

FBA Convention and Ohio Spotlight

by Elizabeth A. Fegan



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With the FBA Annual Meeting and Convention scheduled for Sept. 15-17, in Cleveland, the Northern District of Ohio and Dayton Chapters of the FBA are ready to host and make sure convention attendees have a great time.

In fact, while the convention is slated to start on Thursday, Sept. 15, Tim L. Collins of Collins & Scanlon and the current president of the Northern District of Ohio Chapter says that the convention actually starts on Wednesday, Sept. 14, as far as the local chapter is concerned.

Rather than hold its typical State of the Court luncheon in September, the Northern District of Ohio Chapter invited the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to hold oral arguments in Cleveland on Sept. 14 in conjunction with the FBA Convention. One panel of the Sixth Circuit will hold oral arguments on Wednesday at the Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House with a simulcast to local law schools. Also on Wednesday, a State of the Circuit luncheon will include addresses by Chief Judge for the Sixth Circuit R. Guy Cole Jr.,¹ Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio Solomon Oliver Jr.,² and Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court of the Northern District of Ohio Russ Kendig.

And if that is not enough to entice you to arrive early for the FBA Convention, all convention attendees are invited to attend a party Wednesday night at the Cleveland office of Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP,³ located just one block from the convention's host hotel. The party is an opportunity to not only connect with convention attendees and the judiciary from the Sixth Circuit and Northern District of Ohio, but also to get an inside look at the Calfee Building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.⁴ Designed by architect William Bunker Tubby in the Beaux-Arts Classicism style, the Calfee Building boasts a beautiful two-story cathedral ceiling in the lobby and marble and stone features throughout.

Collins encourages all conference attendees to take advantage of the revitalization that has occurred in downtown Cleveland, where “billions of dollars” have been spent on construction and investment. Explaining that a “definite uptick in the population downtown in the last five to seven years has occurred among

young professionals,” Collins said that Cleveland is “perfectly positioned to have a great RNC convention in July and FBA convention in September” with many new restaurants, clubs, and social venues outside of the traditional sports venues.⁵

Other social events convention attendees will not want to miss include a special Thursday evening event at Alley Cat Oyster Bar, overlooking the Cleveland Flast East Bank District and the scenic riverfront. On Friday night, head to Rock Hall, home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for a complimentary reception hosted by the Northern District of Ohio Chapter. You will be able to tour the galleries while eating, drinking, and listening to the No Name Band, a band of Cleveland lawyers who play music from the '60s, '70s, and beyond.⁶

To cap off a great event, the Dayton Chapter is hosting the Presidential Installation after-dinner party at The Westin Cleveland for Hon. Michael J. Newman, who will be sworn in as the next FBA president.

Even if you are not able to attend the convention, Collins encourages FBA members to participate in their local chapters. He said that he has found value participating in and leading the Northern District of Ohio Chapter because of its excellent relationship with the federal judiciary. Explaining that he does not “know any other association that has as good a relationship with the judiciary” as the FBA, Collins is particularly proud that the local judiciary initiates ideas for programming and reaches out to the Northern District of Ohio Chapter to implement the programs. For example, last year, the chief judge of the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio called regarding a major crisis in the country concerning student loan debt. That call resulted in a well attended program in November 2015 entitled “The Problem—OUR Problem of Student Loan Debt Seen Through The Eyes of Judges, Lawyers, and Debtors.”⁷

Having the judiciary initiate ideas and rely on the local FBA chapter to develop the idea into a successful program is “the kind of interaction with the judiciary that is informal and well received on both sides,” according to Collins. “We want to foster that relationship.”

To register for the convention and for more infor-

mation, visit www.fedbar.org/FBACon16. To find out about events being hosted by your local chapter, visit www.fedbar.org/chapters.aspx to identify your chapter and link to its local website.⁸ ©

Endnotes

¹*Court of Appeals—Judges*, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, http://www.ca6.uscourts.gov/internet/court_of_appeals/courtappeals_judges.htm (last visited May 15, 2016).

²*Judges*, U.S. DIST. COURT N. DIST. OF OHIO, <http://www.ohnd.uscourts.gov/home/judges> (last visited May 15, 2016).

³CALFEE, HALTER & GRISWOLD LLP, <http://calfee.com> (last visited May 15, 2016).

⁴*An Historic Building*, CALFEE, HALTER & GRISWOLD LLP, <http://calfee.com/our-firm/the-calfee-building/an-historic-building> (last visited May 15, 2016).

⁵2016 GOP CONVENTION—CLEVELAND, OHIO, <http://convention.gop> (last visited May 15, 2016).

⁶ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME, <http://rockhall.com/visit-the-museum/>

plan (last visited May 15, 2016); *The No Name Band*, FACEBOOK, <https://www.facebook.com/tnnbCLE> (last visited May 15, 2016).
⁷*Events*, U.S. DIST. COURT N. DIST. OF OHIO, <http://www.ohnd.uscourts.gov/home/information-about-the-court/events> (last visited May 15, 2016).

⁸If none of the nearly 100 chapters—which are located across the country, in Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—is near you, Section 1, Article X of the FBA's Constitution provides: "Any 10 or more members of the Association in good standing, who reside, practice, or are employed in the same geographical area, may—upon application to and with the consent of the Board of Directors—organize a local Chapter of the Association for such purposes, upon such conditions, and embracing such geographical area as the Board of Directors shall prescribe." See, e.g., *The Constitution of the Federal Bar Association*, FED. BAR ASSOC., <http://www.fedbar.org/About-Us/Organizational-Structure/FBA-Constitution.aspx#X> (last visited May 15, 2016).

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Importance of an Independent Judiciary

An independent judiciary is central to our democracy and the preservation of public trust in the rule of law. At the same time, litigants in our courts must have the right to challenge a judge's ruling for reasons based in fact, law or policy. Indeed, we affirm and embrace the right of litigants to assert claims of judicial bias under applicable laws, as well as every person's right of free speech. But we exhort all people to refrain from attacks on our judiciary based solely on ethnic, racial, religious, gender or sexual-orientation grounds. We urge all to accord the judiciary the respect and dignity necessary for judges to conduct their constitutional responsibilities.

A message from the FBA Board of Directors

