



FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION

SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

Member Spotlight

Former United States Magistrate Judge Robert L. Dubé has been a member of the South Florida Chapter of the Federal Bar Association since graduating from law school. He served as a chapter officer from 1968 until 2010, including Chapter President from 1973-1974. Judge Dubé was the driving force behind commencing the Broward and Palm Beach chapters of the FBA, and he has received the FBA's Outstanding Service Award ten times.

In March 2013, Judge Dubé retired from the federal bench after serving for seventeen years. The French-speaking Judge was born in Rhode Island and lived in New England until he entered the United States Marine Corps in 1948. Upon his discharge he came to Miami where he graduated from the University of Miami School of Law in 1960. He began his law career at the firm of Dixon, Dejarnette, Bradford, Williams, McKay and Kimbrell. He later became corporate counsel for Avis Rent-A-Car before starting his own firm, Dubé and Wright, P.A., which was an "AV" rated firm specializing in litigation involving negligence, insurance, contracts, products, premises, governmental, construction and environmental liability. He was appointed to the federal bench after thirty-five years as a practicing attorney. Judge Dubé's contribution to the community



*Hon. Robert L. Dubé
Retired U.S. Magistrate
Judge; Member Since 1960*

also extended beyond the legal profession, including over twenty years of coaching in the Pop Warner Football and Howard Palmetto Khoury Girls Softball league.

Lourdes Fernandez, Judge Dubé's long-time clerk, recently remarked: "Judge Dubé originally hired me for three months, and I ended up working for him almost ten years. During that decade, Judge Dubé's guidance, generosity, laughter and love were amazing! He taught me not only the law aspects of our profession, but the human side as well. It truly has been both a joy and an honor working for him."

During his years on the bench, he prided himself for treating everyone fairly, whether the individual was a defendant, attorney, or probation officer. In his own words, Judge Dubé was "an advocate of neither party, but for the law."

Thank you, Judge Dubé, for your ongoing dedication to the profession and the FBA!

The "Member Spotlight" is a new Newsletter feature that salutes long-standing members of the Chapter for their leadership and civic service. To nominate a member for recognition, please send an e-mail to federalbar.southflorida@gmail.com, Attn: Membership Committee.

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Message from the President. What an exciting time to be a member of the South Florida Chapter of the FBA! I am proud to report that we are in the midst of unprecedented growth as an organization and expect to continue our tradition of hosting interesting and informative events tailored to those who practice in federal court. This year promises to be an exciting one for our Chapter, and I am proud to announce that we have reached several notable goals.



First, we have successfully established permanent FBA law student organizations in area law schools (University of Miami, Florida International University College of Law, and St. Thomas School of Law). We plan on sponsoring several events throughout the year at the schools and to launch a mentorship program with the students in the fall. We look forward to exposing future lawyers to the distinguished and talented members of this organization and to provide networking opportunities for all students.

We also successfully launched the newly formed Women Lawyers Initiative, which just held its inaugural event. If its first event is any indication, the WLI promises to be a catalyst for the development of a stronger, more gender balanced bar.

Our "Bankers Club" luncheons continue to be well attended, averaging over 125 practitioners and federal judges in attendance. We are especially proud to host General William K. Suter, Clerk of the United States Supreme Court.

Soon, we will be launching our Chapter's own website, which will give our members even greater access to the Chapter's events and will provide our growing community with more information regarding the many activities and initiatives in which we participate.

On behalf of the South Florida Chapter's Executive Board, I thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you soon at one of our many events.



Immediate Past President, Brett A. Barfield, President, Bernardo Pastor, President-Elect, Ana Maria Martinez

32nd Annual Federal Judicial Reception



The 32nd Annual Judicial Reception was our Chapter's biggest and best ever! We reached a milestone with 800 guests, including most of the local federal judiciary, law clerks, lawyers, and a record number of law students.

We love this event because it is our most casual evening, with no speeches and no sit-down dinner—just meeting and talking with our federal bench and bar over food and drinks. We outgrew the room at the Hyatt we have enjoyed for over two

decades and moved upstairs to a larger room with gorgeous views of the river. The crowd

loved the new space and the Hyatt did a great job dressing it up in a modern and elegant style. For the second year we invited local law school students to assist with the event and sign up new Chapter members at the event. If you have any suggestions for next year's event, please don't hesitate to send an email to brett.barfield@hklaw.com. Mark your calendars and we'll see you next year on **Thursday, February 27, 2014!**

To join or become active in an FBA committee, visit our chapter website, www.fedbar.org/Chapters/South-Florida-Chapter, or send an email to federalbar.southflorida@gmail.com



Women's Law Initiative. On February 19, 2013, the South Florida Chapter officially launched its Women's Lawyers Initiative, the aim of which is to encourage dialogue in our legal community about the unique challenges facing women lawyers. In its kick-off event, the WLI hosted a panel discussion titled, "Having It All: A Forum On Balancing Life and the Ethical Practice of Law," featuring five of our community's most successful and influential women lawyers (featured above, left to right): Hon. Cecilia M. Altonaga, U.S. District Judge; Hon. Chris McAiley, U.S. Magistrate Judge; Hilarie Bass, Co-President, Greenberg Traurig; Julie Siefkas-Marin, Senior Counsel, Royal Caribbean; Celeste Higgins, Assistant Federal Public Defender. Each panelist brought a unique perspective to the difficult question of work-life balance.

In addition to hosting panel discussions, the WLI hopes to foster networking and business generation opportunities for women lawyers in South Florida. Future events will include trial practice seminars, speed-mentoring events between senior and junior lawyers, and some fun after work happy hours!

CLE Committee. The Federal Bar Association held its Ethics in Federal Practice CLE seminar on March 8, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency. The half-day program included three panels of distinguished judges and seasoned lawyers. The many lawyers who attended received useful practice tips through discussions that were entertaining as well.

The first panel, which addressed criminal ethics issues, included Chief U.S. District Judge Federico A. Moreno, U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division Chief Edward Stamm, and experienced private practitioner Jacqueline Becerra. The panel was moderated by Assistant Federal Public Defender Celeste Higgins. Using hypothetical examples, the panel discussed ethics rules that prohibit offering testimony that a lawyer knows to be false, even in a narrative format. The panel also discussed how the U.S. Attorney's Office handles information regarding government witnesses.

The second panel, on appellate ethics issues, included U.S. Circuit Judge Adalberto Jordan, former Florida Supreme Court Justice Raoul G. Cantero, and former Florida Third District Court of Appeal Judge Rodolfo Sorondo, Jr. The panel was moderated by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ed Sanchez. The panel discussed the duty of competence. Practice tips included when to cite unfavorable case law, and how to accurately present what happened at the trial level even when it was unfavorable. The panel also discussed conflicts of interest.

The third panel focused on ethics issues in civil cases, and included U.S. District Judge Robin S. Rosenbaum, U.S. Magistrate Judge Edwin G. Torres, and experienced private practitioner Isaac J. Mitrani. The panel was moderated by Assistant U.S. States Attorney Steve Petri. The panel provided practical tips regarding e-discovery and the obligation to preserve evidence. The panel also addressed ethics questions regarding the use of social media.

The FBA is grateful to the distinguished panelists who participated in the half-day Ethics in Federal Practice seminar, as well as in FBA lunch presentations which have also been approved for CLE credits. The FBA looks forward to continuing its CLE programs.



Upcoming Events

FBA Luncheon
Featuring Gen. William Suter
May 8, 2013

Young Lawyers Division
Art Space Happy Hour
May 23, 2013

Bankers Club Luncheon
June 12, 2013

Boardroom Luncheon
Featuring Hon. Alan S. Gold
June 21, 2013

Annual Awards
& Installation Dinner
October 25, 2013

Federal Court Orientation
December 2013

Bankers Club Luncheon
January , , 2014

Federal Judicial Reception
February 27, 2014

Newsletter Editors

Yara Lorenzo
Clayton Solomon

*Have a suggestion for future
newsletter content?
Email the committee at
federalbar.southflorida@gmail.com
Attn: Newsletter Committee*

Inaugural Federal Court Orientation & Luncheon. On December 12, 2012, the Chapter sponsored the first "Southern District of Florida Federal Court Orientation and Luncheon." The orientation provided 40 young practitioners with a close look at the key players in the federal court system. The program was designed to better acquaint attendees with practice in federal court in order to help the attendees build a more confident federal court practice. To this end, the program featured a panel of distinguished judges: Senior United States District Judge Paul C. Huck; United States District Court Judge Robert N. Scola, Jr.; and United States Magistrate Judge Chris M. McAliley. The judges discussed federal court litigation, federal court structure, and gave invaluable practice pointers about pitfalls to avoid when litigating in federal court.

Following the judges' presentations, Wifredo Ferrer, United States Attorney, and Michael Caruso, Federal Public Defender, discussed their respective offices and the types of federal crimes prosecuted and defended in our district. The court's technology team then brought their iPads and dazzled attendees with a demonstration of the state-of-the-art technology available in the courtroom.



Bankers Club Luncheon Series. The Federal Bar Association's South Florida Chapter's Monthly Bankers Club Luncheons have continued to provide our members a valuable opportunity to connect with one another and keep abreast of important issues in our legal community. Below are highlights from several of our most recent lunches.

In October we hosted a panel discussion titled "Narrowing the Field," which featured current and past chairs of Florida's state-wide Federal Judicial Nominating Commission and its Southern District Conference. The panel, comprised of Thomas Schultz, a highly-regarded practitioner in South Florida, and Roberto Martinez and Kendall Coffey – both former U.S. Attorneys – discussed the nominating process for U.S. District Judges, U.S. Marshals, and U.S. Attorneys.

In November we hosted Amy Howe, the Editor of Scotusblog, a popular law blog that provides comprehensive coverage of issues germane to the Supreme Court of the United States. Howe discussed cases of interest for the current term, as well as the potential impact of the presidential election on the Court.

In January we hosted a panel titled "Trends in U.S. Enforcement." The panelists were Eric I. Bustillo, SEC Regional Director; David Nanz, FBI Supervisory Special Agent; and Joan Silverstein, Chief of the U.S. Attorney's Office's Economic Crimes Section. The panelists spoke about enforcement trends in South Florida.

Finally, in March we held a panel discussion on jury trial skills with U.S. District Court Judges Cecilia Altonaga, Jose Martinez, and Robert Scola.