

MEET YOUR BOARD

Christian K. Adams • National President



Christian K. Adams is the founder and managing partner at Adams Krek LLP, headquartered in Honolulu, where he concentrates his

practice on complex civil and appellate litigation. He received his B.A. from Clark University in Worcester, Mass., and his J.D. from the University of Hawai'i Richardson School of Law in Honolulu, where he was editor-in-chief of the *University of Hawai'i Law Review* and where he subsequently served as an adjunct professor and lecturer in law on legal practice and appellate advocacy. Prior to entering private practice, Adams served as a judicial law clerk to Hon. David A. Ezra, then chief judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawai'i.

Adams has served in numerous leadership positions at both the chapter and national level since joining the Federal Bar Association (FBA) in 2006. He has served on the national board of directors since 2011 and is a life fellow of the Foundation of the FBA. His past chapter activities within the Hawai'i Chapter include serving as Younger Lawyers Division (YLD) chair, national delegate, member of the Annual Hawai'i Conference Committee, and chapter president from 2010 to 2011. Adams has also served in leadership on the national YLD board, including chair from 2014 to 2015. Prior to his election as a national officer, he served as chair of the Sections and Divisions Council from 2015 to 2017.

In addition to his leadership within the FBA, Adams serves on several boards in Hawai'i, including the Arthritis Foundation, the GIFT Foundation, and the Heart Start Hawai'i Foundation. ☉

W. West Allen • President-Elect



W. West Allen is an intellectual property litigator and counselor in Las Vegas who represents a wide variety of interna-

tional clients in federal courts. Allen served as chair of the FBA's Government Relations Committee for seven years. He has served as a member of the FBA's board of directors for much of the past decade, serving two terms from 2011 to 2015 and from 2015 to 2018. In 2016, Allen received the FBA's President's Award for long-standing service to the FBA and as chair of its Government Relations Committee.

Allen served as an FBA circuit vice president (CVP) for the Ninth Circuit, where he assisted in the development of 16 FBA chapters from 2007 to 2013. During this time, Allen was twice elected to serve as the CVP chair. In 2013, while serving as Government Relations Committee chair, Allen testified before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee regarding the effect of sequestration on the federal courts. He helped institute the FBA's annual "Capitol Hill Day" and taught at the FBA's annual leadership training. Prior to serving as an FBA national officer, Allen was the Nevada Chapter president from 2000 to 2001 and co-chair of the 2006 FBA National Convention held in Las Vegas. Allen has been a life fellow with the FBA Foundation since 2009.

Over the years, Allen has worked with many FBA leaders and committees. He was appointed to serve on the FBA's National Council from 2001 to 2007. He has served as a member of the Government Relations Committee; the FBA 100th Anniversary Planning Committee; the Nomination and Elections Committee; the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules & Resolutions Committee (to update the FBA's governance structure); the Chapter Activity Award and Fund Committees; and various national audit, finance, and special task force groups while serving on the board of directors.

Allen is a partner with the national law firm of Howard & Howard PLLC. Previously, he was a partner for over a decade with Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP, where he served on the firm's governing executive committee. In Nevada, Allen founded the Nevada State Bar's Intellectual Property Section and served as that section's first chair in 2004. Beginning in 2005, Allen was appointed by the chief judge of the U.S. District Court District of Nevada to serve on the Civil Rules Standing Committee on the Local Rules. He was reappointed to this committee by the chief judge in 2009 and in 2011, at which time he drafted the local patent rules for the District of Nevada. Between 2010 and 2019, Allen was appointed by Nevada's Federal Court to serve on five merit selection, appointment and reappointment panels for U.S. magistrate judges, often serving as the committee chair.

Within the Las Vegas community, Allen has served since 2008 on the board of directors for Opportunity Village, Nevada's premier charity assisting those with intellectual disabilities. He is a volunteer Child Advocate Program attorney with the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. He has chaired the Clark County Bar Association's annual Liberty Bell Award Committee and served for many years on the Advisory Board for Humanitarian Experience for Youth (HEFY), an international youth service project organization. ☉

Anh Le Kremer • Treasurer



Anh Le Kremer has been an active member of the FBA since the start of her legal career in 2001. Her involvement with the FBA

began with the Minnesota Chapter, where she was a member of the executive committee and served in a number of leadership roles before serving as the circuit vice president for the Eighth Circuit.

Le Kremer served as the Eighth Circuit CVP for two terms and received the Outstanding Service Award in 2011 for her work.

She served on the FBA Board of Directors from 2013 to 2016 and was appointed by then-President Judge Michael J. Newman in January 2017 to fill a vacancy on the board from January through September 2017. Le Kremer served on the Sections and Divisions Council. She is also a past chair of the Professional Ethics Committee, where she assisted with the development of a Standards of Professional Ethics and Conduct Policy, which was adopted by the board and sets the standards of conduct expected of our leadership. Le Kremer is a past chair of the Audit Committee (2015), past chair of the Shaw Younger Lawyers Public Service Award and Grant Committee (2017), and past chair of the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Resolutions Committee (2018). She also has served on other FBA committees, including the Nominations and Elections Committee, the Sarah T. Hughes Awards Committee, the Women and the Law Conference Planning Committee, and the Rising Professionals Symposium Planning Committee. Le Kremer served as the general counsel for the FBA for FY2019.

In addition to her work with the FBA, Le Kremer is also an active member of the Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association and is a frequent speaker at the association's sponsored events, including the Third Annual Women of Color in the Law Forum (2018) and the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) Women In the House: Bringing the Strength & Power of Women to the Workplace. ☺

Hon. Alison S. Bachus



Hon. Alison S. Bachus is entering her third year as a board member for the FBA. Last year, she served on the Budget and Finance

Committee, the Community Service and Outreach Committee, and the Special Committee on Women in the Law. In her first year of board service, she chaired the Nominations and Elections Task Force, which examined the association's elections procedures. From 2012 to 2017, she served as vice president for the Ninth Circuit. Bachus was chair of the CVPs for FY2017. Prior to her election as a CVP, she served as president of the Phoenix Chapter, where she has been a member of the board since 2007.

She is also proud to be a Fellow of the FBA Foundation.

From 2011 to 2016, she presented at every FBA national leadership training program and co-chaired the program in 2016. Bachus has served on many national committees, including government relations, membership, nominations and elections, and chapter activity awards, as well as various task forces. Bachus drafted the national sample membership plan, which is used as a model for chapters across the country for membership best practices. At the section level, she has been a member of the Federal Litigation Section and has served on its board. She was a speaker at the FBA's national Women in the Law Conference in Washington, D.C., in 2015.

Prior to her appointment to the Arizona state bench in late 2015, Bachus served as an assistant U.S. attorney for many years and as in-house counsel for the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Arizona. She received various awards during her career as a federal litigator, including Cooperative Law Enforcement and Victims' Rights awards. Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office, she served as a law clerk for then-Chief U.S. District Judge Stephen M. McNamee.

Judge Bachus currently serves on the boards for an Arizona organization serving children in foster care and the Law College Association of the University of Arizona's Rogers College of Law. She is a faculty member of Arizona's Bar Leadership Institute, working on bench/bar relations between the federal and state bars, and she is a member of the National Association of Women Judges and Arizona Women Lawyers Association. Prior to joining the bench, she served as a lawyer-representative for the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference and on the Arizona State Bar's Committee on Minorities and Women in the Law. Outside of legal organizations, Bachus volunteers with the Girl Scouts in Arizona. ☺

Jeanette M. Bazis



Jeanette M. Bazis is a partner at Greene Espel PLLP in Minneapolis. She is a highly regarded litigator whose practice focuses

largely on complex business, intellectual property, and employment litigation. Bazis'

litigation matters often arise at the intersection of intellectual property and employment law in trade secret litigation and cases involving the enforcement of noncompete and nonsolicitation agreements. Bazis has been consistently recognized by her peers as a Minnesota Super Lawyer since 2008—including as among the Top 50 Women Super Lawyers since 2013 and as a Business Litigation Super Lawyer. She has been named a "Best Lawyer" by *U.S. News—Best Law Firms* since in 2014 and has also earned repeated national recognition from *Chambers USA*.

Bazis has been an active and dedicated member of the FBA for nearly two decades. She served on the Foundation of the FBA board for 12 years, including as president in 2017-2018. Her foray into the national FBA came when she was elected as Eighth Circuit vice president in 2006. She served on the Minnesota Chapter's Board of Directors and Executive Committee from 2004 to 2016 and chaired a number of the chapter's committees, including its Diversity Committee.

In addition to FBA leadership, she served on the Federal Practice Committee for the U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota, and was appointed by its chief judge to chair the U.S. Magistrate Selection Committee.

The promotion and mentoring of women in the legal profession also has been a major focus of her career. Bazis served as president of the Infinity Project, whose mission is to increase the gender diversity of the state and federal bench in the Eighth Circuit and has been on its board since its 2009 inception. Her work with the Infinity Project earned her Attorney of the Year recognition in 2013.

Bazis received her law degree, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Minnesota Law School and her B.B.A. in economics, *summa cum laude*, from Temple University. Bazis serves on the University of Minnesota Law School Board of Advisers and currently chairs its Development Committee. ☺

John Bowers



John "Joey" Bowers, who serves the FBA in his personal capacity, is counsel for the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in Washington,

D.C. He joined the DOJ through the Attorney General's Honors Program, and prior to

serving in his current position, he was a trial attorney for the Civil Division of the DOJ. Before joining the DOJ, Bowers had the honor to serve as a law clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Patrick Michael Duffy and U.S. District Court Judge Joseph F. Anderson Jr., both in the District of South Carolina. He is the recipient of the DOJ Civil Division's John W. Douglas Award for Pro Bono Service and the Washington Council of Lawyers Government Pro Bono Award. He is a member of the Capitol Hill Chapter and is a former chair of the FBA's YLD Board of Directors. ☉

Andrew K. Clark



Andrew K. Clark has been an active member of the FBA since 2001. A partner in the Richmond, Va., office of Hirschler, his practice focuses on high-stakes business litigation involving commercial and contract disputes, construction and mechanic's lien disputes, personal injury and wrongful death prosecution and defense, estate and trust disputes, and other general civil matters. Clark also maintains a focus on the financial services industry, representing businesses and individuals in professional liability matters and FINRA arbitration proceedings. He regularly appears in state and federal appellate courts and has served as lead counsel in several appeals to the Supreme Court of Virginia. Clark's service to the FBA has been extensive and includes the following: National Board of Directors, 2017-present; Centennial Committee, 2019-present; Richmond Chapter Board of Directors, 2009-2018; circuit vice president for the Fourth Circuit, 2011-2017; Community Outreach Committee; Nominations and Elections Committee, 2016; Federal Litigation Section Board of Directors, 2007-2013; Chapter Activity Awards Committee, 2012-2013; chair of the Chapter Activity Fund Committee, 2014; moderator, 2012 Chapter Leadership Training Program; participant, Chapter Leadership Training Program and the Supreme Court Admissions Ceremony hosted by the FBA YLD; Richmond Chapter president 2004-2005 and 2010-2011. In 2009, Clark helped re-establish the Richmond Chapter by instituting a new leadership structure. Clark's service to the federal bar also includes his serving on the U.S. Magistrate Judge Merit Selection

Panel for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and his serving on the panel of judges for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit's 2019 High School Civics Essay Contest.

Clark is actively involved in many civic and bar organizations within the Richmond community. He serves on the board of directors for the Historical Society of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, the board of trustees for Historic Richmond, the board of directors of the American Documentary Film Fund, and as legal counsel to the Richmond Sports Backers. ☉

Joseph S. Leventhal



Joseph S. Leventhal's experience and involvement with the FBA is significant, broad, and unique. Leventhal served as president of the San Diego Chapter in 2015. Under his leadership, the chapter achieved the following: increased membership by 29 percent, fundraising by 1,429 percent, and social media engagement by over 134 percent; launched a new email marketing platform and two first-ever community service events; held a record-breaking 22 CLE events, including the chapter's first-ever Women in the Law Conference (approximately 150 attendees); held the first annual all-day CLE session on competence, ethics, and elimination of bias; held the first-ever law student moot court competition; created a government relations liaison; and held a first-ever government relations event with Judiciary Committee member Rep. Darrell Issa. The chapter ended the year with a record-high bank account balance, enabling it to continue to innovate and increase its relevancy to members.

At the national level of the FBA, he served on the Community Service Committee, the Government Relations Committee, and the SOLACE Committee; was a member of the Nominations and Elections Committee; was on the board of the YLD; and previously served as the chair of the Chapter Activity Fund Committee. Leventhal previously served as chair of the National Convention Planning Committee for the FBA's 2012 Convention in San Diego. He also served as a San Diego Chapter Delegate to the Annual Meeting and Midyear Meeting of

the Association numerous times. Leventhal previously served on the FBA's Sarah T. Hughes Civil Rights Award Committee for two years, including serving as chair of the committee. He is a life fellow of the Foundation of the FBA and a sustaining member of the association.

At the request of Chief Judge Barry Moskowitz, Leventhal chaired the Southern District of California's 50th Anniversary Committee, which included several events throughout 2016. He previously co-chaired the Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives for the Southern District of California and chaired the Southern District of California's Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel five times. Outside of his volunteer work in the legal community, he served as a member of the board of directors of Kids Included Together, an organization focused on training childcare providers how to include children with disabilities instead of simply accommodating such children. ☉

Kevin A. Maxim



Kevin A. Maxim is the principal of The Maxim Law Firm P.C. in Atlanta. He litigated in national law firms for 14 years before forming The Maxim Law Firm more than 10 years ago. The firm's litigation practice focuses on issues arising from contracts, real estate, the internet, fraud, insurance, and a gamut of business disputes, including those arising from restrictive covenants and trade secrets. Maxim has been a member of the FBA since June 2005. He served on the FBA Board of Directors between 2013 to 2016 and as general counsel during 2017-2018. He has chaired the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Resolutions and the Hon. Sarah T. Hughes Award Committees and has served on the FBA Task Force on Nominations and Elections, on the National Convention Committee, as an Audit Committee member, and on the Budget & Finance Committee. He assisted in forming the FBA's Southern District of Georgia Chapter, and is a life fellow of the FBA Foundation.

Maxim is proud of his Atlanta Chapter roots. The chapter hosted the FBA's Annual Meeting & Convention in 2007 and 2017, and he was honored to chair the 2017 Atlanta Convention Planning Committee and to

serve alongside so many dedicated and resourceful Atlanta FBA leaders. Maxim served as the Atlanta Chapter president in 2009-2010 and has continued to participate as a member of the chapter's advisory committee ever since.

Maxim served on the Board of Trustees of Atlanta's Fernbank Museum of Natural History from 2008 to 2016 and continues as an honorary trustee there. Maxim has served on the Atlanta Bar Association's Judicial Selection & Tenure Committee since 2016, and since 2012 as a volunteer practitioner participant in the semiannual Orientation to Professionalism Programs at the Emory University's School of Law. Since 2009, he has also served on the University of Cincinnati College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council. In 2017, he began representing military veterans through the Georgia State Bar's Military and Veterans Legal Assistance Program.

Maxim graduated with a degree in chemical engineering, *summa cum laude*, from the University of Cincinnati in 1991 and from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1994. He has been honored to be designated a Georgia Super Lawyer since 2010 and as one of the Top 100 Georgia Super Lawyers since 2012. ☉

Hon. Karoline Mehalchick



Hon. Karoline Mehalchick is a U.S. magistrate judge in Scranton, Pa., where she was appointed to the bench of the U.S. District Court for the

Middle District of Pennsylvania on July 15, 2013. Prior to joining the court, she was a partner with a small law firm in Clarks Summit, Pa., where she represented a broad range of clients in both state and federal trial and appellate courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. She is a graduate of Schreyer Honors College of Pennsylvania State University (1998, B.S., geosciences) and Tulane University School of Law (2001, J.D.). After graduating from law school, she served as a law clerk to Hon. Trish Corbett, Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County. Mehalchick was an adjunct professor at Marywood University from 2003 until 2012, where she taught legal and clinical aspects of health care to graduate students studying nursing and health administration.

Mehalchick has been active in the FBA for over 10 years. She is a past president of the Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter, previously serving as its secretary, vice president, and president-elect. She currently serves as the chapter's ECF coordinator and civics liaison and works closely with the chapter's community outreach chair to implement programs with local schools and the court. Judge Mehalchick served as an FBA Third Circuit vice president for five years. She is a judicial profiles editor for *The Federal Lawyer*, chairs the Bench Bar Committee, is a member of the Judiciary Division and the Community Outreach Committee, and has previously served on the Professional Ethics Committee.

Within her court, Judge Mehalchick serves as a co-chair of the Middle District of Pennsylvania's Prisoner Litigation Settlement Program, sits on the Criminal Law Committee, and recently served as a co-chair of the court's employee conference. She also serves in the Administrative Office of the U.S. Court's Magistrate Judges Advisory Group. Judge Mehalchick actively participates in the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Commission on Women in the Profession and is a member of the Executive Council of the Commission. She is also a past president of the YLD of the Lackawanna Bar Association.

Beyond her work in the legal community, Mehalchick sits on the comprehensive planning committee of the Howard Gardner Multiple Intelligence Charter School in Scranton, is vice president of production for the Ballet Theatre of Scranton and is president of the board of directors for the Abington Gators Swim Team. ☉

Kelly Titus Scalise



Kelly Titus Scalise has been a member of the FBA for over 18 years and has served in a leadership role for all of those years. After joining the FBA in November 2001, Scalise became a board member of the YLD of the New Orleans Chapter. She entered the leadership ladder and became chair of the YLD in 2005, overseeing the re-establishment of the YLD following Hurricane Katrina. While serving on the YLD board, she organized a CLE that brought in over 150 new members; participated in an event for high school students

during which they visited oral arguments at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana; organized a program for law school students at the Eastern District, which also increased membership by over 100 members; and participated in public service projects, including a refurbishment of a police station after Hurricane Katrina.

In 2006, Scalise became a board member of the New Orleans Chapter. As a board member, she served on multiple committees, including CLE committees, policy committees, and planning committees. She served as the national liaison for the New Orleans Chapter from 2009 to 2011. In 2011, she was selected to serve as membership chair, thus entering the leadership ladder. While president-elect in 2015-2016, the New Orleans Chapter was awarded Chapter of the Year. As chapter president, she established eight practice area committees, which provide substance and opportunities for engaging its members, conducted a gift card drive for the legal community affected by devastating floods in Louisiana, welcomed nearly 100 new lawyers as members, coordinated with national sections on CLE programming, and oversaw at least one CLE or special event per month.

In 2007, Scalise also became a member of the YLD National Board, joining the Thurgood Marshall Memorial Moot Court Competition Committee and advancing to co-director. She chaired a CLE committee that presented the first YLD CLE program at the Annual Convention in San Diego. From 2012 to 2013, she served as chair of the YLD, co-chairing the largest moot court completion. She received the 2013 Division Chair Award.

In 2013, Scalise co-founded the Admiralty Law Section with Howard McPherson and is served as its chair for a two-year term. As chair, she established a quarterly newsletter, organized three seminars, and steadily recruited members. She was a member of *The Federal Lawyer* editorial board, past co-chair of the Law Student Division Task Force, and past member of the Sections and Division Council. Scalise is a fellow of the FBA Foundation.

Scalise is a shareholder at Liskow & Lewis, practicing in maritime, oilfield, and indemnity issues as well as environmental and tort litigation. She has represented clients both as plaintiffs and defendants and tried cases in federal and state court. She serves on her firm's Diversity Committee.

She is a frequent presenter on admiralty and insurance issues. She was nominated to “Top Lawyers” by *New Orleans Magazine*, *Louisiana Super Lawyers*, and *Best Lawyers in America*. She also received the 2015 FBA President’s Award.

Scalise is a member of the New Orleans Bar Association, having chaired several committees; Judge John C. Boutall American Inn of Court; Women’s Energy Network; Women’s International Shipping & Trading Association; and a fellow of the Louisiana Law Foundation and the American Bar Foundation. She is a member of the ABA Admiralty and Maritime Law Committee. She also volunteers at her children’s school, St. Catherine of Siena. ☉

John R. Thomas



John R. Thomas has significant experience representing individuals and businesses in a variety of civil and criminal litigation, as well as providing

strategic advice in science policy and research administration matters. Thomas is a partner with Healy Hafemann Magee in Roanoke, Va.

Thomas is a national leader in False Claims Act litigation, where whistleblowers uncover and report fraud against the government. He litigates cases throughout the country involving procurement fraud, health care fraud, medical device fraud, and grant fraud. Thomas is the founder and past chair of the FBA Qui Tam Section and a frequent writer and speaker on the False Claims Act.

Thomas is also an experienced litigator in the criminal arena. He has served as both a prosecutor and defense counsel in a variety of federal and state actions, including contested trials involving financial crimes, government fraud, attempted murder, war crimes, complex classified litigation matters, crimes against children, drug offenses, firearms offenses, and theft of government property.

Thomas also has a special interest in science policy and research administration issues and represents clients in a variety of research and science policy matters and other issues involving academic institutions. He is a contributor to the Retraction Watch blog and has published in *The Scientist* and other science media.

In addition to serving on the FBA Board of Directors, Thomas remains involved in the FBA Qui Tam Section and the Roanoke Chapter. He is also the chair of the Public Service Task Force for 2018-2020.

Thomas is a major in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and serves as a law of war instructor/adviser. In his previous billets, Thomas prosecuted and defended Marines in courts-martial, served as a deputy staff judge advocate, and deployed to Afghanistan as a battalion judge advocate, where he advised the battalion commander on the law of war and other operational law matters. ☉

Jessica R. Toplin



Jessica R. Toplin is a trial attorney in the Commercial Litigation Branch of the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Toplin joined

the DOJ in 2008 through the attorney general’s honors program. She specializes in government contracts and federal employment litigation and represents various federal agencies before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. Prior to joining the DOJ, Toplin served as a judicial law clerk in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Toplin received a B.B.A. from George Washington University and J.D. from George Washington University Law School.

Toplin has been active in the YLD and D.C. Chapter of the FBA since 2011. She has been a member of the national YLD board since 2011 and served as chair of the YLD from 2017 to 2018. Toplin served on the D.C. Chapter board from 2011 to 2015 and founded its Younger Lawyers Section. Toplin planned and attended several national and local FBA events. She also spoke on panels at the national FBA conventions in San Diego and Atlanta.

Toplin serves on the FBA Board of Directors in her personal capacity. Any views she expresses are her own and not those of the DOJ. ☉

Hon. Mimi E. Tsankov



Hon. Mimi E. Tsankov has served as an immigration judge with the U.S.

Department of Justice, Executive Office for Immigration Review,

since 2006, where she has presided over detained and nondetained dockets at the Los Angeles Immigration Court, the Denver Immigration Court, and the New York Immigration Court. She has served as Pro Bono Liaison Judge at the Denver and Los Angeles Immigration Courts and has been a contributing editor of the U.S. Department of Justice Immigration Judge Bench Book. A frequent panelist at regional, national, and international law conferences, Tsankov has presented on a wide variety of immigration law topics, ranging from mental competency and juvenile docket hearings, to ethics, professional responsibility, and “cimmigration” matters. She has published articles in the U.S. Department of Justice *Immigration Law Advisor*, *The Federal Lawyer*, and various academic law journals on topics ranging from 287(g) law enforcement to immigration benefits for victims of domestic violence in the United States and the European Union. Tsankov established and chaired the Colorado Federal Attorney Pro Bono Program and served on the Colorado Chief Justice’s Commission on the Legal Profession.

In her personal capacity, she has served as an officer with the FBA Colorado Chapter, the FBA Immigration Law Section, and the FBA International Law Section, having been recognized nationally in this regard. She is a member of the National Association of Women Judges, Human Rights Subcommittee, and the American Bar Association, National Conference of the Administrative Law Judiciary. She has taught immigration law as an adjunct professor at the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, and the University of Colorado, School of Law. She holds a J.D.-M.A. in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia. ☉

Christie Companion Varnado



Christie Companion Varnado is a partner at The Seibels Law Firm P.A., a boutique litigation and captive insurance firm in Charleston, S.C. Over

the past 25 years, her civil litigation practice in federal and state courts has involved a wide variety of matters and is currently focused on construction defect claims, product liability, personal injury, employment discrimination and compensation, and election challenges. She also provides counsel to private employers, local governmental entities, and individuals with employment or contractual concerns. She is admitted to practice as a member of the South Carolina bar as well as in the District Court of South Carolina, the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Varnado served as law clerk to Hon. Wallace W. Dixon, U.S. magistrate judge,

and as deputy county attorney for Charleston County. She has been awarded an AV Preeminent rating by Martin-Hubbell, is a lead counsel rated attorney in civil litigation and consumer protection and has been listed in *South Carolina Super Lawyers* in the field of construction litigation. Varnado received a B.A. in English from the South Carolina Honors College at the University of South Carolina, where she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She received a J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law, where she was a member of the Order of the Wig & Robe and the editorial staff of the *South Carolina Law Review*.

Varnado's active involvement with the FBA both on the national and at the chapter level has spanned the two decades since the South Carolina Chapter was reinstated in 2001. This is her second term on the national board of directors. Prior to that, she served several terms as a Fourth Circuit vice president, culminating as chair of the CVPs in 2014-2015. She has been inducted as a life

fellow of the Foundation of the FBA. Varnado was president of the South Carolina Chapter and a member of its board of directors from 2003 to 2010. She is currently chairing the South Carolina Chapter's planning committee preparing for the FBA's national annual meeting to be held in Charleston in September 2020.

Varnado has also served on several committees for the South Carolina Bar and as a YLD delegate to the annual meeting of the American Bar Association. She has been appointed by South Carolina's governor to serve on the Charleston County Board of Elections and Voter Registration since 2003 and is currently serving in her second term as chair. Varnado has presented several lectures on various topics, including legal ethics, elections, local government, federal civil procedure, employment law, and the Freedom of Information Act, and her writing has been featured in *South Carolina Lawyer* magazine. ☺

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