



Third Circuit: Chief Judge Christopher Conner and Joel Burcat.



Mississippi Chapter: (l-r) Brad Davis, secretary (Jones Walker); Chief Judge Sharion Aycock; Circuit Judge Jennifer Elrod; Mike Hurst, vice president (former assistant U.S. attorney); Professor Meta Copeland, president (Mississippi College School of Law); Krissy Nobile, board liaison (Mississippi Attorney General's Office); and Dean Emeritus Jim Rosenblatt, executive director (Mississippi College School of Law).

## THIRD CIRCUIT

### Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter *Recognition of Joel Burcat*

On Dec. 11, Joel Burcat was honored for his 20 years of service to the Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter. For 20 years, Joel has attended the monthly admissions ceremony in Harrisburg to talk briefly about civility and the FBA. His work has not gone unnoticed by the court or his colleagues in the chapter. At the conclusion of the regular admissions ceremony, presided over by Chief Judge Christopher Conner, the Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter presented Burcat with a plaque thanking him for his years of service. Chief Judge Conner also presented him with a recognition plaque on behalf of the entire court. Burcat's law firm, Saul Ewing, then sponsored a breakfast reception for the attendees and the court. Well done, Joel, and thanks.

## FIFTH CIRCUIT

### Mississippi Chapter *October Luncheon Meeting With Chief Judge Sharion Aycock*

Chief Judge Sharion Aycock assembled the federal judges of the Northern District



Mississippi Chapter: (l to r) Brad Davis, treasurer (Jones Walker); Danielle Brewer, Gulf Coast liaison (Brewer Legal Services); Chief Judge Louis Guirola; Gov. Haley Barbour; Mike Hurst, secretary (former assistant U.S. attorney); Professor Meta Copeland, president (Mississippi College School of Law); Dean Emeritus Jim Rosenblatt, executive director (Mississippi College School of Law).

of Mississippi for the October luncheon meeting of the Mississippi Chapter prior to the CLE they host each year in Oxford. Chief Judge Aycock provided an update for the Northern District, introduced the judges of the district, and then presented her special guest, Circuit Judge Jennifer Elrod from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, who spoke to the record crowd about the activities of her court.

### Mississippi Chapter

#### *Gulf Coast Meeting With Gov. Haley Barbour*

Former Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour was the luncheon speaker at the Gulf Coast meeting of the Mississippi Chapter, held at the historical and newly reopened White House Hotel. The federal judges turned out in force to join a nice cohort of practitioners. Barbour's remarks focused on the recovery following Hurricane Katrina and the role



New Orleans Chapter: (top left) Barry Ashe; (top right, l to r) Christopher Alfieri, Karen Silberman, FBA Executive Director, and Barry Ashe; (bottom left, l to r) Christopher Alfieri and Hon. Sarah Vance; (bottom left) Paul Smith.



by an interactive discussion addressing recent amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, led by Judge Whitehurst and A.G. (Alec) Alexander III, partner at Breazeale, Sachse & Wilson LLP. Attorneys Leslie Schiff of Schiff, Scheckman & White in Opelousas, Louisiana, and Tammy Parker Pratt of Ottinger Hebert LLC in Lafayette, Louisiana, presented “Hot Topics in Ethics — 2015.” Hon. Richard T. Haik presented our bar with his last CLE as a sitting judge, “Do’s and Don’ts in Federal Court.” To help Judge Haik with his transition back into private practice and to thank him for his service over the last 25 years, the outgoing chapter president, Kenneth W. Dejean, presented Judge Haik with a new briefcase on behalf of the Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter. The packed event concluded with a food and wine reception.

played by the various institutions to include attorneys and the legal community. Following the luncheon Barbour signed copies of his new book, *America’s Great Storm: Leading Through Hurricane Katrina*.

#### **New Orleans Chapter** *Annual Meeting and Luncheon*

On Aug. 27, the New Orleans Chapter of the FBA held its Annual Meeting and Luncheon in the ballroom of the Westin Hotel in the French Quarter. Paul M. Smith was the keynote speaker. Smith is chair of the appellate and Supreme Court practice and co-chair of the media and First Amendment, and election law and redistricting practices in the Washington, D.C., office of Jenner & Block. Christopher J. Alfieri, now the immediate past president, was the master of ceremonies. Hon. Sarah S. Vance, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, served double duty as both chief judge of the Eastern District of Louisiana and incoming chapter president.

In addition to chapter business, Alfieri presented the President’s Award, an annual award that recognizes a lawyer for community leadership outside the practice of law, to Patricia A. Krebs. Hon. Mary Ann Lemmon presented the John R. “Jack” Martzell Professionalism Award for outstanding professionalism in the practice of law to Barry

W. Ashe, FBA Fifth Circuit vice president. The Camille F. Gravel Jr. Pro Bono Award was given to Jane L. Johnson, the director of experiential learning at Tulane Law School.

#### **Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter** *12th Annual Judge John Shaw “Country Gentlemen” Civility and Ethics CLE*

On Dec. 3, the Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter of the FBA hosted the 12th Annual Judge John Shaw “Country Gentlemen” Civility and Ethics CLE, in conjunction with the election and swearing-in of the 2016 board members. The newest member of the bench in the Western District of Louisiana, Magistrate Judge Carol B. Whitehurst, introduced herself to the bar with “Best Practices for Magistrate Judge Whitehurst,” followed

## **SIXTH CIRCUIT**

### **John W. Peck Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky, Dayton, and Columbus Chapters** *Reception Recognizing Chief Judge R. Guy Cole Jr.*

National President Mark Vincent spoke in October along with President-Elect Judge Michael Newman at an event to recognize and celebrate Hon. R. Guy Cole Jr. as the first African-American chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The event—sponsored by the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky, Columbus, and Dayton (Ohio) chapters, along with the Federal Litigation Section and state bar associations—was held at the Potter Stewart U.S. Courthouse



Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter: Current and retired board members at the chapter’s Dec. 3 event.





Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter: Attendees pose at the Judge John Shaw seminar.



Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter: Outgoing President Kenneth Dejean presenting Hon. Richard T. Haik with a retirement gift on behalf of the bar.



Lafayette-Acadiana Chapter: (left photo) Swearing-in of the chapter's 2016 board; (right photo, l to r) Hon. Carol B. Whitehurst and Alec Alexander presenting "Recent Updates to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure".



Cincinnati/North Kentucky and Dayton Chapters: (l to r) FBA President Mark Vincent, Chief Judge R. Guy Cole, and FBA President-Elect Judge Michael Newman.

in Cincinnati. More than 200 attorneys and many federal judges were in attendance.

### Dayton Chapter

#### *Evening Honoring U.S. District Court Judge Walter H. Rice*

On Dec. 1, the bench, bar, and community came together at the Dayton Art Institute to honor U.S. District Court Judge Walter H. Rice for more than 45 years of dedicated service to the judiciary and the community, including 35 years on the federal bench. Hosted by the Dayton Chapter of the FBA and attended by a sold-out crowd of 320, tributes to Judge Rice were presented by U.S. District Court Judge Susan Dlott, Montgomery County Commissioner Deborah Lieberman, Montgomery County Municipal Judge Adele Riley, former CEO of Cox Ohio Publishing and Dayton Daily News publisher Brad Tillson, U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Rose, and Judge Rice's loving wife, Magistrate Bonnie Beaman Rice. Sens. Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown and Congressman Mike Turner, who were unable to attend the event due to duties in Washington, D.C., sent Judge Rice video messages of appre-

ciation and congratulations. The evening also featured the unveiling of the portrait of Judge Rice, painted by retired local attorney Greg Gibson, and the acceptance of the portrait, along with a tribute by U.S. District Court Chief Judge Edmund A. Sargus Jr.

To commemorate the occasion and to honor all that Judge Rice has and continues to contribute to the Dayton bench and Bar, the Dayton Bar Association Foundation commissioned a bronze plaque that will hang

in the Dayton Federal Building. Jeff Ireland, 2015–16 president of the DBA Foundation, was on hand for the event to extend the gratitude of the DBA and Foundation members and present Judge Rice with a mock-up of the plaque, which will feature a relief of Judge Rice as well as the following quote from Judge Rice's speech: "I am proud to be a lawyer, and you should be too. The price of freedom is, in truth, eternal vigilance. One

***continued on page 95***



Dayton Chapter: (left photo) Display of official portrait of Judge Walter Rice (left) painted by retired local attorney Greg Gibson (right). Dayton Chapter: (right photo) Hon. Walter H. Rice speaks to 320 people gathered to celebrate his distinguished career and commitment to service in the Dayton community.



who trades freedom for security will have neither. The war on crime, drugs, and terror must never be a war on the Constitution. If the Constitution no longer can protect the worst of us, it can never hope to protect the best of us.”

Truly reflecting the lifelong passion and widespread impact of Judge Rice, the event brought together family—including wife Magistrate Bonnie Beaman Rice, daughter Courtney Rice, son Michael Rice, brothers-in-law Dr. Joseph Beaman and Fred Beaman, sister-in-law Linda Beaman—countless friends, numerous federal and state trial and appellate judges, federal and state court staff, representatives from the U.S. Congress, representatives from the General Assembly, local government leaders, national FBA leaders (including President-Elect Hon. Michael J. Newman), Board of Directors member Glen R. McMurtry, Vice President for the Sixth Circuit James W. Satola, members of numerous charitable and community organizations, and lawyers and firms of all types



Dayton Chapter: Federal judges gathered to pay tribute to Judge Rice. (Top row, l to r) Judge Michael Newman, Judge Sharon Ovington, Chief Judge Edmund Sargus Jr., Judge Timothy Black, Judge Lawrence Walter, and Judge John Hoffman Jr.; (Bottom row, l to r) Judge Guy Humphrey, Judge Thomas Rose, Judge Walter Rice, Judge Susan Diott, and Judge Michael Merz.

of practice areas from Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton. The evening reminded many of us once again why we are, indeed, “proud to be a lawyer.” ☺

*(Photographs attributed to Valerie Hawkins.)*

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