FOURTH CIRCUIT

Hampton Roads Chapter
The False Claims Act Today

On June 5, the Hampton Roads Chapter and FBAs Qui Tam Section teamed up to bring a successful CLE event to federal practitioners in Tidewater, Va. Featuring Magistrate Judge Lawrence R. Leonard from the Norfolk-Newport News Division of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, along with a local relator’s counsel, defense counsel, and an assistant U.S. attorney involved in False Claims Act (FCA) cases, the presentation provided essential practice pointers and a diverse dialogue between practitioners on all sides of FCA litigation.

The event was moderated by R. Scott Oswald, a veteran of employment and whistleblower cases. With more than 60 attorneys in attendance, this was one of the most successful CLE presentations in recent Hampton Roads Chapter history.

FIFTH CIRCUIT

Mississippi Chapter
Student Division Meeting at MC Law

The Student Division at Mississippi College School of Law hosted U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst to speak to law students and guests. Hurst outlined his background and encouraged students to work in the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Mississippi Chapter Meeting

Newly minted U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst of the Southern District of Mississippi addressed the Mississippi Chapter members and guests at its February meeting. Hurst outlined some of his priorities and shared his philosophy on a cooperative approach to law enforcement.

Chapter Exchange

Hampton Roads Chapter: Moderator R. Scott Oswald (far left) and panelists take audience questions about recent developments in False Claims Act litigation.

Mississippi Chapter: Above left (l to r): Kristy Johnson, secretary; Michael Mann, Student Division vice president; Dean Jim Rosenblatt, faculty adviser; U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst; Sam Noblin, Student Division president; and Krissy Nobile, president. Above right (l to r): Kristy Johnson, secretary (U.S. Attorneys Office); Mary Helen Wall, treasurer (U.S. Attorneys Office); Dean Jim Rosenblatt, executive director (Mississippi College School of Law); Krissy Nobile, president (Mississippi Attorney General’s Office); Brad Davis, past president (Jones Walker); and Patrick McDowell, vice president (Brunini).
TENTH CIRCUIT

Oklahoma City Chapter
Part III of the Complex Litigation Series
Featuring Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author Dan Fagin

On May 25, the Federal Bar Association’s (FBA) Oklahoma City (OKC) Chapter welcomed Oklahoma City native Dan Fagin to discuss his 2014 Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation*, for which Fagin received the General Nonfiction award. Fagin is an accomplished science and environmental journalist, winning the Science Journalism Award of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Science in Society Award of the National Association of Science Writers during his time as environmental writer at *Newsday*. He is currently a professor of journalism at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute at New York University. Fagin was also recently published in *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, *Nature*, and *Slate*.

Fagin attended the luncheon as a guest lecturer in the third part of the chapter’s Complex Litigation series and discussed the history, background, and significance of Toms River. Over 75 members, students, and judges attended to hear an overview of the book, as well as a discussion on the history and impact of the chemical industry in the United States. Fagin also discussed his recent travels to China and the impact that the book has had on communities there that are facing similar issues to those in Toms River. Fagin is one of only a handful of Oklahoma-born Pulitzer Prize winners.

2018 High School Court Camp

Our FBA High School Court Camp kicked off its third year on June 11 with an introduction from Judge Suzanne Mitchell, who presented an overview of U.S. magistrate judges and the work they do. From there, students visited the U.S. Probation Office, U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Oklahoma City University Law School, the Innocence Project at OCU, and the Oklahoma County District Court to learn the roles of these agencies and organizations in the judicial system.

Attendees stayed engaged throughout the camp, asking questions about the legal process and steps to pursuing a career in the legal system. Students had the valuable opportunity to meet with several judges one-on-one to discuss their personal stories and experiences, catching a glimpse into exactly what occurs in the judge’s court. Bankruptcy Judges Janice Loyd and Sarah Hall offered cautionary tales about the pitfalls of credit cards and private student loans—topics especially relevant to high school students anticipating higher education in the near future.

Students met with Keith Ward to learn more about the jury selection process. They also participated in an exercise to analyze the Fourth Amendment, then observed this issue in action by sitting in on many court hearings, including a motion to suppress.

The camp utilized various civic education materials resources provided by Rebecca Fanning from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (the resources are posted on the FBA website). This included having students take “The Reality Check Quiz: Sometimes There Are No Do-Overs,” followed by a discussion later in the week.

Court Camp attendees also talked with Judge Robert E. Bacharach of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and met with a panel of naturalized citizens who shared stories of their journey to citizenship. Students concluded their experience by watching a naturalization ceremony.

Court Camp attendees learned the importance of living as active and informed citizens and gained a greater appreciation for our legal system.