FIFTH CIRCUIT

New Orleans Chapter
Annual Federal Judges’ Reception
On Nov. 9, 2016, the New Orleans Chapter held its Annual Federal Judges’ Reception in the Chinoiserie Ballroom at the Windsor Court Hotel. This year’s event was sponsored by over 50 firms.

The guests were treated to hors d’oeuvres and sweet treats, as well as cocktails and wine. Many judges and magistrates attended from multiple federal district courts in Louisiana and from the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition to the members of the bench, over 300 members of the federal bar were in attendance including Chapter President Kelly Scalise, Chapter President-Elect Raley Alford, and other members of the board of directors.

Annual Malcolm Monroe Federal Practice Series
On Dec. 7, 2016, the New Orleans Chapter and Younger Lawyers Division held its annual Malcolm Monroe Federal Practice Series, a half-day CLE program geared toward newly admitted attorneys that includes admission to the federal courts in Louisiana. This year’s program covered four topics particularly timely for young lawyers. Charles Thomas spoke on the various ethical issues lawyers face from the inception of a client relationship through resolution of a matter. Scott Sternberg led a panel discussion on law practice management issues with assistance from attorneys Chris Weema and Corey Dunbar, as well as Melissa Tokar, office administrator at Baker Donelson. Former Eastern District of Louisiana (EDLA) law clerks Patrick Reagin and Phil Dore spoke on federal civil procedure with particular focus on the local rules of the EDLA. The day ended with a discussion
by Christine Cerniglia, Amy Malish, and Monique Doucette regarding the impact of professionalism on various aspects of the practice of law. Following the program, Judge Sarah Vance swore the attendees into the bars of the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts of Louisiana, as well as the Fifth Circuit. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Malcolm Monroe to make it a wonderful success. A special note of appreciation to Thomson Reuters, GoDepo, Alliance Overnight Document Service, and Amerson White for their sponsorship of this event.

**Annual Holiday Party**

On Dec. 7, 2016, the New Orleans Chapter and Younger Lawyers Division hosted its annual Holiday Cocktail Party in the Great Hall of the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, and holiday cheer were enjoyed by members of both the bench and bar. Several members of the federal judiciary attended, making the event a great opportunity for young lawyers to meet judges in a causal, festive setting. In addition, the light displays of Luna Fête gave guests a colorful view from the windows of the Fifth Circuit. The event was the perfect way to kick off the holiday season!

**Mississippi Chapter**

**Mississippi Chapter Gulf Coast Meeting**

The Mississippi Chapter met in September 2016 on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the historic White House Hotel. President Mike Hurst introduced Charlie Spillers who shared accounts from his book *Confessions of an Undercover Agent* as he worked to arrest drug dealers and other criminals in Louisiana and Mississippi. Chief Judge Louis Guirola, who worked with Spillers in his early days in law enforcement, was a special guest.

**Oxford Meeting With the Northern District**

In October, the Mississippi Chapter hosted a luncheon at The Inn in Oxford in connection with a CLE program conducted by the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Mississippi. Chief Judge Sharion Aycock spoke to the members and their guests about events and case workload in the Northern District and introduced her fellow judges and special guests. Following the luncheon, the members attended the excellent CLE sponsored by the court.

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(L to r) Executive Director Dean Jim Rosenblatt, Mississippi College School of Law; President Mike Hurst, Mississippi Justice Institute; Chief Judge Guirola, Southern District of Mississippi; author Charlie Spillers; and Treasurer Patrick McDowell, Brunini Law.
Jackson Meeting With U.S. District Court Judge Henry Wingate

The Mississippi Chapter introduced its new officer slate at the January 2017 meeting in the Capital Club. Outgoing president Mike Hurst passed the gavel to incoming president Brad Davis and welcomed Mary Helen Wall to the leadership team. U.S. District Court Judge Henry Wingate provided a history lesson focusing on the tense period prior to the Revolutionary War leading to the Boston massacre in which Crispus Attucks was killed—thought to be the first casualty of the Revolutionary War.

NINTH CIRCUIT

Hawaii Chapter
First Annual Hawaii Federal Trial Academy

The Hawaii Chapter held its first annual Hawaii Federal Trial Academy over three days, from Jan. 11 to 13, at the Federal District Court in Honolulu. Twelve participants were chosen from over 60 applicants and the selected students included government, civil rights, neighbor island, and a blend of law firm practice areas. A faculty of nearly 20 top litigators added to the shared expertise of the judges in the three-day event, which culminated in each lawyer conducting portions of a jury trial on the final day. The project was a great success and plans are underway to do the program again next year. Chief Judge J. Michael Seabright called for this effort when he assumed duties as chief judge in 2016, and the Hawaii Chapter of the Federal Bar Association fully supported Judge Seabright to make the program a success. The program was fashioned after the Department of Justice trial practice training program.

Above left: Hawaii Chapter (l to r) Chief Judge J. Michael Seabright, Judge Leslie E. Kobayashi, Senior Judge Alan Kay, Magistrate Judge Barry M. Kurren, student participants, Judge Derrick K. Watson, Magistrate Judges Kevin S.C. Chang, and Kenneth J. Mansfield. Above right: The Hawaii Federal Trial Academy student participants were all Hawaii lawyers with limited trial experience who were chosen for training in all phases of a federal court jury trial.