

**FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION'S
NATIONAL CIVICS INITIATIVE**

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The National Initiative Takes Flight

Historically, the Federal Bar Association (“FBA”) has prided itself on its ability to serve the public through various outreach efforts, and civics programming has been a cornerstone of many of those endeavors. Until recently, however, civics programming was being offered on a chapter by chapter basis. In 2016, at the beginning of his term as the FBA’s National President, Judge Michael Newman announced the National Civics Initiative - an initiative designed to institutionalize civics programming and provide support on both a national and local level. In its inaugural year, Judge Newman and Joan Brady, last year’s National Civics Coordinator, successfully built a civics education infrastructure aimed at increasing the coordination and sharing of resources and programming expertise. Judge Newman also forged a strategic partnership between the FBA and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (“A.O.”), which instantly gave chapters access to a wealth of programming materials and advice from experts in the civic education field. By the close of fiscal year 2017, a large majority of FBA Chapters had designated a member as a civics liaison and students around the country participated in FBA sponsored civics events.

This year, the National Civics Committee continues to work toward 100% participation in the initiative and hopes to increase the impact of civics programming on a national level. To this end, we have updated the civics education webpage to increase ease of use by courts and chapters and attempted to capture the attention of non-participating chapters by simplifying our message. Our committee identified three national focus programs namely, the National Essay Contest, sponsored this year in partnership with the Federal Judges Association, Teen Discourse and Decision Making (TD Squared) – this year’s Open Doors to the Federal Courts project, and the Constitution Day Naturalization Ceremonies. Although we continually added programming information to the FBA’s website, at fedbar.org/Outreach/Civics, we limited our active advertising to these three programs. We also continued to collect information about programming that is being conducted on the chapter level. Attached to this report are descriptions of some of the programs that were offered by chapters this year. We hope the descriptions inspire you as much as they have inspired us. We have also attached a copy of our “How To” document defining the role of a chapter civics liaison and a copy of the FY 2018 FBA Civics Calendar.

By the close of fiscal year 2018, thousands of students will have visited a courthouse and met a federal judge as a result of this initiative. We remain committed to educating students and the public at large about the workings of the federal courts and the importance of an independent judiciary, and as always, we stand ready to provide you with assistance.

FBA Civics Committees at Work

Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter

On October 10, 2017, 150 students, chaperones, and teachers from the Mariemont Junior High School toured the U.S. Potter Stewart Courthouse. The students learned about the many types of careers that help our courts function, and spoke with U.S. Magistrate Judge Karen Litkovitz (pictured), Clerk's Office staff, and the U.S. Marshal Service as part of a special "behind the scenes" view of the courthouse.



Fort Worth Chapter

Continuing the civics engagement initiative promoted by the Federal Bar Association and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, a group of Fort Worth ISD students from Eastern Hills High School visited the Eldon B. Mahon Federal Courthouse in downtown Fort Worth on November 14, 2017. In addition to learning about the operations of a federal district court, the students prepared and argued two cases before United States District Judge Reed O'Connor.



Dayton Chapter

In mid-January, Judge Newman, along with his law clerks, Mike Rhinehart and Leigh Ann Thomas, spoke to 500 8th graders at Springboro Junior High School in Springboro, Ohio about the Constitution, separation of powers, and the role of courts (both state and federal) in our democracy.



On March 11, 2018, Judge Newman and Michael Rhinehart hosted Tippecanoe High School from Tipp City, Ohio—bringing the total of students in Dayton who have met with a federal judge close to 1,400. Dayton expects to hit 2000 students by the end of May!



Knoxville Chapter

On April 11, 2017, the Knoxville Chapter sponsored a schoolhouse to courthouse program for the Dogwood Ambassadors at the Howard Baker Courthouse, Eastern District of Tennessee in Knoxville. The program was funded by a grant from the Federal Bar Association. The Dogwood Ambassadors is a leadership development program for 4th and 5th grade students at Dogwood Elementary School, which serves largely underprivileged neighborhoods in South Knoxville. Program objectives include rewarding academic achievement and citizenship and providing learning experiences in legal and civic leadership activities for students who would not otherwise have access to these opportunities.

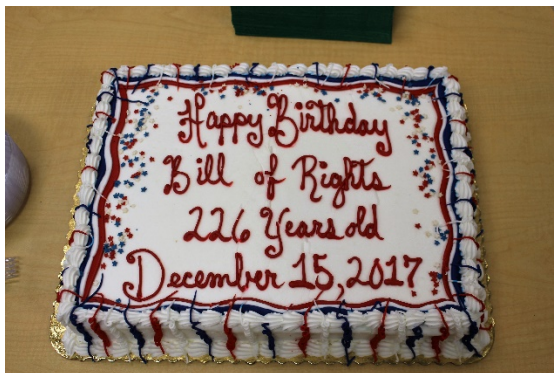
The FBA program included a presentation by Luke McLaren with the U.S. Attorney's Office, providing an overview of the function of the U.S. Attorney's office and highlighting the differences between state and federal courts. Don Ferguson provided a tour of the History Center. The group also attended a presentation by the U.S. Marshals. The Honorable Pamela Reeves then presided over a mock jury trial presented by members of the Chapter. After the trial, the students split into 2 jury pools, selected forepersons and deliberated the case to a verdict. All participants then had lunch with the following Judges and Magistrates from the Eastern District of Tennessee: Chief Judge Thomas Varlan; Judge Leon Jordan; Judge Thomas Phillips; Judge Pamela Reeves; Magistrate Clifford Shirley; Magistrate Robert Guyton and Bankruptcy Judge Susan Bauknight.



Oklahoma Chapter

Every year, the Western District of Oklahoma hosts a Kids Day at the Court and the FBA provides lanyards and gavel pencils for the kids.

On Dec. 15, 2017, the FBA sponsored a Bill of Rights birthday party held at John Rex Charter Elementary School. After introductions, ten students each read an amendment, the class sang Happy Birthday, and everyone enjoyed birthday cake. Judge Mitchell and Board Member Cara Rodriguez led the presentation and the cake-cutting.



On April 6, 2018, the Oklahoma Chapter participated in a naturalization ceremony at Casady School. Following the ceremony, Judges Tim DeGiusti, Suzanne Mitchell, and Sarah Hall had a great question and answer session with middle school and high school students. The keynote speaker for the ceremony was the school's drama teacher, who gave an incredibly moving speech about his life and journey to the United States and his path to citizenship. Pictures are attached.



A snippet from an email that the Chapter received following the ceremony says it all -

"Thank you so much for the wonderful ceremony at Casady yesterday. I can't tell you how many thanks I received from the students, teachers, administration, and parents, and I want to pass those along. One of the most meaningful was from the mom of an 8th grader who attended. She found me after the ceremony and was a bit teary when she started thanking me. She then explained that Thursday night at dinner, her daughter had asked about her naturalization for the first time, and that had been their dinnertime conversation. She also told me that her ceremony had been loud and chaotic and she hadn't felt what she felt yesterday. But she did get all the good feelings at our ceremony so, as she said, yesterday "was for me too." And she asked me to please let everyone know how much it meant to her. At which point I was all teary and we both had all the feels!"

On April 9, 2018, the United States District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma also hosted a middle school mock trial competition featured home-schooled teams from the cities of Moore and Norman,

Oklahoma. Judge Suzanne Mitchell presided over the trials. The students received pocket Constitutions donated from the FBA Oklahoma Chapter.



Finally, Judge Mitchell conducted a mock trial this month with home-schooled middle school students and gave each of the kids a pocket Constitution with the FBA label. In June, the Chapter will be hosting a summer camp for High School students and the court's June naturalization ceremony will be conducted during the High School camp.

Eastern District of New York Chapter

In July, 2017, the EDNY Chapter in partnership with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York and Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, hosted its 2nd Annual EDNY Justice Institute – a week-long, civics education program for 100 incoming 10th graders designed to introduce them to the workings of the federal courts and the criminal justice system, and to promote an enlightened and responsible citizenry. Students heard presentations from six federal judges, Suffolk County Police Commissioner Timothy Sini, two FBI agents, a U.S. Secret Service Agent, an ATF Special Agent, a Deputy U.S. Marshal, federal prosecutors, and criminal defense lawyers about their respective roles within the federal court system. The students also observed a Naturalization Ceremony and participated in a mock trial competition at the end of the week.

On September 18, 2017, the Judges of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York ("EDNY"), in partnership with the EDNY Chapter and the FBA Law Student Division from St. John's University Law School, hosted a special naturalization ceremony in celebration of Constitution Day. The ceremony highlighted the Eastern District's and FBA's recent civics education initiatives. To that end, the entire eighth grade of Oyster Bay High School attended the ceremony and participated in a number of activities. The ceremony was held at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, the home of Theodore Roosevelt from 1885 to 1919. Fifty candidates for citizenship and their families attended the moving and memorable ceremony.



In November, the EDNY Chapter sponsored the Second Annual Long Island Mentor Moot Court Competition. The competition was in the form of a mock oral argument in which the students played the role of lawyers arguing before the United States Supreme Court on a constitutional question. Over twenty high schools participated. Lawyers from several firms on Long Island and students for Hofstra University Law School Division volunteered their time as mentors in order to prepare the teams for the competition.



Dallas Chapter

As part of a national FBA initiative promoting civics-related activities, the Dallas Chapter hosts a field trip at the Earle Cabell Federal Courthouse for approximately 20 seventh-graders from the West Dallas Community School. This year, the civics event began with the students participating in a mock trial in Magistrate Judge Irma C. Ramirez's courtroom. The students then enjoyed a pizza lunch followed by a tour of the courthouse and a meeting with Bankruptcy Judge Harlin D. Hale. Next, one of the U.S. Marshals gave the students a tour focusing on the law enforcement aspect of the federal courthouse. The event concluded with a Q&A session with District Judge Sam A. Lindsay in his courtroom.



In July, the Dallas Chapter, in partnership with the Northern District of Texas Clerk's Office, is launching a teacher's institute, with the goal being a yearly 3-day conference where teachers are equipped to go back and teach their classes.

Montgomery Chapter

The Montgomery Chapter is working with their Clerk of the Court to do a program at a naturalization ceremony. The Chapter plans to distribute copies of the U.S. Constitution and Declaration of Independence and hopes to include students from area schools at the event.

San Antonio Chapter

On Tuesday, April 24, 2018, the San Antonio Chapter is sponsoring a Woman's Mentoring Program for a local high school. This program is career focused but also has a civics component. The program was started by United States Magistrate Judge Pamela Mathy many years ago and is held every spring. The purpose of the program is to educate the young women about legal careers and the federal justice system. The Chapter solicits participation from attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants, probation officers, federal public defenders, prosecutors, federal judges, law enforcement officers, etc. They ask three women who experienced challenges in life on their career path to speak and then the other attendees speak one on one with the young women about their career field, sharing the "good, the

bad and the ugly”. This is a “women’s only” event, as the men of the SA FBA Chapter host their own luncheon for the young men enrolled in the Fox Tech Law Magnet Program.

South Florida Chapter

On December 1, 2017, the District Court along with the South Florida Chapter held Miami’s first Teen Discourse and Decisions event at the courthouse. Judge Bloom and Judge Rosenberg were instrumental in getting the program off the ground in there district. Students from Young Men’s Preparatory Academy and Law Enforcement Officers Memorial High School arrived early to the courthouse where they learned about how various members of the FBA became lawyers and why they did so. The program then transitioned to selecting students for their various roles for the upcoming event, and then to a discussion on civil discourse. Students were assigned roles as attorneys, jurors, a courtroom deputy, a courtroom security officer and two interpreters. The framework of the argument to be made was *Elonis v. United States*, 135 S.Ct. 2001 (2015), a First Amendment matter. Students were given a modified version of *Elonis* concerning a teenager’s Facebook postings, where the parties were tasked with arguing whether the First Amendment protected his postings.

The student attorneys for each side argued three sub-issues, fielded questions from Judge Bloom, and also gave a closing argument. A spirited jury deliberation ensued. After the conclusion of the jury deliberations, Judge Bloom reviewed a “reality checklist” where the students were presented with real-life situations that, if the wrong choice was made, could affect them for the remainder of their lives. Judge Bloom encouraged the students to make the right choice, and the students, interactive throughout, took the Judge’s words to heart.



On December 15, 2017, in conjunction with The National Education Project, Inc., a non-profit, non-partisan corporation led by Founder and Director Norman Manasa, the Chapter celebrated the 226th birthday of the Bill of Rights with fourth graders at North Beach Elementary School. Each student was given their own hard-stock copy of the Bill of Rights with a place for their picture and signature to signify it was theirs. The Miami-Beach Police Department was kind enough to assist in delivering the birthday cakes to 9 fourth grade classrooms along with the school’s Principal, Dr. Alice Quarles. Everyone enjoyed the celebration.



Vermont Chapter

On April 7, 2018, the brand-new Vermont Chapter assisted with a high school mock trial competition held at Vermont Law School. Five Vermont high schools, each fielding two teams, competed in the day-long event. Thanks to the FBA's grant money, the Chapter will be taking over the event and expanding the program next year.

Lafayette Chapter

In April, 2017, the Lafayette Chapter hosted a tour of the Federal Courthouse for the Lafayette High School freshman AP Government classes. There were about 70 students. There were speakers from the entire Federal Court family -- Judge, F.B.I., A.U.S.A., F.P.D.O., U.S. Marshals, and the Court Clerk. The students watched a video about jury service and also met with the Fifth Circuit librarian.

In September, 2017, the Chapter hosted, along with the local university and students, an outdoor program where a Magistrate Judge performed naturalization ceremony for several new citizens. The Chapter is planning another naturalization program this year.

Northern District of Ohio Chapter

On December 15, 2017, Northern District of Ohio Chapter members Sean Kelly, Marisa Darden, and Sarah Cleves celebrated the 226th birthday of the Bill of Rights with the fourth grade classes at Campus International School in Cleveland, Ohio. The students received a copy of the Bill of Rights and discussed what it protects. Sean and Marisa explained how the Bill of Rights applies to their work as a solo practitioner and an Assistant United States Attorney, respectively. We also had cake with the students. Both the students and the teachers were engaged and seemed to love the event! Special thanks to the National Education Project for sponsoring the event.



In November 2017, FBA Members of the NDOH Chapter also served as judges for the annual Case Classic Competition, which is a law-school mock trial competition hosted by Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

Eastern District of Michigan Chapter

The Eastern District of Michigan Chapter co-hosts a law day program at the courthouse every year. For the past few years, the Chapter has had over 100 area high school students visit the courthouse that day. The theme of the 2016 Law Day event was *Miranda: More than Words*. The Law Day celebration included courthouse tours and a panel discussion concerning the impact of *Miranda* on society. The theme of the 2017 Law Day celebration was *The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy*. The celebration also included a tour of the courthouse as well as a presentation from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. Chief Judge Denise Page Hood and Magistrate Judge David Grand participated in the event. The Chapter also sponsored a Diversity Day at the Courthouse last March, and is expecting 200 students to participate at its 2018 Law Day event.



Orlando Chapter

In April, the Orlando Chapter hosted 34 10th grade students from Boone High School Law Magnet program. In the morning, students were treated to a panel discussion given by several law clerks as well as a tour of the U.S. Marshals' space. Following the tour, students participated in a panel discussion about careers in law and then proceeded to Judge Dalton's courtroom to observe a supervised release revocation hearing. The students were able to discuss the hearing with Judge Dalton and also enjoyed a casual discussion with several judges and clerks while they ate lunch on the court patio. Before returning to their school, participants also meet with Judge Byron.





Palm Beach County Chapter

On October 12, 2017, over 40 students from Palm Beach Lakes High School traveled to the Paul G. Rogers U.S. Courthouse in West Palm Beach where they learned about the judge's courtroom and about how various members of the FBA became lawyers and why they did so. The program transitioned to selecting students for their various roles for the upcoming event, and then a discussion on civil discourse. Students were assigned roles as attorneys, jurors, a courtroom deputy, and a courtroom security officer. A similar program was sponsored by the Chapter in December for Palm Beach State College students.

This year, the Palm Beach Chapter participated in several additional TD Squared programs. On February 28, 2018, the Chapter hosted a program for an additional group of students from Palm Beach State College. Chapter members Panayotta Augustin-Birch, Garth Yearick, Derek Harris and Ashley Drumm participated at the event. Michael McAuliffe acted as the moderator. Then, on April 4, 2018, two local high schools in St. Lucie County - Treasure Coast High School and Centennial High School - participated in a program at the federal courthouse in Fort Pierce. Another TD Squared program was held on April 20, 2018, for Florida Atlantic University Honors Program at the federal courthouse in West Palm Beach.

Columbus Chapter

This year, the Southern District of Ohio, Columbus Chapter hosted courthouse tours for local high school, middle school, and elementary school children; Boy Scouts troops; Girl Scouts troops; Moritz College of Law students; and 95 Nationwide Insurance employees with their children.

On July 28, 2017, the Chapter hosted a Teachers Institute for high school teachers. Teachers were provided an overview of the federal court system and participated in a mock trial on a federal case. Approximately 50 people participated. On December 13, 2017, approximately 70 Bexley City School children observed a naturalization ceremony and were treated to a tour by Marshal's Services.

Tampa Chapter

On Thursday, April 19, 2018, the Tampa Bay Chapter hosted its third annual Morning at the Courthouse program at the Tampa federal courthouse under the auspices of the national Federal Bar Association's Civic Outreach Program. Thirty-five local high school students who are studying government and law observed the live sentencing of a 22-year-old defendant, and afterwards engaged in questions and answers with a panel comprising the sentencing judge, the prosecutor, and the defendant's counsel. The students also engaged in interactive presentations on civil and criminal topics with two United States magistrate judges. Each student was presented with a pocket Constitution as a memento of the experience.

Broward Chapter

On November 29, 2017, the Broward Chapter participated in a pilot program on Teen Discourse and Decisions, or TD Squared with 33 students from Ft. Lauderdale High School. The program brings high school students into federal courthouses for legal proceedings stemming from situations in which law-abiding teens can find themselves.

These simulated court hearings (not mock trials) are a hybrid of an appellate hearing and a jury trial. All students and learning styles participate in the activity and have the opportunity to practice civil discourse. The program was held at the Ft. Lauderdale Federal Courthouse with District Judge Beth Bloom presiding. Several of the students worked with volunteer attorney coaches and argued a case. The remaining students served as jurors and their deliberations were the center of the courtroom event. Students left the three-hour program with sharpened tools for civil discourse and decision making and a heightened awareness of situations they may not realize can end with an appearance in federal court. Students also experienced some of the differences between media portrayals of the courts and what happens in real life. Students filled out a survey at the end of the program and unanimously stated that they were positively impacted by the program and would recommend others participate.

The Chapter has another TD Squared program scheduled for May 18, 2018, where Magistrate Judge Alicia Valle will preside for students from Miramar High School. The program will also allow students to spend extra time at the courthouse to witness a naturalization ceremony.



Montana Chapter

This past year, the Montana Chapter organized for groups of high school students from Bigfork and Whitefish High Schools to attend a naturalization ceremony that was held in Glacier Park. A total of about 100 students from the two high schools attended the ceremony. Prior to the ceremony there were interactive group sessions organized by the teachers that involved students attempting to answer questions selected from the USCIS Naturalization Test as well as conversations regarding current events related to citizenship such as DACA and building a border wall. After the ceremony Judge Morris stayed and answered questions for about an hour. The Montana FBA paid for busses and lunches as well as organizing the schools/classes and working with teachers regarding the activities prior to the ceremony.

In addition, the Chapter had local area high schools attend federal sentencings. Prior to the sentencing myself, the Clerk of Court for the District of Montana (Tyler Gilman), and the head of the U.S. Probation office for Montana (Tom Holter) spoke with the classes over about a 3 hour period (multiple classes) to give them a rundown of the federal system. In addition, the FBA paid for the busses and lunch for the students. Following the sentencing the AUSA, the Federal Defender and Judge Christensen answered questions regarding the federal system and sentencing.

Finally, the Missoula Division of the U.S. District Court puts on a judicial institute every year for a number of teachers across the state. The judicial institute is approximately a two day conference that exposes teachers to all aspects of the civil and criminal system. The FBA provided some financial support for the dinner and presenters for the conference. Approximately 200 students were involved in their civics efforts over the past year.

South Carolina Chapter

On Thursday, April 19, 2018, the South Carolina Chapter hosted a Schoolhouse to Courthouse program in Charleston. 22 students from two local schools along with a faculty attended the event. The students had the opportunity to observe two detention/revocation hearings with the Magistrate Judge Mary Gordon Baker. Following lunch, during which members of the Chapter answered questions about the court, the students observed a session of BRIDGE court, with the Honorable Bruce Howe Hendricks presiding. Before each proceeding our clerk of court, Robbie Shumate, fielded questions from the students as well as their faculty advisors. Ms. Shumate did a wonderful job coordinating proceedings to be observed. Similar programs were held in Columbia, SC and Greenville SC.

Phoenix Chapter

Each year, the Phoenix Chapter hosts a civics program as part of the annual National Community Outreach Project. The Chapter invites high schoolers from around the area to the courthouse for a lunch program with a distinguished panel of speakers. The panel speaks on the topic tied to that year's Ninth Circuit Civics Essay/Video contests. Last year, the panel spoke about the legacy of the *Korematsu* decision, and this year, the topic was "What does the 14th Amendment Means to Students?" The speakers were Clint Bolick, Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court, and Paul Bender, Dean Emeritus at ASU Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. The Chapter usually has about 50 students participate.



New Orleans Chapter

The New Orleans Chapter is currently planning its first Summer Court Camp, which will be held June 19- 21 at the Eastern District of Louisiana courthouse. The Chapter anticipates that 30-35 local high school sophomores from various socio-economic backgrounds will attend. The camp program will include a courthouse historical tour, lectures, as well as breakout sessions run by FBI, U.S. Attorney, U.S. Marshall, Public Defender, District and Magistrate Judges and local practitioners. Topics include the 1st, 4th, 5th and 6th Amendments, criminal justice, and the anatomy of a federal court case from start to finish. In addition, the Chapter has planned a mock trial at the end of camp where the students will be the jury.

Other Civics Happenings

District of Guam

The District Court of Guam hosts many fun and exciting civics programs. On Sunday, September 17, 2017, the District hosted a Constitution Day and Citizenship Day program at Guam's new museum -- welcoming a record breaking 500+ visitors throughout the day to the Guam Museum, which was only open a few months earlier. The event was open to all ages, especially for children in elementary, middle school, high school, and college. The District provided exhibit banners about the constitution and citizenship process that were stationed throughout the museum while judges, and staff stood by throughout the day to speak to visitors about Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. In addition, Chief Judge Tydingco-Gatewood and Magistrate Judge Manibusan had two book readings scheduled for the public during the day and read the book "We the Kids" the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States. They also had fun and exciting contests: 10 Questions Quiz and Essay about the Constitution; a Coloring contest; and a call for the translation of the Preamble into Guam's native Chamorro language, which has never been done before. Students, teachers, parents/guardians, the general public gained a wealth of civics knowledge from the event. Finally, in celebration of Bill of Rights Day, the Court hosted an art contest while staff visited with school children to discuss some lessons about the Bill of Rights.

National Leadership

On January 11, 2018, FBA national president Kip Bollin, former President Judge Newman, Tipp City, Ohio high school social studies teacher Randy Sentman, and Judge Newman's law clerk, Mike Rhinehart, appeared on the public affairs show "Cincinnati Edition" on Cincinnati Public Radio 91.7 to talk about the FBA's national civics program and essay contest.



The National Education Project Bill of Rights Celebration

The National Education Project has offered to provide 50 grants of \$300.00 each (one for each state) to chapters of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) willing to participate in the "Bill of Rights Day 2018 - Birthday Cake Celebration" under the terms of the grant, the celebration must take place on Friday, December 14, 2018. FBA Chapters may select elementary schools in their own communities and provide a birthday cake to the classes in these schools that are studying the Bill of Rights (i.e., depending on the state, these may be 4th, 5th, or 6th grade classes). In addition, Chapters will be provided with a downloadable copy of the Bill of Rights to be distributed in classrooms. In 2017, elementary school children, their teachers, and local police officers (serving as cake delivery people) participated in Cleveland, Miami Beach, Oklahoma City, and Washington, D.C.



The Federal Judicial Center's National Seminar for United States Magistrate Judges

The FBA's national civics initiative was highlighted at this year's Federal Judicial Center's national seminar for United States Magistrate Judges in New Orleans. Judge Michael Newman; Rebecca Fanning, the Civics Outreach Manager for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; Judge Shaniek Maynard from the Southern District of Florida; and Judge Kristen Mix from the District of Colorado participated on the panel,

