



# FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

## Member Spotlight

For this edition of the Newsletter, the Chapter’s Board of Directors wanted to feature one of our legal community’s leading women lawyers. We chose Detra Shaw-Wilder, a Shareholder and the Managing Partner of Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton (“KTT”), located in Coral Gables. Detra earned her Bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida and a J.D. from the University of Miami School of Law. After graduating from UM, Detra joined KTT, where she has practiced for the last 20 years, focusing on significant complex commercial litigation disputes in state and federal courts. As an associate at KTT, Detra was mentored by District Judge Paul C. Huck and Bankruptcy Judge Laurel M. Isicoff, both former partners at the firm. According to Judge Huck “From the get-go, we all knew that Detra was a superstar – both as an attorney and as a human being. Detra was my go-to associate in trial work, always well prepared, calm and the voice of reason. It is no surprise that Detra is now KTT’s managing partner. She earned it with her excellent legal talents and exceptional people skills.”



**Detra Shaw-Wilder**  
Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton

Detra is known for her commitment to service in the bar and in particular to increasing diversity in the legal profession. In addition to her bar leadership, she is the co-Founder of the Kozyak Minority Mentoring Foundation.

In 2013, she received the Judge Joe Eaton “Unsung Hero Award” from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

In January 2015, Detra began her role as Managing Partner of KTT becoming a member of a small group of women – and even smaller group of Black women – at the helm of South Florida law firms. When asked for her thoughts on the significance of her leadership role, Detra commented, “I am proud to lead the group of exceptional attorneys at Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton and to have a role in shaping the future of the firm.” Detra further stated: “I look forward to the day when the fact that a woman has earned the privilege of taking the helm at a firm is no longer newsworthy. I am mindful, however, that in order to effect change it is important that women and minorities see others that look like them in leadership. As more women take leadership positions, new opportunities will continue to open for women and minorities in all aspects of the legal profession in both the bench and bar.”

Outside of the practice of law, Detra is a proud Miami native, a mother of two and is married to her high school sweetheart. We are proud to have her among our ranks in the South Florida Chapter!

### 2014-2015 OFFICERS

Candace R. Duff  
President

Oliver A. Ruiz  
President-Elect

Brett A. Barfield  
Vice-President, 11th Circuit

Benjamin Brodsky  
First Vice-President

Russell Koonin  
Second Vice-President

David S. Weinstein  
Treasurer

Vanessa Snyder  
Interim Secretary

Bernard Pastor  
National Delegate

Ana Maria Martinez  
Immediate Past President

Hon. Peter R. Palermo  
Honorary Member

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

- Yaniv Adar
- Jacqueline Becerra
- Michael Caruso
- Jeffrey B. Crockett
- Alaina Fotiu-Wojtowicz
- Rachel Furst
- Hon. Darrin P. Gayles
- Celeste Higgins
- Gerald J. Houlihan
- Kevin P. Jacobs
- Robin E. Kaplan
- David S. Mandel
- David O. Markus
- Edward J. O’Donnell
- Hon. John J. O’Sullivan
- Barbara N. Papademetriou
- William V. Roppolo
- Eduardo I. Sanchez
- Clayton P. Solomon
- Michael Tarre
- Stephen Warren
- Robert T. Watson
- Hon. Kathleen M. Williams
- Ryan C. Zagare

### In This Issue

FBA Luncheon – FBI Special Agent In Charge, George L. Piro ....2	Women’s Power Lunch .....4
Law Clerks/Young Lawyers Committee .....2	2015 Boardroom Lunch Series .....4
FBA CLE: Federal Court Practice for the State Court Practitioner..2	Women Lawyers Initiative – Securities Law CLE .....4
Message from the President .....2	34th Federal Judicial Reception .....4
Southern District of Florida’s Inaugural Law Day .....3	Upcoming Events .....4
Membership Update .....3	

**FBA Luncheon—FBI Special Agent In Charge, George L. Piro.** On April 1, 2015, George L. Piro, FBI Special Agent in Charge, Miami Field Office, was our guest of honor. SAC Piro spoke about his role as lead FBI interrogator of Saddam Hussein. In a word, it was fascinating. SAC Piro explained how he was selected to be the lead interrogator, in that the CIA formally requested FBI assistance because the CIA does not testify in court, and all parties knew this was eventually going to lead to a prosecution. SAC Piro then explained that he was one of only 12 FBI agents at the time, nationwide, who spoke Arabic. Thus, although he had only been with the FBI for five years at that point, this unique skill, his prior experience as a police officer, combined with his traditional Arabic upbringing, made him the perfect candidate to conduct the interrogation and facilitate gaining Saddam's trust. SAC Piro explained how he spent a significant time simply gaining Saddam's trust, stroking Saddam's ego and relating to him personally by having read Saddam's first published novel and by sharing with him baklava made by SAC Piro's mother. SAC Piro detailed how he explained Saddam's rights under the Geneva Convention to him (akin to Miranda rights) and acquired a waiver of those rights. SAC Piro ended his remarks by summarizing information gleaned from Saddam, including Saddam's long-term proclamations as to Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction. Finally, SAC Piro fielded questions from the audience. A poignant moment happened in the final question, where a retired, 30-year veteran of the FBI remarked that this was the most impressive presentation he had ever seen by an FBI Agent.

### Law Clerk/Young Lawyers Division.

Among other events this Spring, on June 4, 2015, the division hosted a meet and greet for current and former federal clerks at the Raleigh Hotel on Miami Beach. Over 40 current and former federal clerks attended. This fall, the Division will host a breakfast discussion regarding the role of the United States Marshal with Chief Judge Moore and our U.S. Marshal.

**FBA CLE: Federal Court Practice for the State Court Practitioner.** On May 14, 2015, the Federal Bar Association presented a CLE panel titled "Federal Court Practice for the State Court Practitioner," co-sponsored by the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers and the Federal Courts Committee of the

Dade County Bar Association. The panel featured Judge Robert N. Scola, Jr., Judge Darrin P. Gayles, and Judge Beth Bloom, who were each recently elevated from the state court bench to the federal bench, and was moderated by Stephanie A. Casey of Colson Hicks Edison. The panelists highlighted both substantive and procedural differences between federal and state court practice, from case initiation to trial. The judges emphasized the best practices to follow in federal court and provided insightful advice on the pitfalls practitioners should avoid in their federal practice.



**President's Corner.** *The South Florida Chapter is now the 4th largest in the Federal Bar Association, and our membership continues to grow. This has been and will continue to be a very active year for our Chapter, filled with quality programming and networking opportunities. As always, the Chapter's annual Federal Judicial Reception was enjoyed by hundreds of attorneys and judges. Among other great events, the Chapter's Women Lawyers Initiative continues to bring us phenomenal events in the form of power lunches, CLE, and other programs. Our members also enjoyed great networking and speakers at our FBA luncheons, including Amy Howe from SCOTUSblog and FBI Special Agent in Charge George L. Piro, who spoke about his interrogation of Saddam Hussein. Our Chapter, in conjunction with the United States District Court and the Florida Bar Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, participated in the Southern District of Florida's first annual Law Day event wherein more than 60 area high school students learned about the law, the Court and pathways to the profession. We look forward to making our Chapter's participation in this event an annual tradition. Our Chapter could not be this successful without the support of our members and the Court. We look forward to continuing to serve the needs of, and strengthening our relationship with, both.* **Candace Duff**

**S.D. Fla. Law Day – 2015.** On Friday, May 1, 2015, the FBA participated in the Southern District of Florida’s Inaugural Law Day celebration, in conjunction with the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida and the Florida Bar Standing Committee on Diversity and Inclusion. The event was coordinated by the United States Bankruptcy Judge Laurel M. Isicoff, United States District Judge Beth Bloom, and Matt Dietz, Litigation Director for the Disability Independence Insurance Group, Inc. With the support and assistance of the Miami-Dade School Board Attorney’s Office, students from Hialeah High School and Miami Central High School came to the James Lawrence King Federal Justice Building for a day of activities. It was a resounding success!



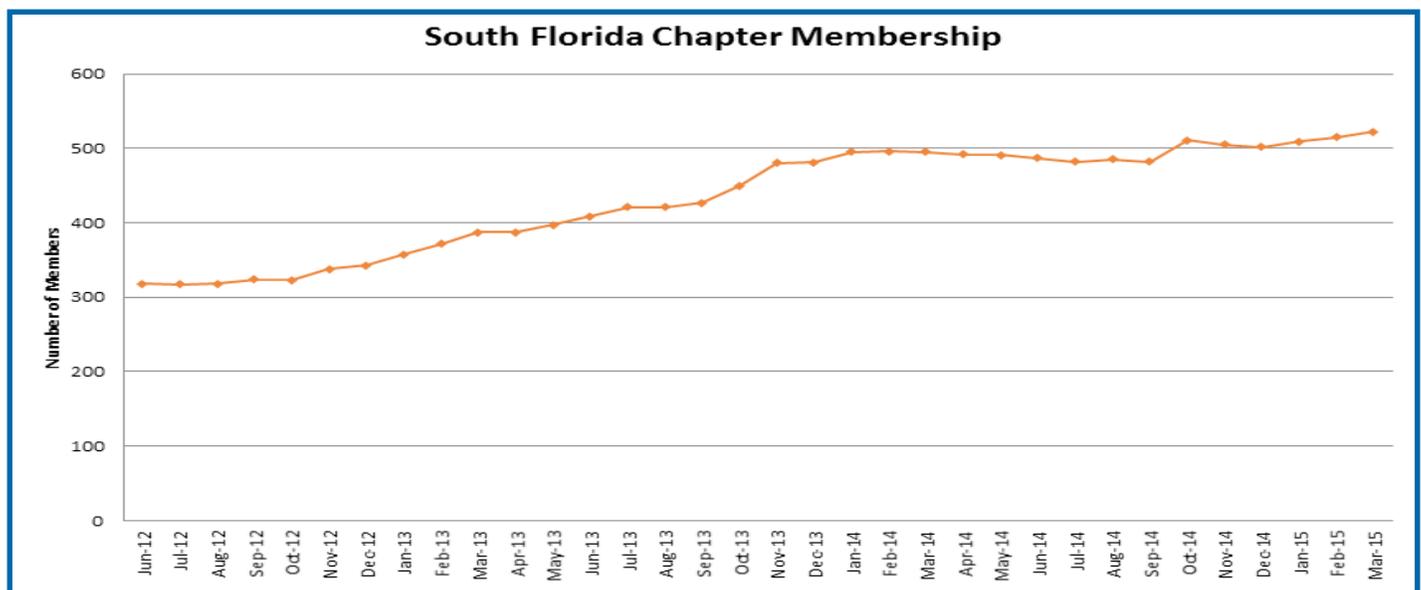
The students were first welcomed by Judge Isicoff and were given copies of the Constitution and the Magna Carta in Magistrate Judge Edwin G. Torres’ courtroom. Judge Isicoff’s law clerk, Clay Roberts, then provided an overview of the Magna Carta and its history to the students.

Following this, FBA board member Russell Koonin, Senior Trial Counsel for the SEC and former AUSA, presented “Dialogues on Freedom,” where he focused on the Fourth Amendment and the contours of its balance of privacy rights versus the interest of law enforcement. The students were engaged and interactive throughout.

The students then moved to Magistrate Judge Barry L. Garber’s courtroom where they watched Magistrate Court proceedings, including various arguments on bond and pre-trial detention, among other matters. At the conclusion of the matters before him, Judge Garber engaged the students about what they had witnessed.

Next, the students were treated to a mock trial presentation by FBA board member and AUSA Vanessa Snyder and FBA member AFPD Sowmya Bharathi, with private attorneys Marissel Descalzo and Scott Brow acting as witnesses. The issue at trial was whether a search of a student’s locker, given many attenuating circumstances relating to vandalism, was permitted absent a search warrant. Everyone enjoyed watching the trial.

After a lunch break, a panel discussion was held in Judge Torres’ courtroom. The panelists were Judge Torres, AUSA Dan Matzin, Senior Assistant City of Miami Attorney Henry Hunnefeld, and Monique Hayes, Esq., of Genovese, Joblove & Battista, P.A., with Candace Duff, Esq., FBA South FL Chapter President, moderating. The panelists spoke on various topics related to their life experiences, their experiences in the law, and gave the students advice on how to succeed in the future. Once again, the students were very interactive and full of questions.



**Chapter Membership Increases to 522!** The South Florida Chapter is continuing its extraordinary membership growth. Since June 2012, the Chapter has increased from 318 members to 522 members, which represents a jump of 64%. With this growth, our Chapter now ranks as the 4th largest FBA chapter in the entire country.

## Upcoming Events

Boardroom Lunch, U.S.  
District Judge Beth Bloom  
*July 9, 2015*

Annual FBA Awards &  
Installation Dinner  
*September 25, 2015*

FBA Pro Bono Week  
*October 25-31, 2015*

Visit our new website at  
[www.fba-sdfla.org](http://www.fba-sdfla.org)

*If you are not already a member, join the FBA's South Florida Chapter today! Members have access to a wide array of events involving the judiciary, notable speakers, and lawyers in our community. Please visit our website for more information, <http://fba-sdfla.org/membership>.*

*Become a mentor today!*

*Email Yaniv Adar at  
[yadar@homerbonner.com](mailto:yadar@homerbonner.com)*

## Newsletter Editors

Clayton Solomon  
Stephanie Casey

Have a suggestion for  
future newsletter content?

Email the committee at  
[federalbar.southflorida@gmail.com](mailto:federalbar.southflorida@gmail.com)  
Attn: Newsletter  
Committee



## Women Lawyers Initiative— Securities Law CLE.

On Friday, March 27, 2015, the WLI hosted a CLE seminar on the latest in securities law. Our panelists were Tracy Nichols of Holland & Knight, Eric Bustillo, Regional Director of the SEC's Miami Regional Office, Bruce Reinhart of McDonald Hopkins, and Russell Koonin, Senior Trial Counsel in the SEC's Miami Regional Office. The panelists spoke on a wide

array of topics, including the latest Supreme Court and Circuit Court decisions affecting both plaintiffs and defendants in securities cases, the SEC's Whistleblower program, the inner workings on how an SEC case proceeds from investigation to the filing of the complaint, and multiple issues affecting defendants and their counsel when faced with an enforcement action by the SEC, particularly when faced with potential parallel criminal charges by the Department of Justice. The panelists then fielded several questions from the audience. We look forward seizing the momentum of this CLE and establishing a securities division within the South Florida Chapter of the FBA. Thanks to our panelists and thanks to everyone who attended!

**2015 Boardroom Lunch Series.** Our "Boardroom Lunch" series is one of our more popular events because we limit attendance to twenty persons, only Chapter members may attend, and they are free. This summer we will host four Boardroom Lunches from June to September. Some of the featured speakers will include United States District Court Judge Beth Bloom and Capt. James Carlson, Staff Judge Advocate for the 7th Coast Guard District. Plans for the remaining two Boardroom Lunches are underway. More information and invitations will be distributed to Chapter members by email.

**Women's Power Lunch.** The Chapter's Women Lawyers Initiative (WLI) hosted a "Power Lunch" at Carlton Fields Jordan Burt's Miami Office on Friday, February 27, 2015. The WLI's first "Power Lunch" was designed to give women lawyers practicing in the federal courts a unique opportunity to promote their business, learn from other successful women and have fun networking over lunch.

**34th Annual Federal Judicial Reception.** On February 5, 2015, the South Florida Chapter hosted its 34th Annual Federal Judicial Reception. We had a great turnout (over 700 guests), including almost all of our local federal judiciary, lawyers from diverse practice areas and all areas of the government, law clerks, and law students. We added a photo booth to the room, which was a huge success; judges and lawyers alike clearly had a great time with it! We will post some of those photos on our website. We enjoyed gorgeous views of the river from the Riverfront Room at the Hyatt while guests mingled to catch up with old friends and meet new ones, and lawyers and judges were able to talk in the informal, no-speeches-or-sit-down-dinner atmosphere that has made this our most popular event each year. Our new local law school division members assisted in signing up new Chapter members at the event. If you have any comments or suggestions for next year's event, please do not hesitate to send an email to our Reception Committee chair at [brett.barfield@hklaw.com](mailto:brett.barfield@hklaw.com). Mark your calendar for our next reception on **Thursday, February 18, 2016!**