



THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION ATLANTA CHAPTER

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NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2008



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

GLANCING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

By: Kevin P. Weimer, Chapter President

It is difficult to believe that at the end of September, my year as president of the Chapter will come to a close. As I glance back, I am proud of the exceptional programs that the Chapter has put on this year, including the luncheon with former U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell, the two sold-out sessions of the *Technology in the Northern District Courtroom* seminar, another informative Vance Forum, and, of course, our Annual Luncheon Honoring the Federal Judiciary, which featured U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey. I am grateful to the Chapter members who made these events possible.

However, we cannot grow as a Chapter by dwelling on past accomplishments. I encourage everyone to look ahead to the final two events of this bar year: our August 18th reception with the Georgia Congressional Delegation and our Annual Reception Honoring Federal Law Clerks on September 11th. More details about these events are provided elsewhere in this newsletter. In addition, as we approach a new year, I encourage you to contact me or incoming president Jeff Berhold about your ideas for the Chapter. Finally, as I have remarked before, our Chapter is only as strong and vibrant as those members who sacrifice their time to be involved. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please contact Jeff or me. It has been an honor to serve as the Chapter president his year, and I eagerly look ahead to another dynamic year for the Chapter.

SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO ATTEND THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

August 18, 2008: Reception with the Georgia Congressional Delegation

The Chapter will host a free cocktail reception with the Georgia Congressional Delegation on August 18, 2008, at the offices of King & Spalding beginning at 6:30 p.m. **U.S. Senators Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson and U.S. Representative Tom Price have confirmed that they will attend.** The reception is an inaugural event for the Chapter, and our goal is to bring lawyers and judges in the Northern District of Georgia in contact with the legislators whose decisions directly affect the district. Please consider attending to help make this new event a success. While there is no charge, space is limited, and reservations are strongly recommended by contacting Alcia Charles at Fellows LaBriola: acharles@fellab.com or 404-586-2026.

September 11, 2008: Annual Law Clerk Reception

On September 11, 2008, the Chapter once again will host its reception for federal law clerks at the Capital City Club beginning at 5:30 p.m. The event, which is presented free of charge, is designed to welcome and recognize new and returning law clerks in the Eleventh Circuit and the Northern District of Georgia and usually is well attended by local judges and clerks. Please consider attending to show your support for the clerks. While there is no charge, space is limited, and reservations are strongly recommended by contacting Abena Smith at 404.572.6600, ext. 5160, or dsmith@pogolaw.com by Monday, September 8th.

PREVIOUS CHAPTER EVENTS

COURTROOM TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR OFFERED BOTH THE PROGRESSIVE AND THE PRACTICAL

By: Kevin Maxim, Chapter Vice-President and Seminar Chair

The Chapter hosted two sell-out sessions of Technology in the Northern District Courtroom on February 15, 2008. The event filled Judge Richard W. Story's courtroom with an array of monitors and projection screens, which the presenters used to deliver their very different messages to the lawyers and judges in attendance.

Professor Frederic Lederer of William & Mary College of Law demonstrated some of his progressive ideas in courtroom technology. He provided examples of real-time international dispute resolution, experimental technologies used to accommodate courtroom communication for persons with disabilities, and the courtroom technology installed at Guantanamo. The Northern District's Technology Director, Mark Allen, explained the technological capabilities of the Northern District courtrooms today. Ed Buckley of Buckley & Klein LLP provided a litigator's perspective on courtroom technology. He shared his experiences with various software and hardware resources and explained how technology can be used to maximize the impact of the message that it carries to the finder of fact.



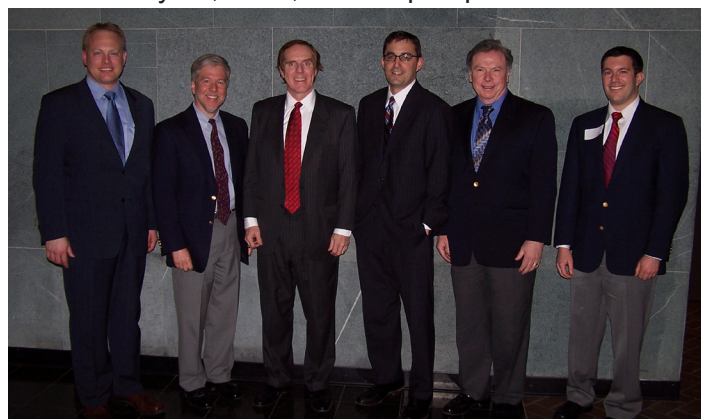
From left to right: Kevin Weimer, Chapter President; Steve Moore, Executive Committee Member; Prof. Frederic Lederer, seminar speaker; Kevin Maxim, Chapter Vice-President and seminar chair; and Hon. Timothy Batten, U.S. District Court Judge

A number of Chapter members have asked that we repeat the Technology seminar. We also acknowledge that the rate at which courtroom technology evolves obliges us all to take the time for seminars like this one to keep current. Be on the lookout for news about an updated Technology program offered by our Chapter in the future.

ANOTHER LIVELY AND INFORMATIVE VANCE FORUM

By: Kevin P. Weimer, Chapter President

On February 25, 2008, the Chapter presented its annual Robert S. Vance Forum on the Bill of Rights. This year's



From left to right: Thomas Fisher, panelist; Denis O'Hayer, moderator; Randy Evans, panelist; Eric Schroeder, forum co-chair; Neil Bradley, panelist, and Michael Abramson, forum co-chair.

a letter bomb in 1989. Senior Judge Emmett Ripley Cox of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit presented a tribute to Judge Vance at the beginning of the forum, which was chaired by Chapter YLD co-chairs Eric Schroeder and Michael Abramson.

forum was entitled, "Voter ID Laws: Preventing Fraud or Promoting Disenfranchisement?" Panelists included Emmet Bondurant of Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore in Atlanta; Neil Bradley of the ACLU Voting Rights Project; Thomas Fisher, the Solicitor General for Indiana, who argued in favor of Indiana's voter ID law before the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 9, 2008; and Randy Evans of McKenna Long Aldridge LLP in Atlanta. Respected Atlanta journalist Denis O'Hayer of WXIA-TV moderated the forum. The Chapter presents the forum annually for free in honor of Judge Robert S. Vance, who was assassinated by



Hon. Emmett Ripley Cox of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals

DENNIS DRASCO JUDGED JURY TRIALS



On April 2, 2008, the Chapter hosted a luncheon at the law firm of Arnall Golden Gregory. The keynote speaker was Dennis Drasco, chair of the ABA's Commission on the American Jury and 2008 President of the New Jersey Federal Bar Association. Mr. Drasco spoke about innovative principles in federal jury trials. Chapter member Ed Marshall chaired the event.

From left to right: Kevin Weimer, Chapter President; Dennis Drasco, Luncheon Speaker; and Ed Marshall, Luncheon Chair.

PANEL DISCUSSED "NON-OBVIOUS WAYS TO MAKE YOUR MARK: LITIGATING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CASES IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA"

On April 30, 2008, the Chapter hosted a breakfast featuring a panel discussion entitled, "Non-Obvious Ways to Make Your Mark: Litigating Intellectual Property Cases in the Northern District of Georgia". Panelists included Hon. Charles Pannell, Jr., of the Northern District of Georgia and IP practitioners Norwood "Woody" Jameson of Duane Morris and Steve Moore of Kilpatrick Stockton. Practitioner Bill Ragland of Hunton & Williams moderated the panel. Chapter executive committee members Henry Quillian of Fellows LaBriola and Steve Moore co-chaired the event.

From left to right: Henry Quillian, event co-chair; Steve Moore, event co-chair; Norwood ("Woody") Jameson, panelist; Hon. Charles Pannell, Jr., Northern District of Georgia, panelist; and Bill Ragland, moderator.



LAW DAY "RULED"

By: **Jim Hatten**, Executive Committee Member and Law Day Chair

The Fiftieth Anniversary of Law Day did not pass quietly in Atlanta, as members of the Atlanta Chapter partnered with Judges and staff from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia to promote this year's Law Day theme, "The Rule of Law."

On May 1st, students from three Atlanta High schools spent a morning at the Richard B. Russell Federal Building, where they met with Magistrate and District Judges of the Court, Chapter President Kevin Weimer, Law Day Chair Jim Hatten, and other Chapter members. The morning's formal program included courtroom presentations by Chief Magistrate Judge Gerrilyn G. Brill, U.S. Attorney David E. Nahmias, and Federal Defender Program attorneys Thomas "Jake" Waldrop and Natasha Silas. U.S. District Judge Richard W. Story, supported by his courtroom staff, presided over a presentation by members of the Grady High School Mock Trial team. A jam-packed and engaging morning ended with courtroom technology demonstrations and tours.

Also on May 1st, Magistrate Judge Russell G. Vineyard and his staff traveled to Crabapple Lane Elementary School in Peachtree City for Law Day presentations to the entire fifth grade. In addition to the Judge's talk, students were treated to a multi-media program including video, slides, and hands-on demonstrations and exhibits.

Chapter Executive Committee Member Robin Sangston teamed with Magistrate Judge Janet King and District Judge Law Clerk Claire Carothers for a presentation to students at Norcross High School. Other FBA members, including Linda Amidon, Joyce Kitchens, and Amy Weil, presented programs at the Greenfield Hebrew Academy and the Epstein School. Active questioning and participation by the students made all of the presentations enjoyable as well as educational.

In sum, Law Day and the Rule of Law “ruled” in Atlanta. As a Chapter, we hope to continue our partnership with the District Court to make Law Day bigger and better each year. If you are interested in being a part of Law Day 2009, please contact Chapter President Kevin Weimer or President-Elect Jeff Berhold.

LUNCHEON HONORING THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL MICHAEL MUKASEY WAS ONE OF THE CHAPTER'S MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENTS EVER

By: Kevin P. Weimer, Chapter President

On June 17, 2008, the Chapter hosted its Annual Luncheon Honoring the Federal Judiciary. United States Attorney General Michael Mukasey presented the keynote address. Judge Mukasey's discussion of terrorism and national security was sobering yet well received. The Honorable Jack Camp, Chief Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, introduced Judge Mukasey. The luncheon also included recognition of the judges of the Eleventh Circuit and the Northern District of Georgia by Chapter President Kevin Weimer, the election of new officers, and the presentation of a donation to the Eleventh Circuit Historical Society by Chapter Treasurer Jake Bielema. With more than 350 people in attendance, including over 100 judges and law clerks, the event was one of the most successful in the history of the Chapter.



Jim Gerstenlauer (left), the Circuit Executive for the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, accepts a donation to the 11th Circuit Historical Society from Atlanta Chapter Treasurer John (“Jake”) Bielema (right) at the Atlanta Chapter's Annual Luncheon Honoring the Federal Judiciary on June 17, 2008.



U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey delivers his keynote address to a packed house at the Atlanta Chapter's Annual Luncheon Honoring the Federal Judiciary on June 17, 2008



From left to right: Kevin Weimer, Chapter President; David Nahmias, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia; Robin Sangston, luncheon chair; Jake Bielema, Chapter Treasurer; U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey; Jeff Berhold, Chapter President-Elect; and Amy Levin Weil, Immediate Past President, at the Atlanta Chapter's Annual Luncheon Honoring the Federal Judiciary on June 17, 2008.