Precisely 45 years after attending his confirmation hearing before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, Senior U.S. District Judge Wm. Terrell Hodges was honored at the University of Florida's prestigious F-Club Room at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium in Gainesville, Fla., on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016. With honor, distinction, and Gator pride, more than 100 attendees, including federal and state judges, former law clerks, attorneys, members of the Federal Bar Association (FBA), court staff and law students, celebrated Judge Hodges—a jurist who is truly a legend on the bench.

Judge Hodges’ experience and stature in the federal court system was recognized during the reception by Eleventh Circuit Judge Gerald Bard Tjoflat; U.S. District Judge Mark Walker; several of Judge Hodges’ former law clerks, including Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathalina Hudson, U.S. Magistrate Judge Daniel Irick, and Assistant City Attorney Stephanie Marchman; University of Florida Levin College of Law Dean Laura Rosenbury; and Dr. Brian K. Marchman of the University of Florida. Robert Griscti, president of the FBA North Central Florida Chapter, presented a plaque to Judge Hodges from the FBA Jacksonville Chapter; Judge Hodges took senior status in Jacksonville in 1999 and then moved to north central Florida to preside in the Ocala Division of the Middle District of Florida. James Felman, former president of the FBA Tampa Bay Chapter, addressed the judge on behalf of the Tampa legal community; Judge Hodges first sat on the district bench in the Tampa Division and served from 1982-1989 as chief judge of the middle district.

Judge Hodges responded to all with humor and heartfelt appreciation, recogniz-
ing his long friendships with Judge Tjoflat and other colleagues and his love for the judicial profession he remains so actively engaged in.

The program concluded with a congratulatory letter from the U.S. Supreme Court signed by Chief Justice John Roberts, recognizing Judge Hodges for his service as a district judge, his contributions to the national federal judiciary, including three decades to the Judicial Conference of the United States, and for Judge Hodges’ “sustained commitment to the cause of justice.”

As Judge Hodges promised on the day of his appointment, he has “held [his] position with dedication and objectivity.” He is not only to be admired, but honored, as he was on this December evening.

The “Holiday Reception to Celebrate Senior United States District Judge William Terrell Hodges’ Forty-Fifth Anniversary on the Federal Bench” was hosted by the FBA North Central Florida Chapter and the University of Florida Levin College of Law. The chapter sincerely thanks all those, including the national FBA and the Jacksonville and Tampa chapters, who helped sponsor and participate in the reception.

Julian Pinilla, photographer for the University of Florida Levin College of Law’s Office of Communications, is credited for all photographs included in this article.
South Florida Chapter
Art Law & Litigation Conference

On Nov. 30, 2016, the South Florida Chapter hosted the Federal Bar Association’s First Annual Art Law & Litigation Conference in Miami. Panelists ranged from artists to gallerists, and general counsel to federal judges. Among many others, Terry Vento, general counsel of Perez Art Museum Miami—along with private practitioners Lisa Moore, Andrew Pequignot, and Steve Schindler—spoke on building an art law practice. Paul Schwiep and Pedro Freyre, experts in the field, spoke on how the recent change in the presidential administration will affect efforts to recover stolen and looted art in Cuba. Judge Gerald Rosen of the Eastern District of Michigan gave a very moving keynote address on how the art collection at the Detroit Institute of Arts helped Detroit avoid a catastrophic bankruptcy. And Chief Judge Loretta Preska of the Southern District of New York gave humorous remarks on the state of parodies and copyright law. Participants flew in from around the country to participate in the conference and enjoy the Art Basel show. Coffey Burlington hosted the conference in their beautiful offices in Coconut Grove. It was a wonderful event, and the first of many! ✨