior District Judge John W. Sedwick, also of Anchorage.

The first meeting of 2014 took place on Feb. 11, 2014. “The State of the Court,” featured Chief Judge Ralph R. Beistline, who was joined by District Judge Sharon Gleason and Magistrate Judge Deborah Smith. Judge Beistline highlighted recent events at court, including the addition of Wi-Fi internet service in the Fairbanks and Juneau courthous-

es; the establishment of 18 federal beds at the Cordova Center for re-entering federal inmates; and, the opening of a new attorney lounge in the Anchorage courthouse.

TENTH CIRCUIT

New Mexico Chapter

The New Mexico Chapter Hosts Dean Erwin Chemerinsky

The New Mexico Chapter held its second luncheon speaker event on January 16 to a full house in Albuquerque. Dean Erwin Chemerinsky from the University of California Irvine School of Law spoke on recent Supreme Court decisions. His presentation, “An Amazing Time in the Supreme Court,” captivated the audience with his excellent recall and ability to explain the significance of Supreme Court decisions.

The attendees included judges from the

Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals, Judges and Magistrate Judges from the District Court of New Mexico, one Justice from the New Mexico Supreme Court, and numerous state court Appellate and District Judges. Federal and state practitioners alike were also present. The New Mexico Chapter plans to hold similar events in the future.

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

Tampa Bay Chapter

Chapter Hosts Valentine’s Day Party for Local Children

On February 13, the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, Younger Lawyers Division, hosted a “Kings and Queens of Hearts Valentine’s Day Party” for the children at the Salvation Army of

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Chattanooga Chapter: At the February event—chapter members pose with their respective mentees following a pizza lunch at the school.



Chicago Chapter: Speaking at the February event—(l to r) Hon. Joan Gottschall, Carol Brook, Professor Randolph Stone, Jonathan Rapping, Geoffrey Cheshire, and Hon. Matthew Kennelly.



Alaska Chapter: At the December 19 event—(left photo) Hon. Morgan Christen, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; At the February 11 event—(right photo) Hon. Ralph R. Beistline, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska.



New Mexico Chapter: At the January event—(l to r) Lynn Slade of the Modrall Sperling Law Firm, Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, and Daniel Lewis, chapter president.

were announced at the event: Sung Woo Hu of the University of Minnesota, first place, and Christopher Weeg, of the University of Florida, second place. This year's Tax Law Conference was chaired by William D. Alexander, IRS Office of Chief Counsel, and Ryan J. Kelly, IRS Office of Associate Chief Counsel.

At the conclusion of this year's conference, the Section on Taxation presented the Kenneth H. Liles Award to Floyd L. Williams. The section presents the award annually to

recognize individuals for outstanding service and dedication to tax policy and administration as well as for their contributions to the bar and the legal profession.

The 38th Annual Tax Law Conference would not have been possible without the generous support of its sponsors. The elite sponsors for the conference were Baker Hostetler LLP, Caplin & Drysdale Attorneys, Crowell Moring Chartered, Deloitte, Grant Thornton LLP, Ivins Phillips & Barker Chartered, KPMG,

Mayer Brown LLP, Millir Chevalier, and Williams & Connolly LLP. Patron sponsors included were Baker & McKenzie LLP, Dentons LLP, Goodwin Procter LLP, Hochman Salkin Rettig Toscher & Perez PC, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP, Latham & Watkins LLP, McDermott Will & Emery LLP, Morrison Foerster LLP, Pepper Hamilton LLP, Reed Smith LLP, Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, and White & Case LLP. ☺

Sections and Divisions is compiled by Sherwin Valerio, FBA manager of sections and divisions. Send your information to svalerio@fedbar.org. Visit www.fedbar.org for the latest chapter news and events.

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Tampa's Hospitality House (Hospitality House), funded by a grant from the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division. The Hospitality House is a 50-bed transitional housing program for up to 29 homeless women and 21 children. While the mothers participated in their weekly program sponsored by the Junior League of Tampa, "Getting Ahead

in a Just Getting By World," designed to help break the cycle of poverty, the Tampa Bay Chapter of the FBA Younger Lawyers Division hosted this Valentine's Day-themed party for the approximately 20 children who live there. The division brought a fun-filled evening to the children by decorating the event room for the Valentine's Day theme,

providing a "Royal Feast" for dinner, helping the children make homemade Valentines, giving the children king and queen crowns to wear during the party and to keep, providing create-your-own ice cream sundaes, and handing out Valentine's Day goody bags. The FBA Younger Lawyers Division also donated arts and craft supplies to the children. ☺



Tampa Bay Chapter: Chapter members create Valentine's Day crafts with children at the Salvation Army of Tampa's Hospitality House.



Orlando Chapter: At the January CLE—(l to r) Florida Rep. John Mica, Hon. Gustavo A. Gelpí Jr., U.S. District Judge, District of Puerto Rico, and Florida Rep. Alan Grayson.

Chapter Exchange is compiled by Jane Zaretskie, FBA manager of chapters and circuits. Send your information to jzaretskie@fedbar.org. Visit www.fedbar.org for the latest chapter news and events.

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