



THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION NEWS

SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER

**P.O. Box 460878
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March 2006
1998 Host National Convention

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www.fedbarsatx.org

Upcoming Luncheons and Programs

April 12, 2006 - 11:45 - Regular monthly luncheon at the Quarry Golf Club, 444 E. Basse Road. This month we will have a very special presentation by our own Diego Pena, General Counsel at AT&T. Diego has done some research on the first - - and only --judge of the U. S. District Court for the District of Texas, Judge John Charles Waltrous. You will hear about politics, impeachment proceedings, recusal, and questionable land dealings. You'll also learn how the Western District of Texas was created. MCLE credit has been approved in the amount of .75 hours. The CLE is free. Lunch is \$16.00.

May 18, 2006 (tentative) - Reception at the John H. Wood United States Courthouse to celebrate our rejuvenated Art in the Courthouse Project. We have enlisted the cooperation of several local museums and galleries to display artwork on the walls of the courthouse. This will be your chance to see the new work and to enjoy a social with the judges and courthouse personnel.

May 24, 2006 - Special monthly luncheon at the Quarry Golf Club honoring our military membership. The Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces will be coming in from Washington, DC to speak to us. Judge H.F. "Sparky" Gierke has been on that court since 1991 and has been Chief Judge since October 1,

2004. His distinguished background includes serving with the Judge Advocate General's Corps as a military judge, being President of the State Bar of North Dakota, and being both appointed and elected as Justice of the North Dakota Supreme Court. We will be meeting on the fourth, rather than second Wednesday of the month in order to host this special presentation. MCLE credit has been approved in the amount of .75 hours. Again, the CLE is free, and the lunch is \$16.00.

June 2, 2006 - Federal Court Practice Seminar - an all day seminar for attorneys seeking admission to practice in Western District of Texas, seeking to update their federal litigation skills, or seeking good CLE credit. Check out our website for detailed information. The seminar will be held at the Judicial Training Center on E. Durango Boulevard. You get 7.75 hours of CLE (including 1 hour ethics). The fee is on a sliding scale, depending upon length of practice and whether or not an FBA member. Lunch is included, as well as the opportunity to be sworn in on the spot and be given a tour of the federal courthouse.

Outside San Antonio, but either "close enough" or worthy of travel:

Jobs for JAGS: Transitioning to Civilian Practice, April 28, 2006, The Army and Navy Club of Washington, DC. Contact Commander Jeffrey Good, jgood@comdt.uscg.mil.

The Big (not So) Easy: How Recent Litigation Trends Have Affected the Handling of Federal Criminal Cases, May 11-12, 2006, New Orleans. Check the FBA national website, www.fedbar.org/calendar.

FBA Midyear Meeting, March 17-18, 2006, FBA Headquarters and Westin Grand Hotel, Washington, DC. Check FBA national website.

FBA Annual Meeting and Convention, August 23-26, JW Marriott Las Vegas. Check FBA national website.

News Bits:

Electronic Filing Postponed in Western District

The Western District of Texas has postponed implementation of Case Management/Electronic Case Filing (CM/ECF) until June 1st. Stay tuned to the district's Internet website at www.txwd.uscourts.gov for the most current information.

Fifth Circuit has new mailing address

Effective April 24, 2006, the mailing address for the Clerk's Office will be 600 S. Maestri Place, New Orleans, LA 70130. All items expected to be delivered on or after April 24th must be sent to the new address.

National Clearinghouse for Science, Technology and the Law

This organization, housed at Stetson University College of Law and supported by a grant from the National Institute of Justice, is something you need to learn about. The Federal Lawyer carried an extensive article about it in its August 2005 issue, but here is a thumbnail sketch: NCSTL has a searchable online database of case law, journals, reports, and resources concerning law and science. It will be of particular interest to judges, lawyers, scientists, and law enforcement personnel who need to be up to date on legal challenges to scientific and technological matters such as fingerprints, tool marks, digital image enhancement, document examination, and trace evidence such as hairs and fibers. The "CSI Effect" has created unrealistic expectations on the part of juries, and this database can help bridge the gap between reality and what jurors see on TV. The database is accessible at www.ncstl.org, and it's free. There is a registration process which enables the saving and retrieving of past searches.