

Message From the Vice Chair, FBA International Law Section

by Roger Kobert



Roger Kobert is vice chairman of the FBA's International Law Section. He is a partner in the litigation department of the Miami office of Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L., and chairman of its international practice group. A veteran federal court trial and appellate counselor, Kobert litigates complex commercial, banking, business tort, fraud, insurance, and foreign sovereign immunities cases, among others, with an emphasis on jurisdictional and cross-border disputes. He earned his J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law (1988) and his B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania (1985).

The past few months have involved a flurry of activity primarily focused on developing the International Law Section's partnerships at area law schools. In keeping with the theme of outreach to younger lawyers and law students, the International Law Section has been active in providing "mock interview" training opportunities for LLM law students at two law schools. First, on Jan. 22, Fordham Law School Dean and FBA International Law Section Board Member Toni Jaeger-Fine and FBA SDNY Chapter Board Member Ray Dowd hosted a Fordham International Law Affinity Group training and networking event at Fordham Law School. The program involved a series of mock interviews with leaders in the legal community, followed by a presentation by Hon. Denny Chin, circuit judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and a cocktail reception. FBA International Law Section Chair Mimi Tsankov participated, as well. Susan Kilgore, membership chair, FBA International Law Section, went the extra mile and conducted a series of mock interviews via videoconferencing from Texas for students who were unable to participate in the actual event.

Building on the success of this program, the section has now expanded the videoconferencing-enabled mock interview program to the University of Georgia School of Law with the help of new FBA member Adriana-Maria Sarria, graduate research assistant and LLM candidate. Membership Chair Susan Kilgore spearheaded the program and coordinated the logistics. Held in March 2018, the program included 11 interviews of the approximately 17 current LLM students at the University of Georgia. The focus of the mock interviews was on interviewing for legal positions in the fields of international law, immigration law, and corporate law. Other sections or chapters interested in organizing a similar event may find the following program notes helpful:



Pictured are: (L to R) Ray Dowd, board member, FBA SDNY Chapter; Toni Jaeger-Fine, board member, FBA International Law Section; Hon. Denny Chin; Mimi Tsankov, chair, FBA International Law Section; and Dwight Yoo, president-elect, Asian American Bar Association of New York.

- Identify a law school on-site coordinator.
- Select a date and time for the interviews.
- Set a date for the students to provide resumes to a central location.
- Have the section/chapter recruit a minimum of five attorneys to conduct the interviews.
- Send the resumes to participating attorneys at least one day before interview day.
- Send the interview schedule to the on-site coordinator.
- Have students call their assigned attorneys.
- Hold 20-minute interviews and follow up with attorney feedback; complete sessions within one hour.
- Schedule a meeting after the interviews so students can share their experiences and learn from each other.
- Have students write a summary of the experience for the International Law Section newsletter and possibly for *The Federal Lawyer*.

On Feb. 23, the section co-sponsored a full-day, three-track CLE program at the New York Law School

on immigration and asylum law. Speakers included a keynote welcome by Bitta Mostofi, acting commissioner of New York City's Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, and Karen Lucas of the American Immigration Council in Washington, D.C., during the plenary lunch sessions, as well as speakers from area law schools, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, practitioners from law firms, and leaders in the nongovernmental organization community. With more than 350 participants, ranging from law students to seasoned practitioners, and panels composed of leaders in the field, this event is now in its third year and is a hub for training in the ever-changing world of immigration.

Finally, Immediate Past-President Brian C. Murphy is currently completing his second Fulbright Scholarship in Sofia, Bulgaria. *The Federal Lawyer* readers will recall that he reported about his prior work and the Fulbright Program in *The Federal Lawyer* March 2018 international law theme issue. During the weekend of Feb. 16-18, Murphy presided over the qualifying rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition held at the Supreme Court of Cassation, Sofia, Bulgaria, which is the final court of appeal in the Republic of Bulgaria. ☺



Judges for the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition pictured are (L to R): Tselvina van Bentham, Brian C. Murphy, and Dimitar Gochev.

Neutrals Like No Others

JAMS welcomes Hon. Jay C. Gandhi (Ret.)



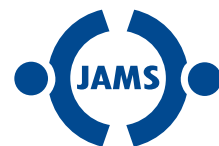
- **Distinguished Judge.** Eight years as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Central District of California. Highly desired settlement judge and widely hailed as a “closer.”
- **Experienced Counsel.** Previously a partner at Paul Hastings LLP, a global law firm. Spent 12 years litigating sophisticated commercial cases and class actions.
- **Demonstrated Success.** Settled hundreds of notable cases, including complex business matters and class actions.

“Judge Gandhi is a great judge. He is extremely intelligent. ... He feels strongly about letting people have their day in court. ... He is one of the best magistrates for settlement. ... He is excellent. He will get it done for you.”

—*Almanac of the Federal Judiciary*

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Judge Gandhi is based in Los Angeles and available nationwide.