



THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION ATLANTA CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2009

<http://www.fedbaratlanta.org>



ATLANTA CHAPTER OF THE
FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kevin A. Maxim



Our Atlanta Chapter of the Federal Bar Association is stronger than ever thanks to those who have led before us. Immediate past president **Jeff Berhold** has piloted our Chapter through a year of improvement and innovation. We are all beneficiaries of his hard work. It is a true honor to take a turn presiding over the Chapter, and I want you to know that your Chapter leadership is already charting an exciting course for the coming year.

Critical to the success of our Chapter is the involvement of the Federal Courts. I have now attended a number of national Federal Bar Association meetings and training workshops, and I am proud to report that our Chapter's relationship with our Federal Courts is among the most collegial and productive in the nation. Our sincere thanks to **Chief Judge Julie E. Carnes**, Clerk of Court/Acting District Court Executive **James N. Hatten**, and **James P. Gerstenlauer**, the Circuit Executive, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and the many Federal Judges and their staffs who offer to our Chapter their guidance, participation, and support year after year.

In this newsletter, Jeff Berhold introduces our Chapter's new website, which has been many months in the making. I join Jeff in congratulating the team that achieved this milestone for our Chapter. Taking part in our FBA Chapter activities has never been easier.

Please plan to join us in upcoming Chapter events. On Wednesday, December 9, 2009, we will host *A Conversation with The Honorable Phyllis A. Kravitch, Judge, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals* at noon at the Capital City Club downtown. As you may know, Judge Kravitch was the first woman to be appointed a federal judge in the Southeast and the third woman appointed as a U.S. Circuit Court Judge in the United States. You will not want to miss this opportunity to hear from this remarkable pioneer and leader in our Federal legal community. Our thanks to **Amy Levin Weil** of The Weil Firm for coordinating this event.

On Friday, February 26, 2010, we will host our third annual *Technology in the Northern District Courtroom* seminar at the Russell Federal Building and United States Courthouse. As before, we will offer identical morning and afternoon sessions of the event to accommodate as many attendants as we can. We will apply for and expect to receive approval for 3 Regular and 3 Trial CLE hours. Our keynote speaker will be **The Honorable Michael J. Reagan, District Judge** in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois. In addition, **Mark Allen, the Court's Courtroom Technology Specialist**, will provide a hands-on demonstration of technology available in the Northern District Courtroom today. We will also hear from a to-be-announced local practitioner regarding her or his experiences using technology in the courtroom. We thank **Steve Moore** of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP and **Tom Lacy** of Lacy & Snyder LLP for coordinating this event. Additional details about all of these events can be found on our Atlanta Chapter website.

Please save the date for our Chapter's annual *Luncheon Honoring the Federal Judiciary*, to be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2010, at the Piedmont Driving Club. Thank you to **Eric Schroeder** of Bryan Cave LLP for chairing this event. More details to follow during the coming months.

Our Chapter always has special projects in the works, and we are in need of more volunteer leaders for our Chapter. The time commitments are reasonable and the projects are rewarding. If you or a colleague would be interested in taking on a **leadership role in our Chapter**, please contact me or any other member of the Executive or Advisory Committees so that we can get you involved.

Please encourage your friends and colleagues to **become a member of the Federal Bar Association**. With increased membership come bigger and better events for our members. Details on how to become an FBA member are now conveniently available on our Atlanta Chapter website.

The Atlanta Chapter Officers and Committee members are dedicated to serving the Federal bench and bar. Here's to our Atlanta Chapter of the Federal Bar Association!

Kevin

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Jeffrey L. Berhold

Please join me in welcoming new **Chapter President Kevin Maxim**. I know that he has some great things planned for the coming year. Still, I need to thank a number of people for putting on some great events over the last few months of my tenure. Thank you to **Program Chair Phyllis Sumner** and **Kathy Oliver** for a tremendous **Judiciary Luncheon** featuring **former Solicitor General Paul Clement**. Thank you to **Chief Judge Carnes, Judge Thrash, Judge Martin, Judge O'Kelley, Chief Magistrate Judge Brill, Magistrate Judge Baverman, Magistrate Judge Hagy, and Clerk of Court Jim Hatten and his staff** – as well as **Program Chairs Eric Schroeder** and **Greg Mauldin** – for giving their time for our half-day **“Meet the District Court”** orientation program for younger lawyers. Thank you to **Senator Saxby Chambliss** and **Senator Johnny Isakson** for participating in our annual **Legislative Event** – and to **Tom Lacy** and **Robert Khayat** for chairing the program and to **Steve Moore** and **Kilpatrick Stockton** for hosting it. Finally, thank you to **John Bielema** and **Robin Sangston** for chairing the annual **Judicial Law Clerk Reception** under difficult circumstances – and to **Chief Judge Carnes** for installing the new officers at the event.



Thank you to **Aldin Konjic** and his team at **AK Brothers, LLC** for their wonderful work on our new website – www.fedbaratlanta.org. **Kevin Maxim, Kerri Gildow, and Robin Sangston** also played big roles in getting the site online. You can now pay for Atlanta Chapter events through the website and register for free Chapter events there as well. In addition, we have a member directory. If you click “Join Directory” and enter “FedBar” for invitation name and “JOIN=404” for invitation code, you can enter your membership information and choose your “search letter.” When the website administrator approves your listing, it will become visible on the Member Directory page. If you have any questions, please contact our webmaster David Cole at DCole@fmglaw.com. AK Brothers is offering a 20% discount for Chapter members on any of their services. Mention Partner Code: FED20. You can call Aldin directly at 404-248-4224 x222 or 678-499-4225.

Finally, let me thank the Executive Committee and Advisory Committee for supporting me throughout the year in our efforts to promote fellowship and understanding between the bench and bar. And thank you to all of our chapter members for showing a growing interest in our mission as well.

Jeff

NORTHERN DISTRICT COURTROOM PROGRAM

Eric Schroeder, Bryan Cave

In a joint effort by the Atlanta Chapter and the Northern District of Georgia, on Friday, June 19, 2009 the inaugural **“Meet the District Court: An Introduction to Practice in the Northern District of Georgia”** program was held at the Richard Russell Building. The program, which was tailored toward younger lawyers desiring an understanding the nuts and bolts of how the district court works, was a sold-out affair, with space filled up weeks before the program.

The program began with a breakfast reception in the Jury Room on the 22nd floor, at which attendees mixed with an array of judges and court staff. Once the program moved into Judge Beverly B. Martin’s courtroom, Chief Judge Julie E. Carnes welcomed the attendees, and Jim Hatten, the Clerk of Court and the driving force behind the program, gave a brief introduction. Two exceptional panels followed: 1) a panel on **“District Judge Perspectives and Observations”** with the Honorable Thomas W. Thrash, Jr., Beverly B. Martin and William C. O’Kelley; and 2) a panel on **“Magistrate Judge Responsibilities and Perspectives”** with the Honorable Gerrilyn G. Brill, Alan J. Braverman and C. Christopher Hagy.

Following the two panels, Jim Hatten introduced key members of the Clerk’s Office Staff. Mark Allen, Courtroom Technology Specialist, thereafter gave an overview on the technology resources at the Court and presented a courtroom technology demonstration. The morning ended with Jim Hatten providing all interested attorneys an exclusive, behind-the-scenes tour of the Court.

The feedback from attendees was uniformly positive. Given its popularity, we hope to make the program an annual affair. If you would like to assist in putting on the 2010 version of Meet the District Court, please contact the 2009 co-chairs: Eric Schroeder, eric.schroeder@bryancave.com, or Greg Mauldin, greg.mauldin@alston.com.

ANNUAL JUDICIAL LAW CLERK RECEPTION AND OFFICER SWEARING-IN CEREMONY
Robin Sangston, Treasurer

On September 17, 2009 at Twelve at Centennial Park, the Chapter hosted a reception for over 75 members, judges and their law clerks. This annual event, which is free to our members and the judges and their law clerks, is to recognize and honor our fabulous judicial law clerks and to provide them with a fun, networking event. It also symbolized the passing of the mantle from our (now) Immediate Past President Jeff Berhold to our new President Kevin Maxim. This year the Chapter also combined the law clerk reception with the annual officer installation and swearing in ceremony, which was presided over by Chief District Judge Julie E. Carnes. We plan to hold this popular event again in the fall next year so mark your calendars!



GEORGIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION RECEPTION

Steven D. Moore, Kilpatrick Stockton

The Atlanta Chapter hosted a Cocktail Reception with the Georgia Congressional Delegation on Monday, August 17, 2009, at the offices of Kilpatrick Stockton. The Reception offered Atlanta Chapter members an opportunity to meet, hear from, and ask questions of the two sitting U.S. Senators from Georgia, **Sen. Saxby Chambliss** and **Sen. Johnny Isakson**. The Reception was well-attended, including many of the Northern District Judges. The Atlanta Chapter members enjoyed hearing Senators Chambliss and Isakson's perspective on the major issues facing our country and state. This is an annual event open only to Atlanta Chapter FBA members.



SAVE THE DATES

On **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2009**, we will host *A Conversation with The Honorable Phyllis A. Kravitch, Judge, Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals* at noon at the Capital City Club downtown.

We will host our third annual *Technology in the Northern District Courtroom* seminar at the Russell Federal Building and United States Courthouse on **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010**. As before, we will offer identical morning and afternoon sessions of the event to accommodate as many attendants as we can. Our keynote speaker will be **The Honorable Michael J. Reagan, District Judge** in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois. In addition, **Mark Allen**, the Court's **Courtroom Technology Specialist**, will provide a hands-on demonstration of technology available in the Northern District Courtroom today.

Our Chapter's annual *Luncheon Honoring the Federal Judiciary*, is scheduled to be held on **TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010**, at the Piedmont Driving Club.