

**FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION
SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER**



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CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

February 2005

Editors: AUSA Susan Biggs & Judge Pam Mathy

UPCOMING MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

Wednesday, February 9, 2005 Monthly Luncheon

WHO: Judge Lee Rosenthal, United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, Houston, Texas
WHAT: E-Discovery: How Rules Changes Can Address The Problems
WHERE: Quarry Golf Club, 444 E. Basse Road
WHEN: Wednesday, February 19, 2005 at 12:00 noon

We are very pleased to announce that the February monthly luncheon features **United States District Judge Lee Rosenthal**, Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, who will speak on one of the hot topics in federal civil procedure: "E-Discovery and How Rule Changes Can Address the Problems." Judge Rosenthal has received national recognition for her outstanding efforts on the Civil Rules Advisory Committee.

The monthly luncheon will occur on Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at 12:00 noon (registration begins at 11:30 a.m.) at the Quarry Golf Club, 444 E. Basse Road, San Antonio, Texas. The talk has been approved for .75 hours of MCLE credit. The cost of each monthly luncheon is \$16.00. Payment may be made by check or exact cash.

The website also offers a convenient means of making a reservation to attend a monthly luncheon. You may also make reservations by leaving a voice mail message at 289-0887 (24 hours/7days), through the Chapter's website at www.fedbarsatx.org, or by sending an e-mail to Chapter Secretary Bill Kirk at www.w.c.kirk@att.net. Please provide the name of each person for whom a reservation is made and your telephone number.

Up-Coming Luncheons

We are pleased to welcome **Greg Ball, Chief Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement**, as the speaker at the **Wednesday, March 9, 2005** monthly luncheon will address “Immigration Law and Homeland Security Today.”

Please watch the website for the announcement of the monthly luncheon speakers for the luncheons to be held on Wednesday, April 13, and Wednesday, May 11, 2005.

The speaker at the **Wednesday, June 8, 2005**, monthly luncheon will be **United States Bankruptcy Judge Ronald King** who will address “Trends in Bankruptcy Law.”

All monthly luncheons are held at the Quarry Golf Club, 444 E. Basse Road, San Antonio, Texas.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Friday, February 4, 2005 Mentoring Program With Fox Tech High School Girls

WHAT: Pizza Lunch and Discussion Time with Fox Tech High School 10th and 11th Grade Girls
WHERE: Adrian Spears Federal Judicial Training Center, 643 East Durango Blvd.
WHEN: Friday, February 4, 2005 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The FBA Chapter and the Bexar County Women’s Bar Association are pleased to co-sponsor again this year a pizza luncheon and discussion time with the 10th and 11th grade Fox Tech High School girls enrolled in the “Law and Research” magnet program on Friday, February 4, 2005 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Adrian Spears Judicial Training Center, located across the bricked patio from the front door to the John H. Wood Jr. United States Courthouse.

Through this program, developed with the support of U.S. Magistrate Judge Pam Mathy and U.S. Magistrate Judge Nancy Nowak, the FBA Chapter continues its support of the Texas State Bar’s initiative to work with school age children to teach the law and the importance of being a law-abiding citizen. We are pleased to work on this important project collaboratively with the Bexar County Women’s Bar Association!

The purpose of the program is to provide a forum for informal discussion about career options in the legal field with the goal for encouraging girls who may be at risk for dropping out of school to stay in school and aspire to a career in the legal field. Last year’s pizza lunch was attended by more than 90 girls and 30 women in the legal field. Women from the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Office of the Federal Public Defender, U. S. Probation Office, U.S. District Clerk’s Office, U.S. Marshal’s Office, as well as women attorneys in private practice and para-professionals spoke about career options and the struggles that many of the women overcame to achieve their career goals.

If your schedule allows it, please join us! Free parking is available at either of the two lots across from the Federal Building/Courthouse and metered parking is available along

Durango Blvd. Pizza lunch is on us! You will be seated at a table with the students who will ask you questions about why and how you decided to do what you are doing and will seek your advice on how to excel. Share your enthusiasm for education – share your dedication to our country’s legal system – share your commitment to our community! Encourage these girls to stay in school and do what it takes to succeed in spite of any pressure from peers!

Friday, March 4, 2005 Live Federal Practice Seminar

- WHAT: Federal Practice Seminar for Attorneys Seeking Admission to the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas – and for Any Attorney Who Wishes To Attend an MCLE Seminar on Federal Law and Procedure – 7.5 hours of MCLE credits, including 1.0 hour in ethics.
- WHERE: Adrian Spears Federal Judicial Training Center, 643 East Durango Blvd.
- WHEN: Friday, March 4, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Chapter is continuing to sponsor regular Federal Court Practice Seminars. The all-day Federal Court Practice Seminar covers all aspects of federal practice and meets the requirements for admission to practice in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas. The seminar also offers a great course in federal practice for any attorney, at any stage of practice, who seeks MCLE course and credits. Lunch is included, as well as the opportunity to be sworn into the bar at the end of the day. 7.5 hours of MCLE credits are awarded for attendance at the full program, including 1.0 hour in ethics. Further details may be found on the website.

PLEASE SHARE YOUR IDEAS: The Chapter welcomes any suggestions you may have on improving the Federal Practice seminar. Of course, with its goal of satisfying the requirements for admission to practice, the agenda naturally focuses on federal law substantive and procedural issues. But, increasingly, attorneys who are already licensed attend the seminar for its convenient and low-cost MCLE offerings. We desire to sponsor a conference which will be relevant both to the newly licensed and “veteran” federal court attorney. If you have any suggestions on topics, speakers, and/or format, please contact Chapter President Jay Aguilar at ja3687@txmail.sbc.com.

CARE – Credit Abuse Resistance in Education Program

The FBA Chapter is excited to sponsor this innovative new program to educate high school students about responsible use of credit. The goal of the program is to teach young people how to budget and to avoid debt. The first presentation of the program occurred at Fox Tech High School on January 6, 2005 and then a second presentation on January 12, 2005. FBA member Paul Rosenbaum, Board members Vienna Gerlach, Beth Smith, and Jane Thomson have worked to provide a program that is interesting and informative to high school juniors and seniors who are at risk to being solicited by credit card companies. More presentations at different high schools are being planned. If you are interested in participating in a live presentation to a group of high school students, please contact Immediate Past President Beth Smith at bsmith@davis-opper.com. or 2002-03 Past President Vienna Gerlach at 344-7716.

PAST PROGRAMS

The Chapter has been very busy these past months, thanks to the energy and dedication of the Officers, Directors, and members of the Chapter! Thank you to all who contributed to the work of the Chapter, by planning, supporting, and attending Chapter functions! Recent programs include:

Recent Past Monthly Luncheons

We have continued our schedule of monthly luncheons to provide a pleasant venue to see friends, meet new people, exchange Chapter news and meet high standards for continuing education! Our members receive more than 8 hours of CLE credit each year just by joining us for lunch! We have had some great speakers, addressing timely topics, including:

October 13, 2004: **Richard Durbin**, Chief, Criminal Division, United States Attorney's Office – "The United States Supreme Court's Decision In Blakely And its Impact In Sentencing Hearings In Federal Court."

November 10, 2004: **Hon. Edward C. Prado, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit** – "A View From the Fifth Circuit." The FBA Chapter was pleased to co-sponsor this outstanding program with the San Antonio Bar Association's Appellate Law Section.

December 8, 2004: **Hon. W. Royal Furgeson, Jr., United States District Court for the Western District of Texas** – "Judicial Funding."

January 12, 2005: **Professor Reynaldo A. Valencia, St. Mary's University School of Law** – "Executive Compensation: Is There A Federal Question?"

Region X Moot Court Competition

Our Chapter co-sponsored the Region X Moot Court competition held on November 11 and November 12, 2005 in the John H. Wood Jr. United States Courthouse. More than 40 Chapter members, local attorneys, and judges generously served as volunteer judges to judge the highest ranking student team at participating law schools in Region X, to include teams from law schools in Texas and Oklahoma. The moot court problem this year featured cutting-edge issues in federal criminal law and procedure. The final round competition was judged by United States District Judge Xavier Rodriguez, Texas Supreme Court Justice Paul Green, United States Magistrate Judge Pam Mathy, Richard Durbin (Criminal Chief at the United States Attorney's Office) and Donna Coltharp (Appellate Attorney at the Federal Public Defender's Office). The team from South Texas School of Law was selected as the winning team, with the team from St. Mary's School of Law selected as the runner-up. Both teams will advance to the National Moot Court championship rounds to be held in New York City. During the competition, the school affiliations of the competing student teams was not disclosed to the judges.

COOPERATION WITH ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

Our Chapter takes special pride in our continued efforts to work cooperatively with St. Mary's University School of Law. We are most interested in helping law students become successful members of our legal community as well as helping to break down any "mystery" associated with federal practice.

We are pleased that St. Mary's Law Student Brenda Ryan has joined our Chapter as a law student liaison member.

WANT TO HELP?

> The Chapter is active and has many "irons in the fire." There are many opportunities for you to get involved and serve the bar and the community! Please feel free to contact Chapter President Jay Aguilar or any officer or board member to find ways to participate or offer suggestions on how the Chapter might better serve its members, the bar, and the community.

> The Chapter has the following committees, each of which has projects "in the works." If you are interested in becoming more involved, please contact any of the persons below:

Young Lawyers/Law Student	David Rivela	281-7619
Judicial Relations	John Paniszczyn	384-7325
Programs	Susan Biggs	384-7351
Community Outreach	Beth Smith	731-9177
Membership	Jane Thomson	967-7050
Newsletter	Susan Biggs/Judge Pam Mathy	384-7351/472-6350

> We are in need of a person to assist our web master, Maury Deaver, with the maintenance of our Chapter's website. If you have the know-how to assist us in this important task and are able to help up, please contact Jay Aguilar at ja3687@txmail.sbc.com. or Maury Deaver at maurice.deaver@us.army.mil.

PLEASE UP-DATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

We use e-mail and facsimile services to disseminate information about FBA Chapter activities. Please provide us with any changes in your contact information – to include: e-mail address, facsimile number, telephone number(s), and mailing address – by updating your membership information on the Chapter website at www.fedbarsatx.org.

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN YOUR CHAPTER?

The Chapter Newsletter is distributed only a few times each year. Your Chapter website, located at www.satxfedbar.org is one of the best Chapter websites in the country! With your help, the website is up-dated regularly and provides an easy means to register for events, contact Officers or Directors, or learn about up-coming programs!