



Mississippi: Executive Director/Dean Emeritus Jim Rosenblatt (Mississippi College School of Law), Board Liaison Krissy Nobile (Mississippi Attorney General's Office), President Mike Hurst (Mississippi Center for Public Policy), Speaker Judge Keith Starrett (U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi), Secretary Brad Davis (Jones Walker), Treasurer Patrick McDowell (Brunini), Past President/Dean Meta Copeland (Mississippi College School of Law)

FIFTH CIRCUIT

Mississippi Chapter

January Meeting with U.S. District Court Judge Keith Starrett

U.S. District Court Judge Keith Starrett was the speaker for the January meeting of the Mississippi Chapter. A group of Federal Bar Association (FBA) members and guests enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch at the Capital Club and were treated to an excellent talk by Judge Starrett concerning the concept of reentry from incarceration, drug courts, and veterans courts. The Chapter voted to approve the slate of new officers. President Mike Hurst accepted the gavel of leadership from Dean Meta Copeland who provided outstanding leadership in 2015. ☺

ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

North Central Florida Chapter

Brown Bag Lunch with U.S. Chief Bankruptcy Judge Karen K. Specie

A Brown Bag Lunch with United States Chief Bankruptcy Judge Karen K. Specie was hosted by the North Central Florida (NCFL) Bankruptcy/UCC Committee Chapter of the FBA at the U.S. Courthouse in Gainesville,

Florida, on March 4, 2016. Robert Griscti, chapter president, moderated the informative discussion with Chief Judge Specie.

Practitioners from the bench and bar of the Gainesville Division, Northern District of Florida, as well as representatives of the University of Florida Levin College of Law and the Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association attended the lunch. Chief Judge Specie educated the audience with advice and anecdotes from her nearly four years as a chief bankruptcy judge, 30 years of private practice, and long-standing service as an adjunct professor of law at the University of Florida Levin College Of Law,

where she teaches two courses: "Creditors' Remedies and Bankruptcy" and "Secured Transactions." Chief Judge Specie discussed the challenges of presiding over the geographically widespread Northern District, which has four divisions, two time zones and only one bankruptcy judge. She had nearly 3,000 cases pending as of February 2016.

Chief Judge Specie was a founding member of the NCFL Chapter of the FBA and the Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association. In March 2011, Judge Specie was inducted as a fellow into the American College of Bankruptcy. Before taking the bench, Judge Specie served



NCFL: U.S. Chief Bankruptcy Judge Karen K. Specie was interviewed by Robert Griscti, president of the NCFL Chapter.



Left: Attendees of the awards dinner, including District Judge Federico Moreno, U.S. Attorney Willy Ferrer, assistant U.S. attorneys and attorneys in private practice. Below Left: State Court Judge Robert Luck, State Court Judge Rudy Ruiz, U.S. Attorney Willy Ferrer, and District Judge Federico Moreno. Below: Incoming South Florida FBA President Oliver Ruiz, Chief Judge Michael Moore, South Florida FBA Executive Board Member Russell Koonin, and Magistrate Judge Alicia Valle.



two terms on the Florida Bar's Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors and one term on the Trial Lawyers Executive Council. She is an active member of the Florida Bar Business Law Section, Bankruptcy/UCC Committee and Judicial Liaison Committee.

For information regarding upcoming NCFL Chapter events please visit our webpage (www.fedbar.org/Chapters/North-Central-Florida-Chapter/North-Central-Florida-Chapter.aspx) and Facebook page. ☺

South Florida Chapter
2015 Annual Awards and Installation Dinner

On Friday, Sept. 25, 2015, at the JW Marriott Marquis in Miami, the South Florida Chapter of the FBA held its 2015 Installation Dinner. The event drew a fabulous turnout from our judiciary and local bar, and it honored several chapter members who have dedicated their time and energy to our organization and the legal profession.

We had the honor of bestowing our most prestigious award, the Edward B. Davis Award for Service to the Federal Bench and Bar (the NED Award), to Steven M. Larimore, court administrator and clerk of the court. The award is given annually to someone who has exemplified the Chapter's values of excellence and service to the community, the federal bench, and the federal bar. Chief Judge Michael Moore gave a wonderful introduction, detailing Larimore's impressive credentials and the amazing work he has done on behalf of the district, particularly advancing us to the forefront of 21st century technology. Larimore expressed sincere gratitude for the award and recounted the journey to reach his position and the lessons he has learned along the way.

Opening and closing remarks were delivered by President Candace Duff, and the event was planned by Assistant U.S. Attorney and Officer Vanessa Snyder. Our incoming president, Oliver A. Ruiz, and the 2015-16 executive board were sworn in. The board was also proud to present an award of appreciation to Bruce Yasukochi, CPA, of Cherry Bekaert, who has dedicated his time and expertise, pro bono, to the South Florida FBA, ensuring our finances are in order and that we are well positioned for future growth and success. All in all, it was a fantastic evening! ☺



Left: FBA South Florida Chapter President Candace Duff presenting the NED Award to Steven Larimore, clerk of court. Middle Below: Chief Judge Michael Moore swearing in incoming South Florida FBA President Oliver Ruiz. Bottom: Chief Judge Michael Moore swearing in the South Florida FBA executive board and officers.

