



Sections and Divisions



Section on Taxation: On May 22, members of the section gathered in Boston for a social hour.

Section on Taxation

On May 22, the section held its first event of the year in Boston. The event was a reception at the law firm of Ropes & Gray featuring the U.S. Tax Court's Special Chief Trial Judge Peter J. Panuthos. Approximately 45 people attended. The section has additional events planned. ☉

Admiralty Law Section

The section participated as a supporting organization for the Connecticut Maritime Association's (CMA) annual shipping conference, "Shipping 2017," in Stamford, Conn., March 20-22. This year's event attracted a crowd of nearly 2,300 maritime professionals from around the world.

CMA's "Shipping 2018" is planned for March 12-14 at the Hilton Stamford Hotel, following the Seatrade Cruise Global conference (March 5-8) in Florida. ☉

Qui Tam Section

On May 15, the section continued its CLE series "The False Claims Act Today," which convenes local attorneys, judges, and government officials to discuss the venerable federal statute and its practice in their jurisdictions.

This second event in the ongoing series was hosted in the Eastern District of California with support from the FBA Sacramento Chapter. The luncheon event featured experienced practitioners from both sides of the bench, as well as the local affirmative civil enforcement (ACE) coordinator and a federal judge. Attendees learned how the U.S. attorney's office vets False Claims Act (FCA) cases and ultimately decides whether to intervene. The CLE also provided a primer on the FCA; a discussion of important cases, including recent developments in the Ninth Circuit; practice tips; and a panel discussion that covered all sides of FCA practice.

Blanca Fromm Young of Munger Tolles & Olson LLP represented defense counsel in

a discussion of the statutory framework of the FCA and obstacles for bringing an FCA claim, including the heightened pleading standard. Brooks Cutter of Cutter Law P.C. represented a relator's counsel in a discussion on the history of the FCA, including theories of liability and the elements parties



Section on Taxation: Judge Peter J. Panuthos addresses the crowd at the May event.



Left: Admiralty Law Section: Vice Admiral Charles W. Ray, Coast Guard, speaks at the “Shipping 2017” conference, which was hosted by the Connecticut Maritime Association (CMA). (Photo courtesy of Chris Prevolos/CMA.)



Qui Tam Section: Panelists (l to r): Brooks Cutter, Blanca Fromm Young, Colleen Kennedy, Judge Kimberly Mueller, and Scott Oswald

must meet. Colleen Kennedy, assistant U.S. attorney and ACE coordinator for the Eastern District of California, provided practice tips and explained how her office handles intake, investigation, and litigation of FCA cases. And Judge Kimberly Mueller provided invaluable insight into the court's approach to sealed cases, including factors she considers when deciding whether to grant seal extensions.

After the formal presentation, panelists engaged in a question-and-answer period with the attendees and moderator Scott Oswald from The Employment Law Group, P.C.

The Qui Tam Section is planning additional sessions of “The False Claims Act Today” in jurisdictions across the United States in conjunction with local FBA chapters: Buffalo, N.Y., in September and Cincinnati in October. Plans for 2018 CLE events are in the works. If you are interested in bringing the series to your region, contact Scott Oswald, the section's CLE chair, at soswald@employmentlawgroup.com. ☺

International Law Section

Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III spoke about “America's Indispensable Leadership Role in the World” during a program sponsored by

the section on May 18 in Washington, D.C.

Bremer cited former U.S. Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger for the proposition that America is the only country founded on a rules-based liberal democratic order. He cited the historical antecedents of leadership in the world, including that of the British Empire, from which the United States took the mantle of leadership. Bremer asked, “Who, if not the United States, would assume the leadership role in and for the world?”

His remarks were well received, with one longtime FBA leader writing that we should invite Bremer to share his insights regularly, noting that she “would come again and again!” ☺

Younger Lawyers Division

The division's Supreme Court Admissions Ceremony admitted 37 individuals to the Supreme Court Bar on May 30. Attendees enjoyed breakfast at the Supreme Court before being sworn in by the justices. Following the ceremony, Elizabeth Pugh and the Library of Congress general counsel staff conducted a private tour of the Library of Congress. ☺

Immigration Law Section

The FBA hosted its 20th Annual Immigration Law Conference May 11-12, in Denver. The section provided a venue for in-depth discussion on of-the-moment topics critical to immigration law practice. During the two-day conference, attendees had access to more than 35 CLE sessions covering multiple tracks and enjoyed several social and networking opportunities throughout the weekend. ☺



Immigration Law Section: Attendees at the 2017 Immigration Law Conference listen to keynote speaker Hon. Paul Wickham Schmidt discuss life at the Department of Justice.



Top: International Law Section: Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III, former presidential envoy to Iraq, meets with lunch attendees at the Diplomatic Club in Washington, D.C. Bottom: Younger Lawyers Division: New members of the Supreme Court Bar.