



August-September
2009

The Federal Bar Association News

San Antonio Chapter

President's Corner

by Meagan M. Gillette

Let me be the first to welcome all of our members to the 2009-2010 term of the San Antonio Chapter of the FBA! As many of you know, the Chapter's calendar year lasts from July 1 to June 30. Consequently, the Chapter's new officers were elected at our June membership luncheon. The officers for the 2009-2010 term are Meagan Gillette, President; David Rivela, President-Elect and National Delegate; Miguel Villarreal, Vice-President; Dawn Knepper, Treasurer; and Jeff Bizon, Secretary. I encourage you to share with the officers or board members any ideas or thoughts you may have to improve the Chapter or its services.

In the coming year, it is my hope that the Chapter's activities and services to its members will be guided by the goal of increasing membership involvement. Many, if not most, of the Chapter's members are well acquainted with our member luncheon program which features high quality speakers from an array of federal practice areas. However, some members may be surprised to learn that the Chapter is also involved in a variety of other projects that enhance the professional growth of members of the federal legal profession and promote the high standards of the federal legal profession in our local community.

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2000-10 Officers & Directors:

President

Meagan M. Gillette
(210) 554-5503

President Elect

David Rivela
(210) 281-7619

Vice President

Miguel Villarreal
(210) 886-9500

Treasurer

Dawn M. Knepper
(210) 354-3611

Secretary

Jeff Bizon
(210) 554-5524

Past Presidents

William C. Kirk
J. Todd Hedgepeth
Hon. Pamela Mathy

Board of Directors

Gary L. Anderson
Simon Azar-Farr
Paul D. Barkhurst
Col Maurice A. Deaver, Jr, USAF (Ret)
Col John J. Franco, Jr, USAF (Ret)
Joan K.F. Gluys
Travis Headley
Mary Lou Holmgreen
Leslie Sara Hyman
Susan Cone Kilgore
Hon. Ronald B. King
John Paniszczyn
Kay M. Perry
William G. Putnicki
Nancy H. Reyes
Hon. Xavier Rodriguez
Brenda C. Ryan
Jane H. Thomson

Only a few days left—don't miss your chance to win \$3,000!

Your colleagues are referring members to the Federal Bar Association through our 2009 Member Get-A-Member campaign—are you? Don't miss your chance to win up to \$3,000 in cash prizes in the form of debit cards! To be eligible for this campaign, **membership applications must be received in the FBA office via e-mail, mail, or fax before August 14, 2009.** [View full rules and regulations.](#) Be sure your new members include your name on the application as their "Referring Member"! Send your colleagues to the [online application](#) today, or they can download a printable PDF application at www.fedbar.org/connect09.pdf. For more information, contact the FBA at (571) 481-9100 or membership@fedbar.org.

**Additional Contact
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<http://www.fedbarsatx.org>

National Website:

<http://www.fedbar.org/>

General Information:

president@fedbarsatx.org

Membership:

membership@fedbarsatx.org

**Moved or Need
to Update Your
Contact
Information?**

Update your
information at
the Federal Bar
Association
website at
[www.fedbar.org/
update.html](http://www.fedbar.org/update.html)

Upcoming CLEs & Luncheons:

Chapter Luncheons

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12TH, 11:50 A.M.

Judge Alia Ludlum, Western District of Texas (Del Rio), will give us her "Views from the Bench."

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 11:50 A.M.

Henry Bemporad (Federal Public Defender, Western District of Texas) and John Convery (Convery & Hasdorff) will speak on "Criminal Appointments in Federal Court."

Make your reservations on the chapter website at www.fedbarsatx.org. For each meeting, the chapter will apply for 0.75 hours of SBOT MCLE credit (unless otherwise indicated).

Federal Court Practice Seminar

SEPTEMBER 18TH, 8:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

The Federal Court Practice Seminar is a prerequisite for admission to practice in the Western District of Texas.

Registration forms and fee information is on our website at <http://www.fedbarsatx.org/events/fedcourt.shtml>. **Five hours of SBOT MCLE credit**, including **1 hour of ethics credit**, will be awarded. (Additional future course dates are February 5, 2010, and May 7, 2010.)

Discover

Oklahoma City

at the

**2009 Federal Bar Association
Annual Meeting and Convention
September 10–12**

CLE programs include sessions featuring **Charles Ogletree**, Jesse Climenko professor of law and director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School, and **Erwin Chemerinsky**, founding dean of the University of California, Irvine School of Law.

For details, visit <http://www.fedbar.org/OK-brochure.pdf>.

What's up with Constitution Day?

Save the date - Thursday, September 17, 2009 - Constitution Day. Across the U.S., schools will commemorate the creation and signing of the supreme law of the land and to honor and celebrate the privileges and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.

Here in San Antonio, the FBA has teamed up with the San Antonio Bar Association to bring our Constitution Day program to high schools. Uncle Sam, and especially the FBA, wants YOU to volunteer your time to help present our program. Your time commitment is small: We will connect you with an existing team, your team leader will review the program materials with you, and you will participate for a couple of hours at a high school on September 17. Your rewards are great: helping our future leaders understand their responsibilities as citizens of their communities and the United States.

Here's how to volunteer. Contact the FBA's Community Outreach Chair, Susan Kilgore at 210-778-2663 or susan@skilgore.com. The FBA is committed to providing volunteer attorneys for this project, so contact Susan today.

Paralegal of the Year Award

The Paralegal Division of the State Bar, the South Texas Organization of Paralegals, and the Alamo Area Paralegal Association are sponsoring a Joint Paralegal Day luncheon on October 23, 2009. As in years past, the organizations would like to recognize an outstanding paralegal in the San Antonio community by presenting him/her with the Paralegal of the Year award. **The deadline for submitting nominations is September 14, 2009. The nomination form is attached as the last page of this newsletter.** Please direct any questions to Linda Rumsey (lrumsey@coxsmith.com; (210) 554-5471).

Membership Report

We want to extend a sincere "welcome" to new member **Mark Fassold**! We are very pleased to have you as part of our organization.

Government Contracting Committee Meetings

The FBA Government Contracting Committee does not have luncheons currently scheduled, but is busy planning future meetings and speakers. If you have any topic and/or speaker suggestions, please contact committee Chair Joan Kelley Fowler Gluys at jgluys@dulske-gluys.com or (210) 524-3821.

The Federal Lawyer Seeks Authors for Judicial Profiles

The Federal Lawyer, the magazine of the national Federal Bar Association, is always looking for people to write judicial profiles. This is a great opportunity to be published! For details, please see <http://www.fedbar.org/magazine.html>.

President's Corner, continued:

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For instance, three times per year the Chapter sponsors the Federal Court Practice Seminar which provides local practitioners with 5 hours of CLE (including 1 hour of ethics) training on federal practice and satisfies one of the requirements for admission to practice before the Western District of Texas. Every year the Chapter also sponsors advocacy competitions and scholarship programs at St. Mary's School of Law, rewarding top advocacy teams and high achieving students in federal civil procedure and criminal law with cash awards. The Chapter also conducts a mentorship program that matches Chapter members with law students interested in learning more from federal practitioners. Each year our Community Outreach Committee sponsors several outreach activities geared towards educating middle school and high school students about the federal courts and federal legal professionals, including, for instance, a lunch for young women enrolled in the Law Magnet Program at Fox Tech High School where women legal professionals have the opportunity to mentor the young women and share advice for pursuing careers in the legal profession.

These are just a few of the programs in which the Chapter is involved throughout the year. The Chapter is always looking for members to volunteer their time and talents to the variety of programs it sponsors. I encourage you over the next year to attend our monthly member luncheon, review our newsletter, and find an event or program that interests you. The contact information for committee chairpersons is located below. We look forward to hearing from you!

Get More Involved!

The Chapter supports its on-going projects through the committees and sections, led by the chairs listed below. This is a great time to become more involved as we begin the 2009-2010 bar year! Get to know the great members of our Chapter and work on worthwhile programs that help your colleagues and the community.

CLE Coordinator:	Susan Biggs	384-7255	Susan.Biggs@usdoj.gov
Community Outreach Committee:	Susan Kilgore	320-2749	susan@skilgore.com
Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center:	John Franco	277-3600	jjfrancotx@sbcglobal.net
Federal Court Practice Seminar Committee:	Jane Thomson	967-7050	jane.thomson@dhs.gov
Government Contracting Committee:	Joan K.F. Gluys	524-3821	jgluys@dulske-gluys.com
Judicial Relations Committee:	John Paniszczyn	384-7325	john.paniszczyn@usdoj.gov
Membership Committee:	(Open Position)		
Military Relations Committee:	Maury Deaver	221-7894	maurice.deaver@amedd.army.mil
Newsletter Committee:	Kay Perry	287-4348	perryk3@uthscsa.edu
Nominations and Elections Committee:	John Paniszczyn	384-7325	john.paniszczyn@usdoj.gov
Open Doors to the Federal Courthouse	Hal Atkinson		atkinsons@satx.rr.com
Program and CLE Committee:	Meagan Gillette	554-5503	mgillette@coxsmith.com
Web Site Coordinator:	Nathan Roach	880-5169	nroach@cirruslaw.com
Young Lawyers and Law Students			
Committee & St. Mary's Univ.	Travis Headley	286-5449	proximmaximus@gmail.com
School of Law Student Liaisons:	Laura M. Clark	554-5357	lclark1@mail.stmarytx.edu

(Area Code is 210 for all numbers)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2009 PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR

The Paralegal of the Year program has been adopted to honor an outstanding paralegal from San Antonio. This is not a popularity contest, but rather an award to a paralegal based on fair and impartial judging by a three person panel.

Below are the requirements for nomination and a nomination ballot. Each nominee's employer will be notified and will be asked to prepare a letter of recommendation reflecting his/her qualifications, experience, professionalism and the importance of his/her position in the firm.

The winner will be announced at the Paralegal Day luncheon on October 23, 2009. Please give serious consideration to those paralegals who have served well and worked hard this past year.

PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR PROCEDURE

Requirements for nominations:

1. Paralegal must be a voting member of either AAPA, STOP or PD.
2. Paralegal must have at least five (5) years of legal experience.

Notification process:

Each nominee will be notified upon receipt of ballot. Each person is then required to furnish the contact person the name of his/her supervising attorney who will be contacted to provide a letter of recommendation.

BALLOT FOR PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR 2009

NAME: _____

FIRM: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

Forward to: Linda M. Rumsey, ACP
Litigation Paralegal
Cox Smith Matthews, Inc.
112 E. Pecan St., Suite 1800
San Antonio, Texas 78205
210.554.5471
lrumsey@coxsmith.com

DEADLINE FOR ALL BALLOTS IS SEPTEMBER 14, 2009