



FIRST CIRCUIT

Massachusetts Chapter

Educational Series for Civil and Criminal Practitioners

On April 16, the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, in conjunction with the Federal Bar Association, Massachusetts Chapter, presented a series of educational seminars aimed at practitioners appearing in both civil and criminal matters. Attendance was strong—perhaps the highest recorded by the court for its annual educational event. Assistant Clerk Virginia Hurley, outreach/training coordinator for the court; Peter Levitt, assistant U.S. attorney; Martin Richey, assistant federal defender; and Matthew Baltay, vice president of the Massachusetts Chapter and partner at Foley Hoag, LLP, coordinated the event. The seminars covered information technology in the courtroom, e-discovery, and sentencing advocacy.

FIFTH CIRCUIT

Mississippi Chapter

February Chapter Meeting

The chapter's February meeting featured Arthur Johnston III, the new clerk of court for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi. An overflow crowd gathered at the Capital Club to hear Johnston describe his first few weeks in office and compare his current duties with those while he was the chancery clerk in Madison County.

Johnston continues the style of his predecessors by displaying a keen sense of humor, personal modesty, and a professional approach to his duties. Retiring President Ryan Beckett received a plaque in recognition of his effective leadership and presented his gavel to incoming President Kate Margolis, who welcomed her new officers Vice President Professor Meta Copeland, Treasurer Mike Hurst, and Secretary Danielle Brewer.

March Chapter Meeting

The chapter's March meeting featured Dennis Joiner, the public defender for Mississippi. The crowd was treated to Joiner's account of how the budget of the Office of State Public Defender was affected by the budget negotiations in Congress and the sequestration. Joiner provided assurance that there appears to be some stability in the future with respect to the budget of the federal public defender, but that a new workload evaluation scorecard system is in the works that would be used to allocate budget funding based on work units.

SIXTH CIRCUIT

Chattanooga Chapter

Annual Meeting Features Former U.S. Attorney General

The Chattanooga Chapter held its annual meeting on March 17 at the Chattanooga Convention Center. The chapter installed new board members and officers and welcomed

former U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales as a guest speaker. Attorney General Gonzales discussed his experiences as counsel to the President and as attorney general in the George W. Bush Administration, as well as current issues relating to national security and the role of the National Security Administration in our legal system.

TENTH CIRCUIT

Utah Chapter

Chapter Hosts First Annual Social with Judges and Their Clerks

On April 3 the Federal Bar Association Utah Chapter held its first annual social with judges and their clerks and approximately 25 student chapter members from S. J. Quinney College of Law and J. Reuben Clark Law School. The event was a great success. Magistrate Judge Evelyn Furse and many federal court clerks attended and enlightened the students about the federal practice, their career paths, and other helpful matters.

In 2014, under the leadership of its president Jenifer Tomchak, the Utah Chapter formed a Socials Committee, with Shane Hillman and Aida Neimarlija serving as co-chairs. The goal of the committee is to facilitate opportunities for the FBA members, students, federal court judges, and clerks to get to know each other and discuss issues related to federal law and the practice in federal courts in an informal setting. ☺



Massachusetts Chapter: At the April 16 event (l to r)—Massachusetts Chapter President Michelle I. Schaffer and President-Elect Lisa M. Tittlemore.



Chattanooga Chapter: At the March event—(l to r) Former U. S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales with Chattanooga Chapter President Gary Henry.

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.