



**THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS
SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER**

P.O. Box 460878

San Antonio, Texas 78246

<http://www.fedbarsatx.org>

February 2004

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UPCOMING LUNCHEONS AND PROGRAMS

Wednesday, February 11, 2004 Monthly Luncheon

The February monthly luncheon features Lt. Colonel Flora Darpino from Ft. Hood, Texas who will speak on "Law in the Iraqi Battlefield." The February luncheon will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2004 at 12:00 noon 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 give the name of each person for whom a reservation is made and your telephone number.

Up-Coming Luncheons

Cynthia Orr and Gerald Goldstein of Goldstein, Goldstein and Hilley will speak on the Patriot Act at our **Wednesday, March 10, 2004** luncheon. Please plan to join us to hear Ms. Orr and Mr. Goldstein speak on this timely topic.

The speaker at the **Wednesday, April 14, 2004**, monthly luncheon will be Clerk of the U.S. District Court, William Putnicki who will address the future of e-filing. All monthly luncheons are held at the Quarry Golf Club, 444 E. Basse Road, San Antonio, Texas.

Friday, May 21, 2004 Federal Practice Seminar

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 refresher 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. The next Federal Court Practice Seminar will be held on Friday, May 21, 2004. Further details may be found on the website.

ON-GOING PROJECT – PRO SE HANDBOOK

The Chapter is working cooperatively with the United States District Clerk's Office to prepare a Pro Se Litigant Handbook, containing helpful procedural advice and instructions for pro se litigants. If you litigate cases against pro se parties or if you represent individuals who may have filed a suit pro se, you may have suggestions on directions and procedural advice to be included in the Handbook. If so or if you otherwise would like to be included in the committee of lawyers reviewing the draft Handbook, please contact U.S. Magistrate Judge Pam Mathy, Chapter Board Member and Chair of this project at 472-6350 or pamela_mathy@txwd.uscourts.gov. Your participation is most welcome!

PROPOSED FBA CHAPTER IN EL PASO

In January, 2004, President Beth Smith, Board Member AUSA Susan Biggs, Board Member Ron Ederer and former San Antonio Board member Selena Solis met in El Paso, Texas to attend a Brown Bag Seminar sponsored by the El Paso District and Magistrate Judges. We were given an opportunity to encourage attorneys to re-activate the El Paso Chapter prior to the mid-year meeting. Our Chapter's former Board member, Selena Solis, now an Assistant Federal Public Defender in El Paso, is spear-heading this effort in El Paso. Our chapter has pledged to assist local El Paso attorneys in organizing and re-activating the El Paso Chapter. If you are interested in helping, please contact President Beth Smith.

PEACEMAKER'S DINNER

On February 20, 2003, we will again help sponsor the Peacemaker's Dinner as a result of a direct donation to the "Amigos in Mediation" peer mediation training program. The Amigos in Mediation program teaches school faculties and students ways to resolve disputes and conflicts without violence or humiliation.

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:

United States District Judges Dinner

On January 29, 2004, along with the Federal Courts Committee of the San Antonio Bar Association, the Chapter co-sponsored a dinner hosted by United States District Judge Royal Furgeson which was held at the Club Giraud for approximately 30 visiting United States Circuit Court and United States District Court Judges from around the country who were attending a case-weighting conference in San Antonio. The dinner provided members the opportunity to interact with the visiting judges on an informal basis and visit about issues of national concern.

Celebrate Freedom Week

Pizza Mentoring Event

The FBA Chapter continued its support of Texas Celebrate Freedom Week in Texas public schools as a part 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. Chapter Board member and U.S. Magistrate Judge Pam Mathy and U.S. Magistrate Judge Nancy Nowak helped work with the bar associations and school to develop and sustain this program through which female high school students at Fox Tech High School, a law magnet school in downtown San Antonio, are brought to the Judicial Training Center and given an opportunity to visit and hear women who work in the legal field talk about their career. On December 2, 2003, more than 90 girls and 30 women in the legal profession attended a pizza luncheon and mentoring event for all 9th and 10th graders at Fox Tech High. The event provided a forum for informal discussion about career options 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. The program is geared to encourage the girls to stay in school and do what it takes to succeed in spite of pressure from peers. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event an outstanding success!

Celebrate Freedom Week Books

In addition, through the initiative of President Beth Smith, the Chapter mailed out copies of the State Bar of Texas law-related book for Celebrate Freedom Week to each of the 102 3rd grade classes in each of the 81 private schools in the San Antonio area. The State Bar had distributed the booklet to each public school in the area. The Chapter's efforts made sure that the private schools were included in the effort! The books were a part of the State Bar's initiative to educate school age children on becoming knowledgeable about the law and becoming law-abiding citizens.

Recent Past Monthly Luncheons

We have continued our schedule of monthly luncheons. Our members receive more than 8 hours of CLE credit each year just by joining us for lunch! We have had some great speakers, including:

January 14, 2004: **Mark Greenwald**, Tinsman Scott & Sciano, Can A Judge Say That – Judicial Free Speech Issues

December 17, 2003: **U. S. Magistrate Judge John W. Primomo**, The Civil War: Historical and Legal Perspectives

November 19, 2003: **Professor Norma Cantu**, School of Law, University of Texas-Austin, What's New with Title IX? Professor Cantu has distinguished credentials, including eight years of service as the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U. S. Department of Education

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.

Our October 2003 monthly luncheon continued our recent tradition of honoring the St. Mary's first year law student who received the highest grade in federal civil procedure with a cash award. We are pleased that Ms. Erin Lucke and Mr. Farr Ricker, St. Mary's Law Students, have joined our Chapter as law student liaison members.

Mock Trial Competition

Our Chapter co-sponsored St. Mary's University Law School Mock Trial Competition and Chapter members served as judges in preliminary rounds held January 26 - January 29, 2004, and final rounds held February 2 - February 4, 2004. The Chapter is pleased to acknowledge the successful students through its sponsorship of the awards. The Chapter will present a plaque and cash award to the prevailing team and a cash award to the best speaker!

Mr. Jim Ho, Chief Counsel to Senator Cornyn to Speak

On February 19, 2004, the Chapter will help Dean Piatt and St. Mary's School of Law welcome Mr. Jim Ho, Chief Counsel to Senator John Cornyn, who will be speaking on Presidential Succession in the Alumni Room of the Law Library at St. Mary's School of Law from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 noon. Pizza will be served!

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! We welcome your participation! Please feel free to contact Chapter President Beth Smith at bsmith@davis-opper.com, or any Chapter Officer or Director, to find ways to participate or offer suggestions on how the Chapter might better serve its members, the bar, and the community.

NEED 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! It is up-dated regularly and provides an easy means to register for events, contact Officers or Directors, or learn about up-coming programs!