



SECTION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

The Civil Rights Section is proud to report that its biennial Civil Rights CLE, the Civil Rights Étouffée, held in New Orleans, was once again a completely sold-out success, with over 100 attendees joining us. This is the second time the section has organized the Étouffée, and this year we were able to host it at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage School of Music, a venue that was almost as interesting as the speakers.

But only almost—with panel topics ranging from cutting-edge First Amendment and immigration issues, to the federal prohibition on marijuana, to challenges to the money bail system used by most states' criminal courts, the CLE brought together a diverse group of accomplished civil rights attorneys from across the country. The panel topics also included an update on the qualified immunity doctrine, the use of class actions in civil rights cases, a conversation on how schools can balance safety concerns with their civil rights obligations, and lawsuits on behalf of prisoners who the state fails to release after the completion of their sentences. And finally, as we looked to the future, we also remembered the past with a retrospective from the deans of Tulane University and Southern University law schools on the sometimes overlooked Supreme Court cases that ultimately led to *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The section is very appreciative of the assistance of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the enormous help of the local FBA NOLA Chapter and its Executive Director Amanda Kaiser, and the sponsorship by the FBA SDNY Chapter.

The section is also grateful for all the attendees and speakers who helped make this CLE such a success. A special thanks goes out to Sedrick Hawkins, an assistant principal from Riverdale High School who offered a unique perspective on school safety issues, and to Hon. Brian Jackson of the Middle District of Louisiana who spoke on a First Amendment panel. And because it wouldn't be New Orleans without music, a final thanks to Omari Neville and the Fuel, who threw down a funky set for attendees during the lunch hour.

More photos and info are available at www.etouffeelaw.com. The Étouffée will return, but until then, laissez les bon temps rouler! ☺



Attendees of the FBA Young Tax Lawyer Group happy hour with Michael Desmond.

SECTION ON TAX LAW

On Thursday, Jan. 24, the Young Tax Lawyer Group of the Section on Taxation held its first happy hour of the New Year for young practitioners and tax students in the Washington, D.C., metro area. The happy hour was held in Mount Vernon Triangle at Sixth Engine, a decommissioned firehouse. The event brought together approximately 30 tax lawyers from both the public and private sectors as well as many students from local law schools. The event included special guest Michael Desmond, who has since been confirmed as Internal Revenue Service chief counsel and assistant general counsel in the Department of Treasury. Those who attended enjoyed happy hour drink specials and a variety of tasty appetizers. ☺