



Chattanooga Hosts “Open” Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference

by James W. Satola

Chattanooga, Tenn., played host to the 68th Conference of the Sixth Judicial Circuit of the United States, better known as the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference, this past May 7-10. For those who may not be familiar with the tradition of the judicial conferences, Section 333 of Title 28 of the U.S. Code provides that:

The Chief Judge of each circuit may summon biennially, and may summon annually, the circuit, district, and bankruptcy judges of the circuit . . . to a conference at a time and place that he designates, for the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within such circuit.

But these judicial conferences are not just for the judges. While every other year’s conference is a “judges only” conference, in the even years the judicial conference is an open conference, which allows lawyers practicing within the circuit and other guests to attend, as provided by the same statute (“The court of appeals for each circuit shall provide by its rules for representation and active participation at such conference by members of the bar of such circuit”). The Sixth Circuit’s rule is Rule 205.

Prior to 2000, the only members of the bar invited to attend were those persons specifically appointed as delegates by either the Chief Judge or one of the circuit judges (two delegates each) or by one of the district judges within the circuit (one each). Beginning with the 2000 conference, however, the invitation list was expanded to include, “Any attorney admitted to practice in one or more federal courts of this Circuit” (Sixth Cir. R. 205(c) (8)). Needless to say, this change has allowed so many more of us who practice regularly in our federal courts to attend the conference. Attendance

at the conferences offers a great opportunity for members of the bar to meet the judges of our circuit and the various districts within our circuit, as well as our fellow federal practitioners, in a collegial and social setting.

For the attorney attendees, the conference opened on Wednesday evening, May 7, with a reception held at the Chattanooga Convention Center (for the judges and officers of the circuit and district courts, the reception marked the culmination of a day of meetings). The formal opening of the conference began the next morning with Chief Circuit Judge Danny Boggs’ welcoming remarks to the gathered attendees. Then, in what has become a tradition at the conference, the program was turned over to renowned Duke University Law School Professor Erwin Chemerinsky, who gave (as always) a memorable and highly entertaining—and extemporaneous—rundown of the highlights from this year’s Supreme Court term. To those who have seen Prof. Chemerinsky’s presentation at past conferences or other presentations, you know how captivating it is. To those who have not, it is a worthwhile thing to see. The first day’s formal presentations closed with a program titled, “The Federalization of Election Law,” presented by David Boies, of Boies, Shiller, and Flexner LLP (and of *Bush v. Gore* fame), and Prof. Edward Foley, director of election law at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Following the morning’s programs, the attendees had the opportunity to take advantage of Chattanooga’s sights and activities, including, for many, a tour of the area’s historic Civil War battlefields. For others, it was golf at the legendary Honors Course or the Chattanooga Golf and Country Club. And for yet others, it was simply taking in the sights Chattanooga has to offer, including a thriving arts district and many museums. Later that evening, many of the attendees took part in the Life Members Reception at the Tennessee Aquarium.

The next day offered what many thought was the most entertaining program of the three-day conference, “The Jimmy Hoffa Trial,” which recounted the events of the famous jury tampering trial held in Chattanooga in January 1964. The program brought together the key players of the event (except for Mr. Hoffa, of course), including lead prosecutor James F. Neal; Chattanooga defense attorney Marvin B. Berke (who, along with his father Harry Burke, represented Hoffa at the trial);



James W. Satola is a senior attorney with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P., as well as a past president and current board member of the FBA Northern District of Ohio Chapter.

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The President's Corner: Our Year So Far

by *Anthony J. LaCerva*

This is a report to our board and our membership on our progress in advancing the mission of the Northern District of Ohio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association and on addressing the challenges I discussed last fall.

I frequently remind myself of our mission. It is: "to advance the science of jurisprudence and to promote the welfare, interest, education, and professional growth and development of the members of the federal legal profession." I also have revisited over the year the three concerns I expressed when I was sworn in as chapter president last October. Those were:

- The possibility that our attorneys were getting too little experience in matters before the courts;
- The sense that a strain on our practices due to increased competition for business has hindered civility among our practitioners; and
- The need to do even more to strengthen the relationship between the judiciary and practicing attorneys in our district.

I promised last fall that we would take some initiatives and sponsor some activities to help us deal with these concerns. I like to think that we have taken steps to fulfill our mission and to address the challenges I identified. Credit goes to our capable officers and talented board members, especially those who chaired chapter committees or handled special projects. I want to describe a few of our chapter activities to date.

We sought to advance the mission of our association. To help us do so we established two new board committees. The first is the Board Development Committee, which is charged with formulating and implementing ideas for the enhancement of the experience of our board and chapter members. We hope that we will facilitate a greater understanding of the functions and responsibilities of our board members to enhance their skills in rendering services to our chapter and to our community. The second is our National Relations Committee. This committee is charged with the functions of serving as the principle bridge between our chapter and our national organization and of exploring opportunities for utilizing the resources of the national organization for the benefit of our members. I think both of these committees should serve our organization well in the years to come.

We have put in place activities to impart knowledge to our members on how to be better practitioners. Specifically, we have held or will hold several seminars on numerous areas of substantive federal law, including bankruptcy litigation, labor and employment, intellectual property and advanced federal practice. In August we will hold a seminar showcasing real hands-on courtroom practice and featuring some of our area's "Iron Lawyers." A new program for our chapter, held this June, introduced new practitioners to our federal judges, law clerks and the clerk's office, as well as our new courthouse. Moreover, our fine newsletter has illuminated our readers with extremely high quality (law review caliber) articles and other informative pieces.

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Northern District of Ohio Chapter**
www.fba-ndohio.org
(877) 322-6364

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We have reached out to members of the bar in northern Ohio in an effort to improve the quality of relations among our practitioners. In particular, we have sought and achieved more active involvement in our organization from lawyers in smaller firms and from members of the criminal defense bar, segments of our practicing bar that may have previously been underrepresented. We have instituted breakfast networking sessions designed to allow local practitioners to exchange information about their practices and eventually to refer business to each other. By these undertakings and activities we have sought to promote both enjoyable and productive relationships among practitioners.

We continue to strive to be the organization for the lawyer who practices in federal court. The more help we receive from practitioners in our district the more I am sure we can accomplish our goals.

Finally, we have sought to continue to enhance the relationship between the federal bench and bar. We have hosted brown bag lunches with numerous federal judicial officers and have scheduled several more brown bag lunches in the months to follow, including a luncheon with Judge Kathleen O'Malley scheduled for July 2, 2008. We again held our extremely successful summer associate reception at the Rock Bottom Brewery on July 9, 2008. This was an excellent opportunity to socialize with our federal judiciary. Finally, planning for our third annual State of the Court Luncheon is under way, and the event will be held on Sept. 22, 2008. Get your seats early as we expect another capacity crowd gathered to hear about developments in our district over the past year.

While I am pleased that we have made progress in advancing our mission and in making the Northern District of Ohio an even more fulfilling place to practice law, opportunities abound to do even more. Our goals as an organization are to continue the great events and practices that we have implemented in the past and to create new and different events and practices to be held in the years ahead, all to fulfill both the needs and wants of the federal practitioners in our district. We continue to strive to be the organization for the lawyer who practices in federal court. The more help we receive from practitioners in our district, the more I am sure we can accomplish our goals.

To learn more about what we have done this year and have planned for the months ahead, see our excellent and up-to-date Web site at www.fedbar.org/ndohio. From there, please click on the link in the upper left-hand corner for www.fbandohio.org, then let me know how you would like to get involved.



Anthony LaCerva is a shareholder in the litigation department of McDonald Hopkins Co., LPA. He began his career as a law clerk for the Hon. Robert E. DeMascio of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge DeMascio held motion day every Friday afternoon. This was the unrivaled highlight of the work week for both Judge DeMascio and his staff.

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Federal Bar Association

2215 M Street, N.W. ,
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 785-1614
(202) 785-1568 (fax)
fba@fedbar.org

Programs and Services

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Clerk's Corner

by Geri M. Smith

Attorneys advised to ensure documents are properly redacted

The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has asked clerks of courts throughout the federal judiciary to inform the local bar of this issue. They report as follows:

A recent article in the *Connecticut Law Tribune* pointed out the continued problem of improper redaction techniques by attorneys and other end users. The *Tribune* reported that lawyers for General Electric improperly “redacted” information from pleadings filed with the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut. These documents then were available on PACER, where someone simply copied the black bars covering the text and pasted them into a Word document. The underlying sensitive information (metadata) then was visible

The existence of metadata in electronic documents requires more sophisticated redaction techniques than simply highlighting text in black. The highlighter function in Adobe creates a black box over the data, but it merely hides the data. While the “redacted” information is unreadable, the metadata is still imbedded in the document. As counsel found out, anyone can copy the black box, paste it into a word-processing document, and the information under the black box appears. Changing the font color for the redactable information to white also is not effective. Again, the words in the document are not readable, but a savvy user can highlight the blank-looking area, change the text color, and read the “redacted” information

Fortunately, there are effective means of eliminating this metadata from electronic documents. The simplest method is to omit the information from the original document. For example, a Social Security number can be included as XXX-XX-1234. Commercially-available software also can be used to redact, not just hide, the sensitive information. Redax from Appligent is one commercial

product widely used by federal agencies. Adobe Acrobat 8.0 Professional is another commercial product with a robust and effective redaction tool that scrubs the metadata and other information from the document. The Northern District of California has posted helpful information about redaction on its public Web site at: <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cand/faq/tips/redacting.htm>.

CM/ECF—United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit went “live” with CM/ECF on June 1, 2008.

New name for U.S. courthouse—Toledo, Ohio

On June 24, 2008, the U.S. Senate passed H.R. 3712, a bill to designate the U.S. courthouse located at 1716 Speilbusch Avenue in Toledo, Ohio, as the “James M. Ashley and Thomas W.L. Ashley United States Courthouse.” This bill had already passed the House and is therefore now cleared for the President to sign into law.

New MDL action pending—In re: Heparin Products

On June 6, 2009, the Judicial Panel on Multi-District Litigation ordered the transfer of actions pending outside the Northern District of Ohio transferred to the Northern District of Ohio, with the consent of our court, and assigned to the Chief Judge James G. Carr for coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings with the actions already pending there. The judicial panel was persuaded that the Northern District of Ohio was an appropriate transferee district for this litigation, noting that seven of the 23 known actions were pending in this district mostly before Chief Judge Carr who has the time to devote to this docket.

Six other MDL actions previously transferred by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation to the Northern District of Ohio over the last several years are as follows:

- Judge Peter C. Economus (MDL 1561)—Travel Agent Commission
- Judge David A. Katz (MDL 1742)—Ortho-McNeil

- Judge Kathleen M. O'Malley (MDL 1401)—Sulzer
- Judge Kathleen M. O'Malley (MDL 1490)—Commercial Money Center
- Judge Kathleen M. O'Malley (MDL 1535)—Welding Rod
- Judge Dan Aaron Polster (MDL 1909)—Gadolinium Contrast Dyes

Electronic availability of transcripts of court proceedings

Transcripts of proceedings before the U.S. district judges and magistrate judges in the Northern District of Ohio taken by official court reporters, contract court reporters and electronic court recorder operators (ECRO) are now being filed with the court in electronic format. Electronic transcripts, once ordered and when produced by the court reporter/ECRO, will be e-filed and available for viewing at the clerk's office public terminal, but may NOT be copied nor reproduced by the clerk's office for a period of 90 days. If there are no redactions to be made, the restrictions will be removed after the 90-day period. The transcript will then be available remotely to view, download or print a copy from PACER at \$.08 cents per page, or from the clerk's office public terminal at a rate of \$.10 per page. During the initial 90 days after the transcript is e-filed, individuals wishing to purchase a copy of a transcript—in either paper or electronic form—must do so through the court reporter. Once an attorney on the case has purchased a transcript, the court reporter/ECRO will notify the clerk's office so the attorney will be given access to the transcript through the court's ECF system.

This will apply to all transcripts of proceedings or parts of proceedings ordered on or after this date, regardless of when the proceeding occurred. Please read this policy carefully. This policy establishes a procedure for counsel to request the redaction from the transcript of specific personal data identifiers before the transcript is made electronically available to the general public.

Whenever an official transcript of a proceeding has been filed by the official court reporter, contract reporter or ECRO, a Notice of Filing of Official Transcript will be served on all parties in the case.

Counsel are strongly urged to share this notice with all clients so that an informed decision about the inclusion of certain materials can be made. The responsibility for redacting personal identifiers rests solely with counsel and the parties. The clerk and court reporter/ECRO will not review each transcript for compliance with this rule. If redaction is requested, within 21 calendar days from the e-filing of the transcript with the clerk, or longer by order of the court, the parties must e-file with the court a Redaction

Request Re Transcript indicating where the personal identifiers appear in the transcript by page and line and how they are to be redacted. Access to this statement will be restricted to the court and the attorneys of record in the case. For example, if a party wanted to redact the Social Security number 123-45-6789 appearing on page 12, line 9 of the transcript, the Redaction Request Re Transcript would read: "Redact the Social Security number on page 12, line 9 to read xxx-xx-6789." A party is only responsible for reviewing and indicating the redactions in the testimony of the witnesses it called and its own statements (e.g. opening statements and closing arguments), statements of the party, and any transcript of the sentencing proceeding.

Only the following personal identifiers listed by the judicial conference in its policy on the Electronic Availability of Transcripts may be redacted using a Redaction Request Re Transcript:

- Social Security numbers: use only the last four numbers;
- Financial account numbers: use only the last four numbers of the account number;
- Minors' names: use the minors' initials;
- Dates of birth: use only the year;
- Home addresses: use only the city and state (applicable in criminal cases only).

If a party wants to redact other information, that party must move the court for further redaction by separate motion served on all parties and the court reporter/ECRO within the 21-day period. The transcript will not be electronically available until the court has ruled on any such motion, even though the 90-day restriction period may have ended. The court reporter/ECRO must, within 31 calendar days of the delivery of the transcript to the clerk of court, or longer by order of the court, perform the requested redactions and file a redacted version of the transcript with the clerk of court.

Invalid subpoenas

Reports have been received of bogus e-mail grand jury subpoenas, purportedly sent by a U.S. district

(continued on page 11)



Geri M. Smith was appointed the Clerk of Court for the U.S. District Court Northern District of Ohio on July 1, 1991, having joined the court in 1982. She serves as the chief administrative officer of the court as well as the administrative assistant to the Chief Judge.



FBA-NDOC Joins in Memorial Tribute

by James W. Satola

On April 7, 2008, the FBA Northern District of Ohio Chapter, joined by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Ohio Women's Bar Association, the Norman S. Minor Bar Association, the Hispanic National Bar Association and the Asian American Bar Association of Ohio, co-sponsored and presented the Annual Greater Cleveland Bench-Bar Memorial Program. The memorial program brings together the members of the greater Cleveland legal community to remember and pay tribute to our colleagues in the legal profession who have passed away within the past year. The event was held, as it was last year, in the atrium of the Howard M. Metzenbaum U.S. Courthouse.

The memorial program, which has become a tradition in recent years, was well-attended by members of the local bench and bar, as well as by the families of the honorees. The event offers the members of our legal community an opportunity to take part in a moving tribute to friends and colleagues we have recently lost. The popularity of the event is due in no small part to the participation and efforts of U.S. District Chief Judge James Carr and the other judges of our federal court. Also instrumental in organizing the program were the members of the Memorial Program Committee, which this year included three members of the FBA Northern District Of Ohio Chapter Board of Directors, current Chapter President Anthony J. LaCerva, Northern District of Ohio Clerk of Court Geri M. Smith and Chapter Vice President Carter E. Strang. Among the roles served by the committee members was to contact and work with the families of the honorees and to create the biographical entries contained in the handout given to attendees.

The program began with a procession of the judges of the Northern Ohio U.S. District and Bank-

ruptcy Courts, along with judges representing the Cuyahoga County Court of Appeals, Common Pleas Court, Probate Court and Juvenile Court, as well as judges from the Cleveland and surrounding communities' municipal courts. The tribute began with a welcome and introduction by Chief Judge James Carr of the Northern District of Ohio U.S. District Court, followed by remarks from Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Co-Presidents Kerin Lyn Kaminiski and Steven Gardner, Supreme Court of Ohio Justice Terrence O'Donnell, Ohio Eighth District Court of Appeals Judge Frank Celebrezze, Cuyahoga Common Pleas Judge Nancy McDonnell and Cleve-

land Municipal Court Judge Larry Jones. The names of the recently deceased members of the greater Cleveland legal community were then read by Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Executive Director D. Larkin Chenault. Among the names included was that of Howard M. Metzenbaum, the former Ohio U.S. Senator and Cleveland-area attorney for whom the building hosting the event is named.

The ceremony closed with reflections provided by Rabbi Hal Rudin-Luria of B'nai Jeshurun Congregation (Temple on the Heights) and closing remarks by Robert Ware, President of the Ohio State Bar Association. A reception, held in the lobby of the recently renovated Metzenbaum courthouse, followed the program.



James W. Satola is a senior attorney with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P., as well as a past president and current board member of the FBA Northern District of Ohio Chapter.

Welcome New Chapter Members

Douglas Bartman, McDonald Hopkins LLC
Ruth Brady
Luis Carrion, Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP
Gregory Feldkamp, Tucker, Ellis & West LLP
Thomas Goots, Jones Day

Heather Kimmel, Baker & Hostetler LLP
Dawn McFadden, Jones Day
Dustin Rawlin, Jones Day
Justin Willis, Society of Builders

Calendar of Events

Please visit our Web site at www.fba-ndohio.org for additional information pertaining to any of the events listed below.

August 22, 2008

Federal Criminal Practice Seminar
Coordinated by the Office of the Federal Public Defender

August 27, 2008

Iron Attorney Seminar
Location: Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House, Cleveland
Co-sponsored with the Ohio State Bar Association

September 4, 2008

Quarterly Members-Only Networking Breakfast
Location: Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, Cleveland

September 22, 2008

State of the Court Luncheon
Location: Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center

October 17, 2008

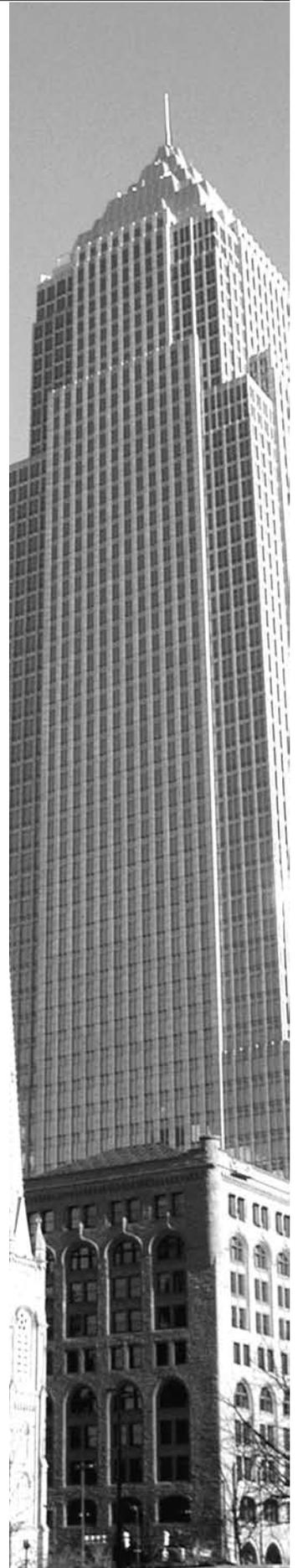
Brown Bag Lunch with Judge Karen Moore

November 14, 2008

Advanced Federal Practice Seminar
Location: Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House, Cleveland

December 2, 2008

Federal Employment Litigation Seminar
Location: Carl B. Stokes U.S. Court House, Cleveland



FBA Mid-Year Meeting Roundup

by James W. Satola

The Federal Bar Association held its annual Mid-Year Meeting this past March 28 and 29, which included a visit to the new FBA headquarters in Arlington, Va. As many of you know, the FBA Mid-Year Meeting presents an opportunity for representatives of local FBA chapters to gather for meetings related to chapter leadership and to exchange ideas for educational and social activities. The Mid-Year Meeting also plays host to one of the two FBA National Council Meetings held each year (the other occurs each year during the FBA National Convention, which this year will be held from Sept. 18-20 in Huntsville, Ala.).

As always, after meetings of the FBA National Board of Directors (the new leadership structure of the FBA, replacing the former Executive Committee) and the Federal Bar Building Corporation (involving matters related to the FBA's recent move of its national headquarters from downtown D.C. to Arlington), the first day of the meetings concluded with the FBA Moot Court Competition Final Round and Reception held at the historic U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, which building was formerly the home of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, from 1910 to 1951. Students from law schools around the country participate in the tournament, representing the culmination of a lot of hard work on the part of each of the schools' participants. This year's winning team was George Mason School of Law, from Arlington, Va.

The second day of the Mid-Year Meeting included meetings of the vice presidents of each of the circuits, the section and division leadership, and the Foundation of the FBA Board of Directors Meeting. The primary gathering for chapter representative exchange of ideas on programs and events was the Chapter Leaders Update Meeting, which also included an educational program, "Washington Roundup, Law and Politics 2008," presented by Washington's top legal reporters (Pedro Ruz Gutierrez, senior reporter for Legal Times; Tony Mauro, Supreme Court correspondent for Legal Times, American Lawyer Media, and law.com; Keith Perine, legal affairs reporter, Congressional Weekly; and Mark Sherman, Supreme Court reporter for the Associated Press).

The Mid-Year Meeting concluded with the FBA National Council Meeting, attended by representatives of a majority of the individual FBA chapters from around the country, including three from our own Northern District of Ohio Chapter (FBA-NDOC chapter past presidents Aaron Bulloff, Steven Paffilas, and James Satola).



James W. Satola is a senior attorney with Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P., as well as a past president and current board member of the FBA Northern District of Ohio Chapter.

Visit the FBA-NDOC online at
www.fba-ndohio.org



Partnership with John Hay's Early College Program

by Carter Strang

Tucker Ellis & West (TEW) is actively involved in a number of community projects, and I want to highlight one: its partnership with John Hay High School, an inner-city public school in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Last summer, TEW formed a partnership with John Hay's Early College Program (JHEC). The JHEC program is a magnet school for students intent on attending college.

The partnership was an idea that occurred to me, after teaching 3Rs there with two other TEW attorneys during the '06-'07 school year. 3Rs is the nationally recognized and award winning Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) program in which CMBA attorneys teach constitutional law related topics (Rights, Responsibilities and Realities—the 3Rs) once a month during the school year to 10th grade history students.

The partnership (between our firm and JHEC) involves providing attorneys for the 3Rs program at the school. This past school year, nine TEW attorneys participated in 3Rs at JHEC. The partnership also involves coaching JHEC's Mock Trial team. The school had never had a mock trial team previously. Eighteen attorneys from TEW coached the team. And, the JHEC Mock Trial team just won the Cleveland Mock Trial championship sponsored by the Cleveland Municipal Court and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association. (Besting 40 other teams, including a veteran two-time defending champion.) Tucker Ellis & West hosted a luncheon for the JHEC Mock Trial team and presented

the members with a banner for display at the school. The third component of the partnership is the hiring of two JHEC students as paid summer interns this year.

TEW just created the Robert Tucker Scholarship at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law that is to be awarded to a Cleveland-Metropolitan School District graduate enrolled at Cleveland-Marshall. Hopefully, some of the JHEC students with whom we have worked will be encouraged to attend law school and will be able to take advantage of the Tucker Scholarship.

Only by being directly involved with disadvantaged, inner-city school children will we, as a profession, be able to achieve the diversity (racially, ethnically, culturally and socio-economic) that we seek. TEW is proud to be a "pipeline initiative" leader through its commitment to Cleveland's public school children and we are encouraging other firms to do so as well.



Carter Strang is Vice President of the Northern District of Ohio Chapter of the FBA. He is a partner in the Cleveland office of Tucker Ellis & West LLP. He is a trial lawyer who focuses on environmental, mass tort, product liability and real estate litigation. He has handled a broad range of matters in both state and federal court. He is a frequent lecturer and author regarding legal issues.



Rise and Shine

by Ellen Toth

The chapter held its first Members-Only Networking Breakfast on Thursday, May 29. Ogletree Deakins, Nash, Smoak and Smith, P.C. hosted this event at their office in Key Tower. The one-hour event gave attendees an opportunity to get to know other federal practitioners in an informal setting and to talk about their practices and possible networking opportunities. This event was created in response to information received from the FBA-NDOC membership survey.

Those attending the breakfast have an opportunity to continue their exchange of dialogue by participating in an online discussion group. The discussion group is in full operation and is open exclusively to FBA-NDOC networking breakfast participants.

The next Networking Breakfast will be held on Thursday, Sept. 4, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. at Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP. There is no charge for this event; however, seating is limited. If you would like to attend, contact the chapter administrator at admin@fba-ndohio.org, (877) 322-6364.



Ellen Toth is an attorney with Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart PC in Cleveland. Ms. Toth is also a current board member of the Northern District of Ohio Chapter of the FBA, and its president-elect.

(Judicial Conference, continued from page 1)

attorney Charles Gearheiser, who was the Law Clerk to District Judge Frank Wilson during the trial, and John Seiganthaler, former assistant to Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and later chairman of *The Tennessean*, Nashville's leading newspaper. The late Judge Wilson's family was also in attendance. The presentation included portions of a video presentation created by the Eastern District of Tennessee Chapter of the Federal Bar Association, interspersed with a lively discussion, including a "friendly dispute" over who was possibly "bugging" who during the proceedings, whether Robert Kennedy's "Get Hoffa" team had a personal agenda, and the question everyone knew would come up, "Where's Jimmy Hoffa?" For those who are interested, we members of the Northern District of Ohio FBA Board are considering the possibility of obtaining a copy of the video presentation for use at an upcoming program for our chapter members.

Preceding the Hoffa Trial program was an entertaining presentation by Chattanooga native Howard H. Baker, former senator, chief of staff to President Ronald Reagan and ambassador to Japan,

who recounted his days in the Senate, at the White House and his self-admittedly modest beginnings in the legal profession. The remainder of the morning offered participants an opportunity to engage in smaller group educational programs on appellate advocacy, sentencing, bankruptcy and employment law, each lead by members of our judiciary and leading members of the bar.

The day concluded (again after an afternoon free for the attendees to take part in various recreational events planned by the host committee) with a reception and banquet featuring commentary by U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice John Paul Stevens, who is also our Sixth Circuit "Circuit Justice," and a highly entertaining one act play, "Abraham Lincoln," presented by famed Lincoln impersonator and actor Gene Griesman.

The final morning, Saturday, May 10, consisted of break-out groups comprised of the judges and practitioners from each individual district (plus another one for those involved primarily in appellate practice before the circuit) to discuss matters relating to the districts and the Sixth Circuit's newly-instituted Electronic Case Filing system.

The next open conference, set for May 2010, will be held in Columbus, Ohio.

Third Annual State of the Court Luncheon

by Carter Strang

The Federal Bar Association's Third Annual State of the Court Luncheon will be Sept. 22, 2008 at noon at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Center. Reports will be provided by Chief Judge James G. Carr, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Marilyn Shea-Stonum and 6th Circuit Chief Judge Danny Boggs.

The Court Luncheon Planning Committee is composed of chapter members Carter Strang, Ellen Toth, Steve Paffilas and Geri Smith.

The event has been very popular (has sold out both prior years). The Planning Committee is still finalizing details, but as with past years, firms/agencies/companies will be encouraged to reserve tables (10 per table). Individual tickets will be available as well. Invitations will be e-mailed to all Chapter members later this month.

Mark your calendars now for the event, and if you want to reserve a table or individual ticket now, rather than wait to receive an invitation, contact the chapter administrator at admin@fba-ndohio.org or (877) 322-6364.



Carter Strang is Vice President of the Northern District of Ohio Chapter of the FBA. He is a partner in the Cleveland office of Tucker Ellis & West LLP. He is a trial lawyer who focuses on environmental, mass tort, product liability and real estate litigation. He has handled a broad range of matters in both state and federal court. He is a frequent lecturer and author regarding legal issues.

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court. The e-mails are not a valid communication from a federal court and may contain harmful links. Recipients are warned not to open any links or download any information relating to this e-mail notice. The federal judiciary's e-mail address is uscourts.gov. The e-mails in question appear to be sent from a similar address that is not owned and operated by the federal courts. Law enforcement authorities have been notified.

Spanish/English Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination

The Written Examination of the Spanish/English Federal Court Interpreter Certification Examination will be offered Sept. 20, 2008, in 33 locations around the country. Selection of locations is based on the needs of the courts for certified interpreters and on ease of access for potential examinees. Interpreters of Spanish who are not yet certified should be encouraged to prepare for, register, and take the examination. Registration runs June 2 to Aug. 4, 2008. An examinee must pass the written examination to qualify for the Oral Examination (offered in 2009, date TBA). Information on the court interpreter program is available to courts and potential interpreters on the www.uscourts.gov/interpreterprog/interp_prog.html.



Write an Article!

Members of the Northern District of Ohio Chapter of the Federal Bar Association are invited to submit an article for an upcoming issue.

If you are interested in writing an article, please contact me at (216) 706-3874 or sjett@taftlaw.com.

The deadline to receive articles for the Fall 2008 issue is Aug. 29, 2008.



Stephen H. Jett
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
2007-08 Newsletter Editor



FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO CHAPTER
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
P.O. Box 16562
COLUMBUS, OH 43216-6562

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED