

Join Us in New York for the 2018 Annual Meeting and Convention

by Simeon Baum

The SDNY Chapter warmly welcomes you to the Big Apple this September, where, for the first time in its 90-year history, the FBA will hold its Annual Meeting and Convention. Our meeting will take place in the New York Marriott Downtown, just across from Battery Park City, with views of New York Harbor and its iconic Statue of Liberty.

Here, at the southern tip of what Herman Melville called “the Isle of the Manhattoes,” is both the City’s oldest area and some of its newest developments. We are a stone’s throw away from the reborn World Trade Center, with its proud Freedom Tower and 9/11 Memorial. In the heart of the Wall Street area, affectionately known as “FiDi,” you will find this country’s first stock exchanges; Federal Hall, where the Stamp Act Congress decried “taxation without representation;” the first capitol of the United States under the Constitution and the site of George Washington’s swearing in as the first U.S. president; the old custom’s house, now home to the SDNY Bankruptcy Court and the American Indian museum; the Museum of Jewish Heritage; the Irish Hunger Museum, recalling the potato famine; the African Burial Ground National Monument; and more.

You are invited to wander the winding streets of this old section of New York, or cross West Street to Battery Park, with its Winter Garden, shops, and yacht harbor. From there the choice is yours. Walk (or run) north the along the Hudson River the length of Manhattan, passing Tribeca, the Village, the battleship Intrepid and midtown piers, Hell’s Kitchen, the Lincoln Center area, the Upper West side (with its Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Monument) and Columbia University, all the way up the George Washington bridge. Or, instead, head south, just a few paces into Battery Park, and gaze out to the New York harbor, like the water watchers of Moby Dick, facing the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, where so many immigrants stopped in their journey to this Golden Land of the American dream. You are encouraged to make time to see more of New York’s renowned sights. Head just a bit north from the hotel to the Courts in Foley Square, abutting Chinatown and Little Italy. Take in a Broadway show. Shop in Soho or Madison Avenue. Go for a stroll in Central Park. Or have a bite somewhere, anywhere, from Lavagna, in Alphabet City, to Sylvia’s Restaurant in Harlem, and everywhere in between.

Beyond a preview of New York’s wonders, we hope that this issue of *The Federal Lawyer* will give you a taste of New York’s legal culture, as well. With thanks to our many contributors, we are proud to feature Judicial Profiles on Chief Judges Hon. Robert M. Katzmann (Second Circuit), Hon. Colleen McMahon (SDNY); Hon. Dora Irizarry (EDNY); former Chief Judges Loretta A. Preska

(SDNY) and Carol Bagley Amon (EDNY); Hon. P. Kevin Castel; Hon. Joseph F. Bianco and tributes to Hon. Leonard D. Wexler; and Magistrate Judge Stewart D. Aaron. You will also find pieces on practice in, and a history of, the New York City area courts of the Second Circuit, not only the SDNY, affectionately known as the “Mother Court,” but the EDNY, as well. This includes a comprehensive spread, offered by the chief judges and their ADR administrators, on dispute resolution alternatives in these courts, including ADR Section Chair Joan Hogarth’s overview of the SDNY’s *pro bono* ADR representation panel. We have substantive pieces with the unique flavor of this jurisdiction, ranging from admiralty, to fashion law, to even a bankruptcy piece on that New York City icon, the Yellow Cab. We share a piece on John Feerick’s role as drafter of the twenty-fifth Amendment. There are pictorials that will take you around the city, from a tour of New York’s activist sites, the magisterial photography drawn from the travels of the Hon. Robert M. Levy, and a view of the courts through the eyes of courtroom artists Elizabeth Williams and Aggie Kenny. Throughout this issue, with thanks to Wylie Stecklow and Wayne Greenwald, you will find tips to enhance your stay in the Big Apple.

By the time you arrive, we hope you will be primed for the events in store for you. On Wednesday afternoon, with thanks to the FBA’s Veteran Law Section, the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces will hold a special session at the SDNY’s 500 Pearl Street courthouse, followed by a reception on the courthouse terrace, outside a ceremonial courtroom. The works of Williams and Kenny will be on display; these artists will also capture this session and then offer their work for auction later during Annual Convention events. The SDNY Chapter’s Welcome Reception, on Thursday night, will be held at the chic Tribeca Rooftop, offering cocktails, cool jazz vocals, and views of the New York City skyline. Friday will offer plenty of exercise. Begin with the Friday morning Fun Run. Then, late afternoon, Ernie Bartol will lead a sunset walk across the Brooklyn Bridge, to a reception in the EDNY courthouse, hosted by the EDNY Chapter. There will be buses for those who prefer to ride.

Of course, the convention on Thursday and Friday will host extraordinary speakers and CLE events, together with three Awards

Luncheons and our Saturday night Presidential Banquet for the installation of Maria Vathis as president.

The SDNY Chapter could not have hosted this event without the generous support of our convention sponsors. These sponsors are recognized individually within this issue of *The Federal Lawyer*. We ask you to join us in thanking them for their leadership and support of the FBA and its mission: to strengthen the federal legal system and administration of justice by serving the interests and the needs of the federal practitioner, both public and private, the federal judiciary and the public they serve.

The upcoming events could also not be possible without the tremendous support offered by the Chief Judges Hon. Robert M. Katzmann (Second Circuit), Hon. Colleen McMahon (SDNY), and Hon. Dora Irizarry (EDNY), as well as District Executives Edward Friedland (SDNY) and Eugene J. Corcoran (EDNY). We must thank former Chief Judges Loretta A. Preska (SDNY) and Carol Bagley Amon (EDNY) for their constant and continuing support, and for leading our Welcoming Committee, and John Feerick, former dean of Fordham Law School, who will speak on his role in authoring the twenty-fifth Amendment and who has offered behind-the-scenes help throughout.

The Convention Committee commenced its planning efforts more than a year in advance of the upcoming convention. We offer thanks to the tireless efforts of the following committee members for striving to make your visit to New York a source of fond memories and enrichment: Simeon H. Baum, George Chalos, Lainie Cohen, William Dahill, Vivian Drohan, Raymond J. Dowd, Donna Frosco, Amy Gell, Faigy Gilder, Wayne Greenwald, Jadranka Jakovcic, Ryder Fleming Jones, Amit Hazan, Joan Hogarth, Steven Landis, Hon. Frank Maas (ret.), John McCarthy, Luke McGrath, Olivera Medenica, Nancy Morisseau, Liam O'Brien, Rob Rando, Lindsey Rubinstein, Phillip R. Schatz, Barbara Silverstone, Wylie Stecklow, Wendy R. Stein, Hon. Mimi Tsankov, Tenzin Wangmo, Alexander J. Zimmer, and Michael J. Zussman.

We would also like to thank our friends in the EDNY for their support in creating the spectacular Friday evening events, with particular appreciation to Chief Judge Irizarry, Hon. Joanna Seybert, Ernest Bartol, and Dina Miller.

We look forward to seeing you here, in New York City, this September for what is lining up to be a great Annual Meeting and Convention and a wonderful opportunity to explore New York, be enriched by stimulating programs, and enjoy the company of fellow FBA members at a host of exciting events. ☺

Convention Committee Members:

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Convention Committee Chair

Simeon H. Baum

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