



Sections and Divisions

ADMIRALTY LAW SECTION

The Admiralty Law Section and the Federal Litigation Section presented the program *MARITIME CONTRACTS: JURISDICTION, RIGHTS, REMEDIES, AND STRATEGIES* on May 7 in San Francisco. The program featured a panel discussion on the current status and future horizons of maritime contract jurisdiction, strategic considerations in litigating or resolving maritime contract disputes, and the range of rights and remedies with which maritime contracts are imbued. Specific contracts to be addressed included contracts for sale or option to purchase vessels, charter parties, ship mortgages, time shares of vessels, and contracts preparatory to maritime contracts. Specific attention was given to maritime contract issues that are in flux or that pose conflicts between the federal circuits. The panel was moderated by Judge William Fletcher, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Speakers included Prof. Michael F. Sturley, School of Law, University of Texas at Austin; Rupert P. Hansen, Partner, Cox, Wootton, Lerner, Griffin, Hansen & Poulos, LLP; and Charles S. Donovan, Partner, Sheppard Mullen, LLP.

FEDERAL LITIGATION SECTION

The Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky chapter, the Dayton, Ohio chapter, and the national Litigation Section jointly produced the Sixth Circuit Practice Institute held at the Westin hotel in downtown Cincinnati on May 6, 2014.

The last Practice Institute was held in 2009; the event is held every five years or so.

The 2014 Practice Institute was extremely successful, and more than 225 attorneys from throughout the Sixth Circuit (Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, and Tennessee) were in attendance.

The luncheon keynote speaker was the Hon. Donald B. Verrilli, Jr., the solicitor general of the United States, who was introduced at the podium by Sixth Circuit Judge Jeffrey S. Sutton.

The Practice Institute was opened by

the Hon. Alice M. Batchelder, the Sixth Circuit's chief judge, who also swore in new admittees to the court as part of the day's ceremonies. Panel discussion topics ranged from "The Technological Transformation of Appellate Practice" (moderated by Dayton Chapter Board of Directors member Steve Justice with Chief Judge Batchelder, Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Chapter President Pierre Bergeron, and Sixth Circuit Clerk of Courts Deborah Hunt) to "Effective Brief Writing" (moderated by Scott Hamilton, of the Eastern District of Michigan Chapter, with Sixth Circuit Judges Jeffrey Sutton, Alan Norris, and Richard Suhrenrich), "Effective Oral Argument" (moderated by Pierre Bergeron with Sixth Circuit Judges Guy Cole, John Rogers, and Jeffrey Sutton) and "Preserving Issues in the District Court for Appeal" (moderated by U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael Newman, the Dayton chapter president, with Chief Judge Susan Dlott, Judge Barrett, and Judge Rose from the Southern District of Ohio). Those in attendance also heard from State Solicitors General Eric Murphy (Ohio) and Aaron Lindstrom (Michigan); from Appellate Chiefs in the U.S. Attorney's Office (Ben Glassman) and Federal Public Defender's Office (Kevin Schad); and from Paul Calico, the Chief Circuit Mediator.

Recognizing the large number of appellate counsel who take pro bono cases in the Sixth Circuit, the Practice Institute also featured a discussion with Ken Loomis, a representative of the Clerk's Office who discussed the procedure for pro bono appointments. The Clerk of Courts, Deborah Hunt, also spoke on ways to avoid common mistakes when filing briefs and arguing cases.

All in attendance agreed it was a one-of-a-kind CLE. The FBA chapters and Litigation Section congratulate the Practice Institute Planning Committee (Pierre Bergeron, K. Scott Hamilton, J. Steven Justice, and Judge Newman) for their hard work over many months. The Planning Committee likewise thanks

Robert Kohn and Thomas G. McNeill of the Litigation Section leadership for the Section's support.

TRANSPORTATION AND TRANSPORTATION SECURITY LAW SECTION

The Transportation and Transportation Security Law Section presented the program *Hot Topics in Transportation Security Law* on May 7 at the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Welcoming Remarks were made by Francine J. Kerner, chief counsel, Transportation Security Administration and the keynote speaker featured David Berg, senior vice president and general counsel, Airlines for America. Topics included the evolution of collective bargaining at Transportation Security Administration and transportation security intellectual property. Speakers included Mendelssohn McLean, assistant chief counsel for labor relations, TSA; Bob Ball, regional director, Region 3 and senior executive for AFGE Relations, TSA; David Borer, general counsel, American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO; Jennifer Ellison, assistant chief counsel for employment, civil rights, and labor policy, TSA; Chad Harris, acting supervising attorney (TSA), Office of the General Counsel, AFGE, AFL-CIO; William Washington, Attorney-Advisor, TSA; Lavanya Ratnam, assistant general counsel for Intellectual Property, Department of Homeland Security; Richard Laureau, Ph.D, Chief Scientist, Department of Homeland Security, Science and Technology Directorate. ©