



SECOND CIRCUIT

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. Participates in Eastern District of New York Chapter Event

On Oct. 30, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. participated in a program in the Eastern District of New York (EDNY) addressing the EDNY's Pretrial Opportunity Program and Special Options Services Program, two prison-alternative programs. Hon. Joanna Seybert and Hon. Gary R. Brown, who both serve on the board of directors of the EDNY Chapter, are two of the judges who preside over the Pretrial Opportunity Program, running the program in the Central Islip Courthouse. Attorney General Holder offered high praise for the two EDNY programs, hailing the Pretrial Opportunity Program as "emblematic of the innovative, data-driven approach that lives at the heart of the Smart on Crime initiative." The Pretrial Opportunity Program was

established in the EDNY in 2012 with a goal of taking nonviolent offenders with documented substance abuse problems out of the traditional sentencing and incarceration paths and providing them with counseling and improvement programs, such as earning a graduate equivalency degree, obtaining employment, or gaining college admission. Participants in the programs gave emotional and inspiring speeches as to their experiences with addiction and how the programs saved their lives. The Oct. 30 program was very well-attended and -received, including by many members of the EDNY Chapter.

FIFTH CIRCUIT

Mississippi Chapter Hosts Luncheon Featuring Hon. John Gargiulo

The Mississippi Chapter hosted a luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 16, featuring Hon. John Gargiulo, the new U.S. magistrate judge for the Southern District of Mississippi in

Gulfport, Mississippi. The chapter followed the luncheon by partnering with Habitat for Humanity for a construction project in Gulfport the following day, in conjunction with a grant the chapter received from the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association.

NINTH CIRCUIT

Alaska Chapter Begins a New District Tradition

On Aug. 22, the Alaska Chapter presented its first Alaska Federal Bar Conference. It was a great success. The full-day event featured an unprecedented visit by the national Federal Bar Association (FBA) president, U.S. District Judge Gustavo Gelpi, as one of the last trips of his presidency. No current FBA president had ever visited Alaska before. Alaska Chapter President Darrel Gardner provided opening remarks and then read letters of appreciation and support from both of



Eastern District of New York Chapter: U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. at the October event. Photo by Douglas C. Palmer.



Mississippi Chapter: At the Gulfport luncheon (left to right): Mike Hurst, chapter treasurer; Danielle Brewer Jones, chapter secretary; Kate Margolis, chapter president; Hon. John Gargiulo, U.S. magistrate judge, Southern District of Mississippi; Hon. Louis Guirola, Jr., chief judge, U.S. District Court, Southern District of Mississippi; Hon. Robert H. Walker, U.S. magistrate judge, Southern District of Mississippi; and Hon. Sul Ozerden, U.S. district judge, Southern District of Mississippi.



Alaska Chapter: Alaska Chapter President Darrel Gardner shows off Portage Glacier to past National FBA President Hon. Gustavo Gelpi.

Alaska's U.S. senators, Mark Begich and Lisa Murkowski. Gelpi moderated several programs at the conference and also presented a historical overview on the development of constitutional law in current and former U.S. territories, such as Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. A panel presentation marking the 50th anniversary of the Criminal Justice Act featured Alaska Chief Judge Ralph Beistline, Federal Public Defender Rich Curtner, and U.S. Attorney Karen Loeffler. Joshua Decker, the executive director of the ACLU of Alaska, presented a retrospective talk on the 50 years following the passage of the Civil Rights Act. Lunch included a presentation on current efforts to establish equal rights for Americans in U.S. territories by Neil Weare, president and founder of the We the People Project based in Washington, D.C. In the afternoon, a half-day CLE on federal sentencing was given by Alan Dorhoffer, deputy director of the office of education and sentencing practice of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and included a moderated panel discussion with Alaska's three active district judges. The event concluded with a gala reception.

At the annual national meeting and convention in Providence, Rhode Island, Gelpi had high praise for the Alaska conference and encouraged FBA members to consider attending the Second Annual Alaska Federal Bar Conference in 2015. Although the exact date has yet to be announced, it will likely be on a Friday in August, offering conference attendees the opportunity to stretch out their trip and

enjoy many of the sights and experiences that Alaska has to offer in the summer. Mark your calendar now, and check back later on the Alaska Chapter page of FBA's website for conference details.

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

North Central Florida Chapter Holds Annual Meeting and Reception

On Sept. 18, the North Central Florida Chapter of the FBA held its annual meeting and reception in the Advocacy Center of the University of Florida College of Law in Gainesville. Outgoing president Ron Kozlowski brought the membership up to date on the chapter's achievements over the past year, including winning two honors from FBA's national headquarters: a Chapter Community Outreach grant from FBA's national headquarters and a Presidential Excellence Award.

The grant was given for a writing competition open to all University of Florida law students based on the approaching 50th anniversary of *New York Times v. Sullivan*, asking students to discuss the shift in judicial and legislative attitudes toward a free press and the possible consequent danger to civil rights.

The chapter earned the Presidential Excellence Award based in large part on its roundtable event entitled "Women, the Law, and Leaning into Leadership," based on the book *Lean In* by Sheryl Sandberg. Nine federal judges and nine prominent attorneys from around the state descended on Gainesville to discuss leadership issues facing women in the legal profession. After a short panel discussion, moderators led each table

in a focused conversation on the ideas and questions raised by the panelists.

Kozlowski then presented a Chapter Service Award to Stephanie Marchman, a past president and membership chair. Marchman has spent many years on the board working hard to put on excellent events, increase membership, and pitch in wherever needed. Her energy and institutional memory have been crucial to the chapter's success.

After Mickle swore in the new board members, incoming President Peg O'Connor gave the audience a peek at the events planned for the upcoming year, including a breakfast and symposium with Professor Erwin Chemerinsky, brown bag lunches with federal judges, a second leadership roundtable, and other exciting happenings.

O'Connor had the honor of presenting a Federal Service Award to her former co-clerk, Midori Lowry, recognizing 16 years of dedicated service to Judge Mickle as his career clerk. Lowry was with the judge on his first day on the bench in August 1998, and she stayed with him until his last day in September 2014.

As the highlight of the evening, Northern District U.S. Attorney Pam Marsh sent Assistant U.S. Attorney Corey Smith from Tallahassee to present Mickle with a letter from U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, commending the judge for his "passion for the rule of law and ... fidelity to those whom the law protects and empowers."

This year promises to be a busy and fulfilling one for the chapter. Stay tuned for more. ☉



North Central Florida Chapter: At the September event (left to right): Hon. Stephen P. Mickle, Midori Lowry, and North Central Florida Chapter President Peg O'Connor.



Iowa Chapter: At the Iowa Chapter judicial reception and dinner Thursday, Oct. 30, six Iowa Chapter members who have belonged to the Federal Bar Association for 25 years or longer (left to right): Hon. Lee M. Jackwig, Jack Dane, Gary Norton, Hon. Anita L. Shodeen, Julie Johnson-McLean, Chuck Smith, and Jeff Goetz, Iowa Chapter president. These tenured members were recognized for their dedication to the FBA.