



THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION ATLANTA CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2007



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS NOVEMBER 6, 2007

[By Kevin P. Weimer, incoming president]

Each year, the installation of officers and executive committee members proves to be a grand event that is not to be missed. This year should be no different, particularly since **U. S. District Judge Richard Story** has agreed to perform the installation ceremony. The Chapter also will be recognizing its new members and voting on two proposed changes to the by-laws (see separate article). The event will be held on **November 6, 2007** from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the **State Bar of Georgia Headquarters** in the gallery area on the third floor. It is free and open to members and their significant others and to colleagues of members who are considering membership. Please invite non-members who you think would be interested in membership. **RSVP by Friday, November 2, 2007, to Alcia Charles at Fellows LaBriola LLP: acharles@fellab.com or 404-586-2026.**

ATLANTA CHAPTER HOSTED THE “BEST CONVENTION EVER”

[By Linda Amidon, convention committee co-chair]

The 2007 FBA National Convention was held here in Atlanta September 6-8, and by all accounts, it was the Best Convention Ever! Special thanks is owed to Convention

Co-Chairs **Joyce Kitchens** and **Linda Amidon**, honorary committee co-chairs **Chief Judge Jack T. Camp** and **Judge William C. O’Kelley**, as well the sponsors, the committee members, and the subcommittee chairs: **David Bain, Kerri Gildow, Chris Parker, Robin Sangston, Phil Savrin, Eric Schroeder, and Amy Weil**. Keynote speakers included **Larry D. Thompson** from PepsiCo and **Frances Fragos Townsend**, the White House Homeland Security Advisor. The CLE courses were stimulating and well attended and included topics ranging from Civil Rights in the South to e-discovery to civility in the profession. The social events at the Margaret Mitchell house and the High Museum were just plain fun. The Atlanta Chapter was honored at the convention with two awards: the **Chapter Activity Award** and the **Newsletter Award!**

Thanks again to everyone who planned, participated, and supported the 2007 National Convention!



Amy Weil, Atlanta Chapter President, presents Chapter Award to Foundation Luncheon Speaker Larry Thompson



*Jeff Berhold, Kevin Weimer & Amy Weil
accepting Chapter Activity Award
from FBA President **Bill LaForge***



*Honorary Co-Chair **Judge O'Kelley**, Co-
Chairs **Joyce Kitchen & Linda Amidon**,
and Honorary Co-Chair **Chief Judge
Camp**, accepting their "Peaches"*



*Henry Quillian & Linda Amidon
accepting Newsletter Award
from FBA President **Bill LaForge***



Fran Fragos Townsend with YLD Honorees
**Blane Workie, Lt. Tiffany Hansen & David
Young**, and FBA President **Bill LaForge**



ABC Legal Correspondent & Author
Jan Crawford Greenburg with
Judge Stanley Birch & Eugenia Gates



Civil Rights Panel: **Judge Horace Ward**,
**Judge Louis Sands, Rev. Joseph Lowery &
Judge John Ruffin**

SAVE THE DATES

[By Kevin P. Weimer, incoming president]

Once again, the Atlanta Chapter plans to offer numerous substantive programs of interest to federal practitioners. Please SAVE THE DATE for these upcoming Chapter events:

November 6, 2007: *Installation of Officers and the Executive Committee and Welcome to New Members.* See the article in this newsletter for more information.

November 29, 2007: Luncheon featuring **Judge Reggie Walton, who presided over the Scooter Libby trial.** The luncheon will begin at 12:00 p.m. at the offices of Powell Goldstein.

December 19, 2007: Luncheon featuring **Judge Griffin Bell (former 5th Circuit judge and U.S. Attorney General)** at King & Spalding from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m.

February 15, 2008 (tentative): *Automation in the Courtroom* seminar. Co-Sponsored with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Featuring **Prof. Fredric Lederer**, Chancellor Professor of Law, William & Mary School of Law.

February 26, 2008: Annual *Robert S. Vance Forum on the Bill of Rights.* The Forum once again will take place in the evening at Emory University School of Law.

Week of June 16, 2008: Annual Judges' Luncheon. Details will follow.

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL'S PERSPECTIVE ON MANAGING LEGAL EXPENSES

[By Kerri A. Gildow, convention CLE committee co-chair]

The General Counsels of four prominent Atlanta companies (**Cox Communications, UPS, CibaVision, and The Weather Channel**) participated in a candid and informative discussion of the challenges facing today's General Counsel during a CLE program at the 2007 FBA National Convention hosted by the Atlanta Chapter. Among the many topics covered was how to manage legal costs.

It comes as no surprise that reigning in the cost of legal services tops the GC's list of challenges. A wide array of innovative cost-controlling strategies are used or under consideration. More than one GC is considering project-based billing and other negotiated alternative fee arrangements. To keep discovery costs in check, some are contemplating off-shoring discovery or using contract attorneys. Some find it worthwhile to shift legal work to firms in smaller cities (with generally lower billing rates). Others utilize boutique firms or "borrow" an attorney from an outside firm full-time for a period of time at a discounted rate. Still others manage costs by limiting the number of pre-approved associates permitted to work on a particular matter. All would agree that a realistic budget from the attorney and a continuous dialogue regarding unforeseen expenditures are imperative.

Thank you to **James Hatcher, Teri Plummer McClure, Becky Powhatan Kelley** and **Scott Meece** for participating in this event moderated by Professor William Carney of Emory University Law School.

**ATLANTA CHAPTER FBA TO VOTE
ON TWO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO CHAPTER BY-LAWS MEETING
ON NOVEMBER 6, 2007 MEETING,**

[By Amy Levin Weil, outgoing president]

The Executive Committee of the Atlanta Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, has resolved to amend two Chapter by-laws as follows: (1) to switch the order of succession of the Secretary and Treasurer and (2) to increase the number of persons who can be appointed by the Chapter President to serve on the Executive Committee from 10 to 14.

It was the decision of the Executive Committee in its July meeting that these two amendments to the Chapter by-laws will be voted on at the next Chapter meeting, which will take place at the November 6th, 2007 “Installation of Officers and the Executive Committee and Welcome to New Members” reception. The following summarizes these recommended amendments and the reasoning behind them.

I. *Switching Order of Succession of Secretary and Treasurer*

Our Chapter by-laws currently provide in Article V, Section 1, that the officers shall be elected from the chapter membership in the order of President, President-elect and national delegate, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Executive Committee voted to change Treasurer to the No. 4 position and Secretary to the No. 5 position. The view of the Committee is that it is better for an incoming officer to start out on the leadership ladder as Secretary. The Treasurer’s role of keeping the checkbook, receiving and disbursing funds, and managing the Chapter’s finances is far more daunting and time-consuming than that of the Secretary, which usually involves

only drafting and sending out the minutes of meetings.

II. *Increasing Number of the Executive Committee Members Appointed by the Chapter President.*

The Chapter by-laws currently provide at Article V, Section 1 that the President may appoint 10 members to serve on the Executive Committee. Currently the Chapter has 12 appointed members and will have 12 again when the new Executive Committee is installed on November 6, 2007. The Executive Committee voted to expand the size of its Committee by increasing the number of members who may be appointed by the Chapter President from 10 to 14. The expansion of the overall size of the Executive Committee would accomplish two goals: (1) it would put the Chapter in compliance with its by-laws and (2) it would increase the number of members who are actively involved in the operations of the Chapter, who are participating in Executive Committee meetings and decisions, and who are contributing their input to our Chapter’s efforts.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our membership has been growing steadily in recent months, but the Atlanta Chapter still ranks as only the third largest in the 11th Circuit. The Tampa Bay Chapter, for example, is more than 50% larger than the Atlanta Chapter (and growing fast). Nationwide, the membership roll of the Puerto Rico Chapter is 3 times larger than ours, and the New Orleans Chapter is more than 5 times our size.

Atlanta certainly has no shortage of attorneys who have (or would like to have) a significant practice in federal court, and our membership should reflect that. If you know any such attorneys who are not yet members of the FBA, please have them contact **David Bain, Membership Chair for the Atlanta Chapter, at 404-724-9990 or dbain@bain-law.com.**

INCOMING LEADERS

If you have a question or suggestions about the Chapter or suggestions or comments for the newsletter, or if you would like to become more involved, please contact one of the chapter officers or executive committee members for the 2007-2008 bar year:

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Advisory Committee

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