

2011 Annual Meeting and Convention Honorary Host Committee Chair

Hon. James F. Holderman

Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

Chief Judge James F. Holderman has been a U.S. district judge in Chicago since 1985, having been nominated by President Ronald Reagan, and the chief judge of the Northern District of Illinois since July 1, 2006. Over the course of his distinguished career, which includes more than 25 years on the bench, Chief Judge Holderman has presided over numerous cases in all areas of federal jurisdiction. During his tenure as a U.S. district judge, he also served by designation on judicial panels of the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and for the Federal Circuit.

Before his appointment to the U.S. district court, Chief Judge Holderman was a partner in the law firm of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal (now SNR Denton), where he specialized in federal court litigation across the United States. He was an assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago before entering private practice.

Chief Judge Holderman is a member of the American Bar Association's Commission on the American Jury and served as co-chair of the Seventh Circuit Bar Association's American Jury Project Commission, which conducted a three-year study of jury trials throughout the Seventh Circuit on procedures to improve the jury system. He also served as the judicial coordinator of the conversion to electronic filing by the Northern District of Illinois.

In addition, Chief Judge Holderman is responsible for launching the Seventh Circuit Electronic Discovery Pilot Program—an ongoing effort to improve the electronic discovery process for lawyers. The Seventh Circuit Electronic Discovery Pilot Program Committee was formed in May 2009 to develop and improve fair pretrial litigation procedures that would also take into account the costs involved with electronic discovery consistent with Rule 1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The committee—which is made up of government lawyers, plaintiff's lawyers, defense lawyers, and in-house lawyers from companies with large information systems, along with experts in pertinent fields of technology—created "Principles Relating to the Discovery of Electronically Stored Information" and a proposed standing order that allows judges to implement the principles in the program's test cases.

From October 2009 through March 2010, 13 judges in the Northern District of Illinois implemented the first phase of the principles in nearly 93 civil cases. The report after the first phase of the program was positive. The judges participating in the test cases felt that the principles were having a positive effect on counsel's



cooperation with opposing counsel and on counsel's knowledge of the procedures to follow when addressing issues involving electronic discovery. Even though the lawyers who participated in the program reported little impact on their cases, the participating judges felt that the overall effect was that the discovery process was more efficient and more cost effective. Importantly, the participating lawyers reported that the application of the principles to their cases promoted fairness and more amicable resolution of disputes.

The pilot program is currently in its second phase, which will end in May 2012 before moving on to the third phase. Since the start of the pilot program, the committee has grown to more than 80 members, including experts from across the country and members from all seven federal districts in the Seventh Circuit and around the nation. The pilot program has also expanded to include more than three dozen participating judges and hundreds of cases. The Seventh Circuit Electronic Discovery Pilot Program is in the process of increasing and improving its nationwide outreach. More information is available at the program's new website (www.discoverypilot.com).

Recently, Chief Judge Holderman was appointed to serve a four-year term on the board of the Federal Judicial Center by John G. Roberts Jr., chief justice of the

United States and chairman of the Federal Judicial Center's board. The Federal Judicial Center is an entity created by Congress in 1967 for the purpose of exploring ways to improve the administration of justice in courts of the United States. Some of the Federal Judicial Center's statutory duties include conducting continuing education and training for federal judges and court employees; developing recommendations about the operation and the study of the federal courts; and conducting and promoting research on federal judicial procedures, court operations, and history.

In addition to his duties as chief judge, Chief Judge

the aftermath of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination and the trial of the individuals who conspired to kill him. Seven men and one woman were arrested and charged with conspiring to kill President Lincoln, Vice President Andrew Jackson, and Secretary of State William Seward. The movie tells the heart-wrenching tale of the sole female defendant, Mary Surratt, who went to great lengths to protect her son, and it describes her lawyer's battle to defend her before a military tribunal. The movie was shot on location in Savannah, Ga., in fall 2009.

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Holderman has also been a long-standing faculty member for trial advocacy programs sponsored by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy. In 2004, the Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago honored him with the Distinguished Judicial Service Award for exemplary service in continuing legal education. He was honored in 2008 by the Women's Bar Association of Illinois for his support of women in the legal profession.

Chief Judge Holderman has authored several articles on various legal topics that have appeared in *Law Reviews* and other legal publications. While he was in private practice, he represented members of the American Bar Association at congressional hearings, at which he testified about ways to improve the rules and procedures applied by U.S. courts. He received both his undergraduate degree and his law degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he served as the managing editor of the *Law Review* while he was in law school.

Chief Judge Holderman has been a speaker at numerous judicial and bar association seminars held nationally and internationally. In addition, Chief Judge Holderman has taught various courses at several law schools, including the University of Chicago, the John Marshall Law School, and the University of Illinois College of Law, where he currently teaches an intensive course entitled "Intellectual Property Trial Advocacy" with his wife, Adjunct Professor Paula Hudson Holderman. His wife is the chief development officer at Winston & Strawn LLP, and she is slated to be installed as the president of the Illinois State Bar Association in June 2013.

Chief Judge Holderman's son, Bill Holderman, works for Robert Redford, the actor, film producer, and director, and was one of the producers of "The Conspirator," which was released in April 2011 and which led to the Chicago Chapter's inaugural FBA Movie Night event. "The Conspirator" is a historically accurate movie about

man describe him as "exceptionally intelligent," "fair," and "just." The attorneys who practice in the Northern District of Illinois also credit Chief Judge Holderman for the court's enviable efficiency. Judge Holderman is looking forward to participating as honorary chair of the FBA's Annual Meeting and National Convention in Chicago, which, in his opinion, "is shaping up to be an outstanding event." He is also looking forward to "ushering in our hometown favorite, Fern Bomchill, as the new president of FBA National." Chief Judge Holderman sincerely appreciates "the FBA's support of the Northern District of Illinois' Pro Bono and Public Interest Service Awards Program, which, without the support of both the local chapter and FBA National, would not be what it is today." He also "appreciated that FBA national president, Ashley Belleau, came to this year's Pro Bono and Public Interest Service Awards Program" and also recognized "the past FBA national presidents for providing their support and speaking at this program." According to Chief Judge Holderman, "[t]he judges of our court are looking forward to continuing that excellent relationship."

Fern Bomchill, the FBA's national president-elect, has made the following statement:

The Chicago Chapter has had the benefit of an active involvement of the federal judiciary on its board and in its programs. The FBA thanks each of them for years of service and commitment to the FBA. The Chicago Chapter would not have been able to schedule the excellent programming and activities for the upcoming National Convention in September without the assistance of our colleagues on the bench. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Chief Judge Holderman who is serving as honorary Chairman of the convention, for his leadership, dedication, and continual support of the FBA. **TFL**