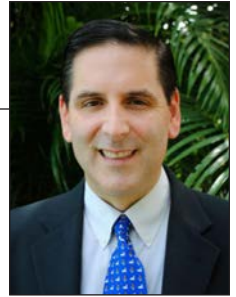


President's Message

by Hon. Gustavo A. Gelpí Jr.



Special Courts in the Federal Family

In our federal system, there exist a variety of non-

Article III courts and judges that conduct specialized legal proceedings. Bankruptcy courts often come to one's mind because they are units of U.S. district courts. In addition, immigration, social security, tax, and veterans courts are quintessential to providing a judicial forum in areas not traditionally covered under Article III of the Constitution. The International Trade Commission as well as the Patent and Trial Appeal Board provide additional specialized fora for matters not within the expertise of most U.S. district judges.

This issue of *The Federal Lawyer* is devoted to recognizing many of these important courts and their judicial officers. There are many other such specialized courts in the nation, and this issue is not intended to cover each and every one. However, if you would like to highlight any other such court in a future issue, please contact our editor.

I want to take the opportunity to commend the excellent work and dedication of our editor, Becky Thorson, and Magistrate Judge Mike Newman, as well as all other contributors, for making our

recent issue devoted to magistrate judges a reality. This edition was the result of an ambitious year-long project of highlighting the role of these very important federal judicial officers.

My year as Federal Bar Association president is approaching its end. It has been an exiting one for our association and its chapters. Upon assuming office, one of my priorities was to have our chapters commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act and the Criminal Justice Act. This has indeed been happening across the nation, in most instances in events coordinated with our federal courts. Panelists have included scholars, judges, and attorneys and activists from the civil rights movement era. I encourage those chapters that have not yet programmed such an incredible event to do so.

I look forward to seeing you on September 4-6 in Providence, R.I., during our national convention. As always, there will be plenty of exciting CLE and some amazing social events. ☺

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Gelpí Jr.", positioned to the right of the text block.



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