ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES SECTION

General Counsels Luncheon Series
Features Horst Grezcniel

On Jan. 7, 2014, the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Section presented its continued general counsels luncheon series at Duane Morris LLP. The program featured Horst Grezcniel, associate director for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Oversight, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Grezcniel took on this role in November 1999 and is responsible for overseeing and implementing the NEPA and CEQ mandates to ensure that federal agencies integrate environmental values into decision-making.

IMMIGRATION LAW SECTION

Leadership Luncheon Series Features Dave Horton

On February 12, the Immigration Law Section held its continued leadership luncheon series in Washington, D.C. The program featured Dave Horton, director, International Individual Compliance, Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of Justice. In this role, he is responsible for ensuring the U.S. tax compliance of U.S. citizens and residents residing abroad, U.S. citizens and residents engaged in overseas activities or investment, and nonresident aliens engaged in U.S. activities or investment. Prakash Khatri, Federal Bar Association (FBA) D.C. Chapter member and Immigration Law Section board member, and Cary Devorsetz, FBA D.C., welcomed participants. Section Chair H. Raymond Fasano provided the introduction to the event.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSPORTATION SECURITY LAW SECTION

2014 Legislative Outlook for Transportation and Transportation Security

On February 20, the Transportation and Transportation Security Law (T&TS) Section presented the 2014 Legislative Outlook for Transportation and Transportation Security program at the U.S. Department of Transportation headquarters. The program focused on congressional priorities for transportation and transportation security. Panelists discussed new and emerging policy initiatives, the prospects of reauthorization of key expired and nonpermanent authorities, and the considerations and challenges likely to impact the legislative landscape. Speakers included Christopher Bertram, staff director, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives; Amanda Parikh, staff director, Subcommittee on Transportation Security, Committee on Homeland Security, U.S. House of Representatives; and Thomas Herlihy, assistant general counsel for legislation, U.S. Department of Transportation. The panel was moderated by John Wood, T&TS Section Legislative Committee chair and Federal Aviation Administration attorney.

FEDERAL LITIGATION SECTION

Upholding the Rule of Law in Germany’s Federal Republic—The Mykonos Case

The Federal Litigation Section and the Southern District of New York Chapter of the FBA presented the awards event, titled “Upholding the Rule of Law in Germany’s Federal Republic—The Mykonos Case” at the Daniel Patrick Moynihan U.S. Courthouse in New York. The program featured discussion panelists Raya Hakalian, author of the 2011 acclaimed nonfiction book documenting the case, Assassins of the Turquoise Palace, and J.D. Binderang, former U.S. ambassador and director of Central European affairs for Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The discussion was moderated by U.S. District Judge Joana Seybert of the Eastern District of New York, and opening remarks were given by Chief U.S. District Judge Loretta A. Preska of the Southern District of New York.

The awards program honored the inspiring professional conduct of the lead German Federal Prosecutor, Bruno Jost, in the historic trial of what came to be known as the Mykonos case, a trial that lasted for nearly four years from 1993 to 1997. The second recipient of the awards program was Alexander von Stahl, Sr., Germany’s Chief Federal Prosecutor (1991 to 1993), who steadfastly supported the investigation and the work of Bruno Jost and paved the way for the landmark judgment entered by Berlin’s High Criminal Court in April 1997.

Editor’s note: For more information on this program, see Alexandra Goldstein’s article on page 26 of this magazine.

SECTION ON TAXATION

38th Annual Tax Law Conference

The 38th Annual Tax Law Conference was held on Feb. 28, 2014, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. Featured speakers at the conference included John M. Dalynge, deputy commissioner for services and enforcement, Internal Revenue Service; David A. Hubbert, deputy assistant attorney general for civil trial matters, U.S. Department of Justice, Tax Division; and William J. Wilkins, chief counsel, Internal Revenue Service. Conference attendees received an update on tax legislation from chief tax counsel of the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees.

Concurrent sessions throughout the day focused on domestic corporate tax, employee benefits and executive compensation, international tax, tax accounting and enforcement, and criminal tax. The sessions featured discussions on affiliated corporations and consolidated returns, rehabilitation of troubled corporations, life of a criminal tax case and the investigation, international tax issues, the global outlook on transfer pricing, procedural considerations with tangible property accounting method changes, and a nuts-and-bolts panel on audit, appeals, and tax legislation.

Winners of this year’s Donald C. Alexander Tax Law Writing Competition
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.

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 Retig 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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