



FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

President's Message

In 2016, the South Florida Chapter is excited to continue the success we enjoyed in 2015. The Chapter was honored to receive the FBA's Chapter Activity Presidential Achievement Award, and a Meritorious Newsletter Recognition Award. Thanks to the leadership of our Chapter's Board, as well as the unwavering support of the Federal Bar Association's national leadership, the Chapter grew to over 560 members this past year, making it the 5th largest FBA chapter in the country. We were also extremely honored to welcome U.S. District Judge Darrin P. Gayles to our Board of Directors, who joined U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams and U.S. Magistrate Judge John O'Sullivan as judiciary members of the Board of Directors.

The Chapter continues to be active in governmental relations, as part of our effort to further the interests of the federal bench and bar, and to address issues of import to federal practice. Together with Chapter Past President and 11th Circuit Vice President Brett Barfield, and Broward Chapter President Valorie Chavin, I had the opportunity to attend the FBA's Capitol Hill Day in April 2015. We met with U.S. Senate staff leaders, and with members of Congress (U.S. Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Lois Frankel, and Carlos Curbelo), to discuss pressing local and national issues impacting federal

practice. We also had the opportunity to meet with the Staff Director and Counsel for the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure regarding local court issues.

The Chapter's 34th Annual Federal Judicial Reception was again a success, with several hundred judges and lawyers in attendance (you don't want to miss this year's reception, coming up on February 18). During our Installation and Award Dinner in the fall, we pleased to give our Chapter's highest honor, the Ned Davis Award, to Steven Larimore, the Clerk of Court and Court Administrator for the Southern District of Florida, in recognition of his many years of service to our federal bench and bar.

Once again, we were able to offer quality programs and events to our membership and the federal judiciary. As but a few examples, our general membership luncheons featured presentations by Chief Judge K. Michael Moore regarding the success and efficiency of the Southern District of Florida; Judge Darrin Gayles regarding his experience and issues of import to federal practice; FBI Special Agent in Charge George Piro regarding his experience



Oliver A. Ruiz
Chapter President

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FBA Luncheon—Amy Howe, SCOTUSBlog.

On November 18th, 2015, we again hosted—for the fourth time—Amy Howe, Esq., Editor of *SCOTUSBlog*, as our speaker at our Hyatt Luncheon. Ms. Howe, always a fascinating guest, discussed many of the upcoming decisions of the Supreme Court, including pivotal cases on abortion, affirmative action, fair housing, a variety of criminal cases (including a landmark appeal from our District), the contraception insurance coverage issue under the Affordable Care Act, and many others. Ms. Howe discussed the makeup of the Court, and how the next presidential election will likely influence the direction of the Court for years to come. Ms. Howe also fielded questions afterward, which led to a thoughtful discussion on the use of cameras in the courtroom.



FBA Luncheon—Panel Discussion Regarding

National Pro Bono Week. On Wednesday October 14, 2015, in conjunction with pro bono week, we were honored to welcome the Honorable Laurel M. Isicoff, United States Bankruptcy Judge, and the Honorable Patricia A. Seitz, United States Senior District Court Judge, to our first luncheon of the season. Both judges spoke passionately about their commitment to pro bono as well as the benefits and rewards that practitioners can get from participating in pro bono activities. The judges then spoke about the programs their respective courts would have in conjunction with pro bono week at the end of the month, which included training and various opportunities to take a wide range of pro bono cases. Judge Seitz relayed to the audience her

experience in championing the notion of pro bono when she was president of the Florida Bar, and Judge Isicoff told a heartfelt story about an individual she represented pro bono when she was formerly in private practice. Thank you to Judge Isicoff and Seitz for speaking and thanks to everyone who attended!

CLE—Recent Amendments to the Federal Rules.

On Thursday, November 5, 2015, the Chapter along with the Miami-Dade Chapter of the Florida Association for Women Lawyers held a sold-out CLE. Our distinguished panelists, U.S. District Judge Cecilia M. Altonaga, U.S. Magistrate Judge Chris M. McAleily and U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert A. Mark discussed key features of the new Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, which take effect on December 1, 2015. Judge Altonaga led off with a macro look at the rule changes, stressing that the theme of cooperation between the parties themselves and the court are now prominent throughout. Early case management is also a new focus. And a dominant theme of discovery is proportionality. Judge McAleily focused her discussion on the new discovery rules, noting that the intent of the new proportionality standard is to narrow the scope of discovery. Judge Mark discussed the nuances to the changes in the appellate rules in Bankruptcy Court, and how the appellate process in Bankruptcy Court affects the District Court and the assignment of a case number.





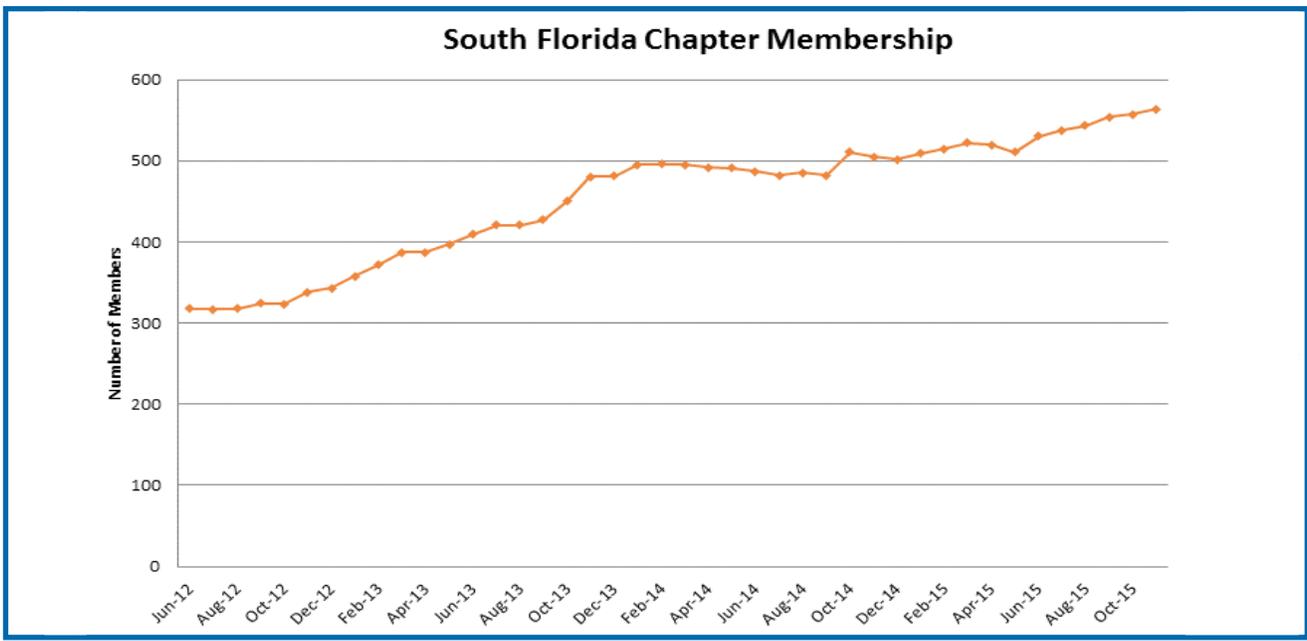
Annual Chapter Award and Installation Dinner. On September 25, 2015, at the JW Marriott Marquis, we bestowed the Chapter’s most prestigious award, the annual *Edward B. Davis Award for Service to the Federal Bench and Bar* to **Steven M. Larimore, Court Administrator – Clerk of the Court**. The award is given annually to someone who has exemplified the Chapter’s values of excellence and service to the community, the federal bench, and the federal bar. Chief Judge Moore gave a wonderful introduction to Mr. Larimore, detailing Mr. Larimore’s impressive credentials, and the amazing work he has done on behalf of the district, particularly advancing us to the forefront of 21st century technology. Mr. Larimore expressed sincere gratitude for the award, and recounted the journey to reach his position and the lessons he learned along the way. Additionally, our incoming president, Oliver A. Ruiz, and the 2015-2016 Executive Board, were sworn in, and the board presented an award of

appreciation to Bruce Yasukochi, CPA, of Cherry Bekaert, who has dedicated his time and expertise, pro bono, to the FBA, ensuring our finances are in order and that we are well positioned for future growth and success.

Boardroom Luncheon–The Honorable Robin S. Rosenbaum, U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. On September 11, 2015, the Chapter hosted United States Circuit Court Judge Robin Rosenbaum at the fourth and final “Boardroom Lunch” of the summer. The format was Q&A, and Judge Rosenbaum patiently answered numerous questions on various topics, including her work on an Independent Counsel investigation in the mid-1990s, her experience as a judge at the magistrate, district and circuit levels, and her hiring preferences for law clerks. She also shared with the attendees some of her views on effective brief writing and oral advocacy.

The Boardroom lunches are free and open only to current FBA members. Capped at 20 attendees, these lunches provide an opportunity for members to engage in a conversation with members of the judiciary and other prominent practitioners. The next round of boardroom lunches will be held during the summer of 2016.

Law Student Membership Program. On October 20, 2015, the Chapter held its Kickoff Event for its Third Annual Law Student Mentorship Program, sponsored by Batch Gastropub. The event provided local law students, judicial law clerks, attorneys and judges with an informal atmosphere to network and learn about the South Florida Chapter of the FBA. If you are interested in learning more about the Mentorship Program, please contact Yaniv Adar at yadar@homerbonner.com.



Chapter Membership Increases to 564! The South Florida Chapter is continuing its extraordinary membership growth. Since June 2012, the Chapter has increased from 318 members to 564 members, which represents a jump of 65%. With this growth, our Chapter now ranks as the 5th largest FBA chapter in the entire country.

Upcoming Events

Law Clerk/Young Lawyers
Happy Hour
Concrete Beach Brewery
January 7, 2016

FBA Luncheon
Judge Seitz, Judge Williams,
Michael Caruso
January 13, 2016

Annual Judicial Reception
Hyatt Regency
February 18, 2016

FBA Luncheon
Judge Reggie Walton
March 9, 2016

FBA Luncheon
Bruce Moyer,
FBA Gov. Relations Counsel
April 13, 2016

FBA Capitol Hill Day
May 19, 2016

Visit our website at 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

Newsletter Editors

Clayton Solomon
Joshua Migdal

Have a suggestion for future newsletter content?

Email the committee at federalbar.southflorida@gmail.com
Attn: Newsletter Committee

Law Clerk Breakfast—Role of the U.S. Marshal. On October 22nd, the Chapter's Law Clerk Committee gathered for a breakfast and guest lecture featuring Amos Rojas, Jr., U.S. Marshal for the Southern District of Florida. Chief Judge K. Michael Moore, who, prior to taking the bench, was director of the United States Marshals Service at the Department of Justice, also attended and participated in the discussion. The event provided current and former law clerks in attendance with the opportunity to meet the U.S. Marshall for the District and to learn about his role and day-to-day duties. The well-attended breakfast was held at the Miami Foundation, located just south of the Wilkie D. Ferguson Federal Courthouse.

President's Message continued

and his interrogation of Saddam Hussein; and Amy Howe, the Editor of SCOTUSblog, who returned for a fourth time to present an overview of significant cases pending before the Supreme Court of the United States. In addition, the Chapter collaborated with the Court to put on important programming regarding pro bono representation, including a presentation by Judges Seitz and Isicoff.

In addition to the general membership luncheons, we hosted intimate members-only luncheons during the summer months featuring U.S. Circuit Judge Robin Rosenbaum, U.S. District Judge Beth Bloom, and Capt. James Carlson of the U.S. Coast Guard. These were limited in size, as part of an effort to foster interaction between the speakers and the attendees. We continued to offer valuable CLE events, and our Women Lawyers Initiative continued to be a success, with CLE programs and other events that focused on women and the practice of law. In addition, our law clerks committee was very active, with social events and educational programs specifically for current and former federal law clerks, including a recent breakfast featuring U.S. Marshal Amos Rojas, Jr.

Continued Success Expected in 2016, and Opportunities for Involvement

This year is off to a great start as well. We are honored to host the Federal Bar Association's Executive Committee and the national Board of Directors in connection with their January meeting, and we want to thank the Board and its Executive Committee, including National President Mark Vincent, President-Elect Hon. Michael J. Newman, Treasurer Kip T. Bollin, and Executive Director Karen Silberman, for this wonderful opportunity. In January, we hosted a luncheon for our members regarding the CARE Reentry Court and the Clemency Project.

We are looking forward to hosting our 35th Annual Federal Judicial Reception on February 18, 2016, which promises to be another successful reception with hundreds of judges and lawyers in attendance. In March, with thanks to U.S. District Judge Donald Graham, we will be honored to have as our guest speaker U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton, of the District of Columbia, who also served as presiding judge of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. In April, we will welcome back Bruce Moyer, FBA Counsel for Government Relations, to discuss the FBA's Capitol Hill Day, which will take place on May 19, 2016, and all the issues of interest to federal practice currently pending in Congress. Please visit our website frequently, where you can register for these events, or find more information. Our site is www.fba.sd-fla.org.

There are many opportunities for further involvement in the South Florida Chapter, and I encourage you to take advantage of that. As but a few examples, you can work with one of our many committees that coordinate the important programs and events that we host every year; you can mentor a Law Student Division member; or, you can attend one of the many annual meetings hosted by the Federal Bar Association, including the Midyear Meeting in April and the Annual Meeting and Convention in September. I am confident that our Chapter will continue to grow in 2016, and would welcome you to take an active role in our Chapter's success.

On behalf of the South Florida Chapter, I want to thank you for supporting the chapter, and we look forward to seeing you at our events during the upcoming year.