



FBA newsletter

Vol. 2000
Winter 2000

Federal Bar Association - Eastern District of Michigan Chapter - 39 years of service to our Federal Bench and Bar

Rakow Luncheon To Feature Panel Discussion On Milliken V. Bradley

The FBA will host its annual Rakow Scholarship Awards Luncheon on Thursday, November 9, 2000, at the Downtown Courtyard by Marriott Hotel. The luncheon honors the memory of Edward H. Rakow, who served as Assistant Regional Administrator for the Securities and Exchange Commission in Detroit for 26 years, and who was instrumental in founding the Eastern District of Michigan Chapter of the FBA. The luncheon will feature the annual presentation of the Rakow Award scholarships, awarded each year to one outstanding student at each of Michigan's five law schools.

The luncheon is also the occasion for the annual meeting of the Historical Society for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and will feature a panel discussion on the historic Detroit school busing case Milliken v. Bradley. Composing the panel will be the attorneys who argued the case before the U.S. Supreme Court—current Sixth Circuit Judge Nathaniel Jones, and William Saxton, currently with the law firm Butzel Long. The panel will be moderated by University of Michigan Law School Professor Theodore St. Antoine.

Cost for the luncheon is \$25.00 for members and \$30.00 for nonmembers. For ticket information contact Julia Pidgeon at (313) 226-9772.

Court Awards Freeman Scholarships

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

State of the Court Luncheon	pg.3
New Lawyers Seminar	pg.4
Focus:Hope Walk	pg.4
Social Justice & Pro Bono Begin	pg.5
Geneva Halliday Honored	pg.5
EMail Addresses Needed	pg.5

Chief Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff has announced the recipients of the first Ralph M. Freeman Law School Scholarships. The Freeman Scholarships will be awarded annually to law school students who are children of full-time employees of the United States

(cont'd on page 2)

President's Column

In late September, I had the privilege of representing our Chapter at the FBA's Annual Meeting, which hosted by the Northern District of Ohio Chapter of the FBA this year. This column shares some of my reflections from that event.

The National FBA is a large, solid and diverse organization. With transportation costs underwritten by National in recent years, hundreds of delegates representing chapters from throughout the country attend the Annual Meeting. The FBA chapter from Cleveland, my old home town, did an excellent job hosting the event.

Recent changes at National include the appointment of Jack Lockridge as Executive Director. Jack brings to the position substantial experience from bar association work in Texas, along with abundant energy. He has added new staff members who will focus on supporting the Chapters.

The National FBA also promotes our interests through its legislative program, which is spearheaded by a professional lobbyist. Priorities of that program include supporting the federal judiciary (pay, facilities, and other resources). Initiatives are also under way to promote dialogue among members of Congress, federal judges, and other federal bar members.

The sections of the National FBA also address other issues of local interest, including Litigation, Intellectual Property, and Government Contracts, to name just a few. Several of these sections offer programs that can be presented locally in our Chapters. We are currently evaluating two such programs for possible presentation in this District: Social Security litigation and ADR.

As strong as the National organization is, however, the Chapters are where the ultimate strength of the FBA is found, and at the Annual Meeting, there was particular value in sharing ideas for "what works" with bar leaders from other regions at the Chapter Leadership Forum. It was interesting to hear, for example, how other Chapters have held evening events in courtrooms and have persuaded their state bar to include an FBA membership check-off on its dues form. Comparing notes with the leaders of other Chapters also illustrated the strengths of our Eastern District of Michigan Chapter. Few chapters rival ours for number of members, number and quality of events,

(cont'd on page 2)

and active support by the bench.

The continued role served in the National organization by several Past Presidents of our Chapter also is impressive and inspirational. In particular, we can be very proud of the role played in the National organization by Alan Harnisch and Geneva Halliday. Alan, who attended the meeting together with several members of his firm, went on from leadership of this Chapter to become FBA National President and remains an active delegate on the FBA National Council and is the FBA representative to the American Bar Association. Geneva Halliday, another Past President of this Chapter, who continues to provide outstanding contributions for our local organization, was recognized at the Annual Meeting for work her tireless dedication to National and to the local Chapters not just as Vice President for the Sixth Circuit but also as the Chair of all of the Circuit Vice Presidents.

The synergy created by the union of National and locals, however, is the truest measure of the strength of our Federal Bar Association. The issue of membership and communications is an excellent illustration of this principle. One of our key Chapter initiatives for the year is the modernization and promotion of communication with members. By sharing ideas with the local chapters, and seeking support from National, the Eastern District of Michigan Chapter is moving toward utilization of cyberspace. Representatives of our Chapter's Membership and Communications committees will be meeting with several of the officers in late October to develop strategies for implementing e-mail and web-based communications. Jack Lockridge is optimistic that FBA National will be able to provide logistical support for our effort. Ultimately, sending targeted reminders of upcoming events by e-mail, instead of "snail mail," should enhance timeliness and reduce cost.

I also came away from Cleveland with a keen appreciation of the diversity which is evident in the National FBA. Women of immense talent are found throughout the leadership ranks, including our own Geneva Halliday, outgoing National President, Jackie Goff, and Immediate Past President Adrienne Berry. President Elect Russell Del Toro, of the dynamic Puerto Rico Chapter, will be the first Hispanic attorney to lead the organization. Juanita Sales, an African American attorney from the North Alabama Chapter, is an energetic proponent of National's "Chapter Activity Fund" and gave a delightfully energetic presentation on the use of the Fund by local leaders. One is reminded of the importance for our own Chapter of promoting diversity within our membership and leadership. This is an area where we have made important progress but where more can still be done.

President,
Thomas W.B. Porter

District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

The first recipients of the Freeman Scholarships are Adam Lee DiBartolomeo, son of Ron DiBartolomeo, court reporter to Judge Borman; Sara Mary Gullo, daughter of Katherine Gullo, Bankruptcy Court Training Specialist; Artan Courtney Hughes, daughter of Esther Collins, Pretrial Services Agency secretary; Erin M. Keeler, daughter of Chief Probation Officer David Keeler; and Ileah Mare', daughter of Supervising Probation Officer Marlene Robinson. These recipients will be invited to attend the Court's Employee Recognition Ceremony next spring when they will receive a plaque commemorating their award. They have already received their scholarship checks.

Judge Ralph M. Freeman left a generous bequest for the purpose of benefiting the Court as an institution. In 1999, the Court established the Ralph M. Freeman Foundation. The Trustees are Chief Judge Zatkoff, President, and Judges Avern Cohn, Bernard A. Friedman, Nancy G. Edmunds and Paul D. Borman. The Foundation established the scholarships of \$1,500 to be awarded annually to four students. Because of the outstanding quality of the applications received this year, five awards were made. The Court believes that these scholarships will continue Judge Freeman's legacy of justice, advocacy and civility.

Judge Freeman served the Court for more than 35 years, from 1954 until his death in 1990. President Eisenhower appointed him in 1954. He served as Chief Judge from 1967 until 1972. He took Senior Status in 1973 and continued to work full-time until his death in 1990.

2000 State of the Court Luncheon

The Eastern District of Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association hosted its annual State of the Court Luncheon on September 26, 2000 at the Crown Plaza Pontchartrain Hotel.

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Judge Denise Page Hood, Chair of this district's Pro Bono Committee, began the ceremony by honoring attorneys who had accepted pro bono assignments from the Court in the past year. Each attorney was given a plaque recognizing his or her service to the legal community. Judge Hood also recognized the Wayne State University Law School's Civil Rights project, under which students will work on pro bono civil rights cases pending before the Court.

Following Judge Hood's presentation, the Honorable Lawrence P. Zatkoff, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, delivered the annual State of the Court address.

Noting that the administrative structure of the Court "continues to change," Chief Judge Zatkoff announced the retirement of Chief Probation Officer Ray Frank; the appointment of Frank's successor, David Keeler; and the appointment of Mary Miers to the position of Deputy Court Administrator.

Chief Judge Zatkoff also announced changes to the bench, including Judge Avern Cohn taking senior status; Judge Patrick Duggan's intention to take senior status; Judge Barbara Hackett's retirement; the investiture of Judge Marianne O. Battani; and the investiture of Judge David M. Lawson. Chief Judge Zatkoff further announced Executive Magistrate Judge Marc L. Goldman's reappointment to a third eight-year term; Magistrate Judge Steven D. Pepe's reappointment to a third eight-year term; Magistrate Judge Charles E. Binder's reappointment to an additional eight-year term; and the expiration of Magistrate Judge Paul J. Komives's current recall term on July 16, 2001. Chief Judge Zatkoff further announced that the Court has voted to consider the reappointment of Magistrate Judge Virginia M. Morgan.

Turning to statistics, Chief Judge Zatkoff announced a 33.2% reduction overall in civil case filings from 1998 to 1999 (a 14.9% reduction when Dow Corning cases are eliminated). He also reported a 5.7% reduction in criminal filings from 1998 to 1999. He stated that the U.S. Probation Department prepared 759 pre-sentence reports for the year 1999 and has 1,988



Chief Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff addresses the audience at the State of the Court Luncheon.

defendants under supervision. He also noted that the average length of imprisonment for 1999 was 56.4 months in this district and 56.9 months for the nation.

Chief Judge Zatkoff commended members of the Local Rules Advisory Committee for their service to the Court. Committee members include Ellen E. Christensen, Larry J. Saylor, Frank W. Brochert, Anthony T. Chambers, Edward Ewell, Jr., Raymond W. Henney, Joseph C. Marshall III, Virginia F. Metz, and Miriam L. Siefer.

Finally, as President of the Ralph M. Freeman Foundation, Chief Judge Zatkoff reported on the foundation's progress since its establishment on August 4, 1999. The

first annual Ralph M. Freeman Law School Scholarship winners were announced on April 18, 2000 at the Gilman Award Luncheon. This scholarship provides \$1500 to a law student from each of the five law schools in Michigan. Additionally, four \$1,500 annual scholarships will be awarded to students of full-time Eastern District of Michigan court employees.



Magistrate Judge Paul Komives and Professor Erica Eisinger pose with Mary Beatty and Justin Doane, students from Wayne State University.

(cont'd on page 4)

FBA To Sponsor New Lawyers Seminar December 5 and 6

The nationally acclaimed (and widely copied) annual New Lawyers Seminar will begin its twenty-sixth year on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 5 and 6, 2000, in Room 115 of the Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse, 231 W. Lafayette in downtown Detroit.

This "nuts and bolts" how-to-do-it approach, which relies upon presentations by judges, court personnel and leading practitioners, is designed to assist recent law graduates in understanding the fundamental procedures followed in federal and state courts. The seminar begins at 8:15 a.m. on December 5 with presentations on federal court practice, and concludes on December 6 with presentations on state court practice.

Co-chairs for the seminar are attorneys Christine Dowhan-Bailey, Brian Figot, Grant Gilezan, Geneva Halliday and Catherine Wenger.

The seminar is a bargain, costing only \$65 for members of the Federal Bar Association and \$85 for non-members. Admission includes a reception for the new attorneys on December 5, and a luncheon on December 6 at the Pontchartrain Hotel. The price also includes course materials on CD-ROM containing form pleadings and memoranda expanding on the topics covered by the speakers. A special price of \$109 includes the seminar plus membership in the Federal Bar Association.

Reservation checks should be made payable to the FBA Eastern District of Michigan Chapter, and mailed to New Lawyers Seminar, P.O. Box 71740, Madison Heights, MI 48071. If you have any questions, call Dee Osterman at (248) 548-3450.



Left to Right: Tom Porter, Christine Dowhan-Bailey, Chief Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff and Brian Figot at the State of the Court Luncheon.

Social Justice Committee Participates In Focus: Hope Walk

On Sunday, October 8, 2000, members of the newly formed FBA Social Justice Committee participated in the annual Walk for Justice at Focus: HOPE. Executive Board member Karen Gibbs prepared two colorful signs

highlighting the FBA Chapter's support for Focus: HOPE. The signs were carried on the 8-mile walk in Detroit, through some rain and a short period of hail, by the Social Justice Committee Chair (and Chapter Past President) Dan Malone and current Chapter President Tom Porter. Judge Gerald Rosen, a Focus: HOPE board member and Social Justice Committee member, also participated in the walk. Tom Porter commented that he was delighted to see the new Social Justice Committee kicking off its activities for the year.

Social Justice, Pro Bono Committees Begin Work

On September 10, 2000, the Pro Bono Committee held its first meeting of the Chapter year. Co-chairs Steve Budaj and Mark Goldsmith, assisted by several of the Chapter officers, developed plans for enhancing pro bono participation. Next steps include coordination with the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association and with the Court's Pro Bono Committee. Persons interested in the activities of this Committee or opportunities for pro bono representation in federal court should contact Steve or Mark.

On September 26, the newly formed Social Justice Committee held its inaugural meeting. Matters under discussion for the coming year include additional initiatives with Focus: HOPE, work on a race/gender bias questionnaire, and further study of the McCree award. Persons interested in the work of the Social Justice Committee should contact Tom Porter or Dan Malone.

National Meeting Held In Cleveland, Geneva Halliday Honored

Several representatives from the Eastern District of Michigan Chapter recently attended the FBA National Annual Meeting in Cleveland held at the end of September. Chapter President Tom Porter found particular value in the Chapter Leadership program. Representatives from various chapters around the country shared ideas for improving programs, expanding membership, and strengthening bonds with the federal bench. Geneva Halliday, a Past President of the Eastern District of Michigan Chapter and current Sixth Circuit Vice President for the FBA, spoke at the program.

Geneva also received a Vice Presidents for the Circuits Award during the convention's Awards Luncheon on September 26. Geneva was recognized for her work on the National Executive Council and as Chair of the Vice Presidents of the Circuits. The Chapter congratulates Geneva for her hard work and dedication.

Chapter Past President and former FBA National President Alan Harnisch was also in attendance. Alan and Tom invited current FBA National President Robert McNew, of the Eaton Corporation, to visit our Chapter in 2001.

National FBA Announces Membership Recruitment Initiative

In a push to increase both national and local FBA membership, the National FBA has announced its Sponsor-A-Member initiative, featuring prizes for current members who sponsor a new member from now through March 15, 2001. Under the program, a current FBA member will be

We Need Your Help!!!!

In an effort to improve our membership communications initiatives, the Chapter is updating its membership database to include e-mail addresses. Please help us by taking a brief moment to e-mail your address to Barbara Buchanan at buchananb@pepperlaw.com or to Lynn Brimer at lbrimer@raypro.com.

entered into a drawing for prizes for each new member sponsored. The grand prize is two free airline tickets for travel anywhere in the continental United States and a \$500 gift certificate for use in the Lexis-Nexis online bookstore. Other prizes include hotel stays in Puerto Rico and Myrtle Beach, and a Palm personal organizer. Copies of the special membership form can be obtained on the FBA's website: www.fedbar.org, or by calling (202) 785-1614.

Calendar Of Events

November 9

Rakow Luncheon
Marriott Courtyard, noon
Contact: *Julia Pidgeon, 313-226-9778*

December 5-6

New Lawyers Seminar
Rm. 115, U.S. Courthouse
Contact: *Dee Osterman, 248-548-3450*

December 13

Bankruptcy Section Luncheon (tentative)
Contact: *Julia Teicher, 248-827-4100*
Lynn Brimer, 248-263-3813

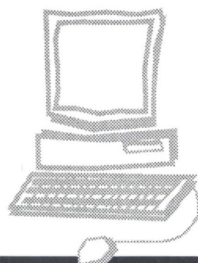
February 8

Government/Corporate Law Section
Seminar on Employment Law
Contact: *Dona Tracey, 313-226-4244*
J. Kent Cooper, 313-223-7843

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Your Input Is Needed:

In an effort to make the FBA Newsletter more informative and enjoyable, we are seeking articles or opinion pieces on topics affecting the federal bar and practice in the federal courts. If you are interested in submitting an article, or if you have any ideas on subjects on which others should write, let us know. Articles may be submitted and inquires addressed to Bryan Schneider at bschneider@ck6.uscourts.gov or (313) 234-5202.

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