



2020 Chapter History Project

Looking ahead to the 100th anniversary of the Federal Bar Association in 2020, the vice presidents for the circuits have developed the Chapter History Project to encourage the chapters to document and commemorate their histories. After all, the national organization would not exist without the chapters.

Each chapter is being asked to review its archives and develop a chapter history, including information such as the chapter's founding date; names of charter members; list of past presidents; and key events, milestones, or highlights. Creativity is encouraged. To aid in this process, chapter leaders may contact Debbie Smith, who will share the content in the national office's files.

Once complete, each chapter's history will be included on the chapter's FBA website, under the "History" title, and the circuit vice presidents will use the information to develop a presentation incorporating individual chapter histories in conjunction with the 100th anniversary celebration.

The chapters are also encouraged to commemorate their own histories. Suggestions include listing past presidents on the chapter letterhead, creating a display for chapter events, having a speaker discuss the history as part of a promotional presentation about the FBA at an event, or planning a chapter event to celebrate a chapter milestone or anniversary.

Examples of current chapter histories can be found on the following chapter websites: District of Columbia Chapter; Dayton Chapter; Eastern District of Michigan Chapter; North Central Florida Chapter; and South Carolina Chapter.

District of Columbia Chapter History Founded July 31, 1952

A little over 30 years after the establishment of the Federal Bar Association, the District of Columbia Chapter was founded on July 31, 1952. Previously, the FBA's constitution outright sanctioned chapter establishment in the District of Columbia. It was not until the first national convention met in 1949 that an amendment was sponsored, and successfully passed, to omit the prohibitive language. While a chapter in the nation's capital seemed feasible, there was still apprehension due to the duality of authority and the possibility of overlapping functions. Nonetheless, the advantages of a chapter outweighed doubts, and in 1951 a general overhaul of the constitution provided the means to implement a local D.C. chapter. During this constitutional renovation, the pathway to this new chapter was further supported when it was determined compulsory, as a matter of national policy, to provide for chapters to uniformly organize. Thus, a District of Columbia Chapter charter and constitution were proposed and, in July 1952, at an organization meeting held in the Archives Building Auditorium, a motion was passed founding the new chapter.

Tasked with the responsibility to host a program of luncheons, dinners, social meetings, and local symposia, the first chapter function, held in conjunction with the Inter-American Bar Association in September 1952, was a champagne dinner attended by chapter members and highly ranked associates of the judiciary and diplomatic corps. Additionally, in further accordance with the delineation of functions, the committee of

agency representatives was transferred from the national organization to the D.C. Chapter. Perhaps the most notorious event was an FBA and D.C. Chapter-sponsored panel of four speakers on the Bricker Amendment. As a result of the debate, with two panelists in support and two panelists in opposition, the FBA's Committee in International Law took a stand and vocally opposed the Revised Senate Joint Resolution.

In 1960, the D.C. Chapter bolstered its reputation by establishing the Justice Tom C. Clark Award for Outstanding Government Lawyer. The prestigious award recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of career service lawyers employed by the U.S. government and U.S. military in the District of Columbia. The award is named in memory of Justice Clark, who served

as attorney general of the United States, associate justice of the Supreme Court, and as the first director of the Federal Judicial Center. Paul A. Sweeney from the U.S. Department of Justice was the inaugural recipient in 1960.

The chapter maintains an illustrious social calendar and has consequently received innumerable FBA awards, including the association's Chapter Activity Award, Newsletter Recognition Award, and the Ilene and Michael Shaw Younger Lawyer Public Service Grant. With more than 650 members, the chapter continues to provide social and educational events for the D.C. legal community through a series of Leadership Luncheons, workshops, symposia, and award opportunities open to both members and the public. ☺

District of Columbia Chapter Presidents, 1952 - present

2014-15: T. Cary Devorsetz
2013-14: T. Cary Devorsetz
2012-13: Steve Miller
2011-12: Steve Miller
2010-11: Robie A. Beatty
2009-10: Robie A. Beatty
2008-09: Ronald C. Crump
2007-08: Silvio Krvaric
2006-07: Silvio Krvaric
2005-06: T. Cary Devorsetz
2004-05: Hon. Ronnie A. Yoder
2003-04: Hon. Ronnie A. Yoder
2002-03: Dr. Ann H. Clarke
2001-02: Kathleen A. Duignan
2000-01: Kevin Judd
1999-00: Unknown
1998-99: Miles F. Ryan
1997-98: Unknown
1996-97: Unknown
1995-96: Unknown
1994-95: Patricia D. Ryan
1993-94: Louis G. Ferrand
1992-93: Claire Whitaker
1991-92: Ronald C. Crump
1990-91: Brian C. Murphy
1989-90: Unknown
1988-89: Bonnie L. Gay
1987-88: Marsha A. Echols
1986-87: Sarah Hertz
1985-86: Lauren L. Fuller
1984-85: Arthur L. Burnett
1983-84: Romulo L. Diaz Jr.

1982-83: Thomas J. Madden
1981-82: Julian A. Wilhelm
1980-81: Karen S. Lee
1979-80: Jeanus B. Parks Jr.
1978-79: Roscoe E. Long
1977-78: Eileen C. O'Connor
1976-77: Mark R. Joelson
1975-76: Justin Dingfelder
1974-75: L. Barry Costilo
1973-74: George A. Avery
1972-73: Mary M. Garner
1971-72: Sherman L. Cohn
1970-71: William G. Malone
1969-70: Louis J. Frana
1968-69: E. Bonnie Mills
1967-68: Joseph F. Spaniol Jr.
1966-67: Simon H. Trevas
1965-66: Carl F. Paul Jr.
1964-65: A. Donald Mileur
1963-64: Cyril F. Brickfield
1962-63: Leo N. Pellerzi
1961-62: Paul E. Treusch
1960-61: Laurie M. Streeter
1959-60: Frank G. Millard
1958-59: Theodore H. Haas
1957-58: Larry D. Gilbertson
1956-57: Robert W. Minor
1955-56: Bernard B. Smyth
1954-55: F. Trowbridge vom Baur
1953-54: Joe E. Moody
1952-53: F. Joseph Donoghue