

FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION



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A Message From President Katherine Earle Yanes



As I begin my year as President of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Federal Bar Association (TBCFBA), I would like to look back on some of the many accomplishments of our organization last year. Under the leadership of outgoing President Anne-Leigh Moe, the Tampa Bay Chapter grew a remarkable 22% last year, finishing the year with over

500 members. The Chapter's membership growth was made possible by a combination of Anne-Leigh's leadership, strong programming, and the efforts of 2016 Membership Chair Erin Jackson.

We were an award-winning chapter in 2016! Our longtime Board member and supporter, the Honorable Elizabeth Kovachevich, was awarded the FBA's highest award, the Earl W. Kintner Award, at the Annual Meeting and Convention in Cleveland in September. The Kintner Award is a lifetime contribution award presented to an FBA member who has displayed long-term outstanding achievement, distinguished leadership, and participation in the FBA over a career of service. The Chapter also received recognition at the Convention as a recipient of the Presidential Excellence Award and the Meritorious Newsletter Award. Additionally, United States Bankruptcy Judge Catherine Peek McEwen received the Chief Justice's Distinguished Federal Judicial Service Award at the Florida Supreme Court's 2016 Pro Bono Awards Ceremony.

The Chapter sponsored several receptions during 2016, including receptions in honor of the investitures of Magistrate Judge Sneed and Magistrate Judge McCoy and in honor of the retirement of Magistrate Judge Jenkins.

The Tampa Bay Chapter offered members a new opportunity in 2016, Chambers Lunches in which Tampa Division judges hosted luncheons in their chambers. Special thanks to Judge Virginia M. Hernandez Covington, who hosted the first Chambers Lunch in February, Judge Elizabeth Kovachevich who hosted a Chambers Lunch in March, Judge Anthony Porcelli, who hosted a Chambers Lunch in June, and Judge Julie Sneed, who hosted a Chambers Lunch in December. Additionally, Judge Kovachevich hosted her annual behind-the scenes tour of the Sam M. Gibbons United States Courthouse. The Chapter greatly appreciates the support of the Middle District of Florida's judges!

The Chapter's *Staying in the Game* program, which aims to assist law firms, corporations, and government entities retain women lawyers and provide strategies to address the leadership gap between men and women in the legal profession, continued in 2016 with *Staying in the Game: A Call to Action*. The program hosted a "Business Development Boot Camp Series"

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featuring presentations by Bemetra L. Simmons on personal branding; Peter King and Matthew Mueller on developing a business plan; Andi Groomes on asking for work; and Hala Sandridge and Deborah Larned Werner on building your network. This year's *Staying in the Game* program will be *Staying in Game: Getting to the Top*, a theme inspired by Susan Smith Blakely's book *Best Friends at the Bar: Top-Down Leadership for Women Lawyers*. The kickoff CLE will take place on Friday, April 7, 2017, starting at Noon at the University Club in Downtown Tampa.

On April 28, 2016, the Tampa Bay Chapter participated in the FBA's National Community Outreach Program, which is part of the FBA's Civics Program. As part of this program, the TBCFBA invited high school students interested in law and government to a morning of presentations by Magistrate Judge Anthony Porcelli, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Michael Williamson, and Bankruptcy Judge Catherine Peek McEwen. The students also observed a sentencing conducted by Judge Elizabeth A. Kovachevich. Plans are in the works to build on the success of last year's program with a similar program in April 2017.

In conjunction with the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the ABA Criminal Justice Section, and the Criminal Law Section of the Federal Bar Association, the Tampa Bay Chapter presented the 25th Annual National Seminar on Federal Sentencing in June 2016. This annual seminar attracts criminal defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, and probation officers from across the country for presentations on a wide variety of topics related to federal sentencing. The 26th Annual National Seminar on Federal Sentencing will be held June 28-30, 2017, at the Sirata Beach Resort and Conference Center in St. Petersburg.

In September 2016, the Chapter hosted its Ninth Annual Civil Seminar. The Civil Seminar included a roundtable discussion with eleven judges, District Judges Susan C. Bucklew, Virginia M. Hernandez Covington, and Elizabeth A. Kovachevich; Judges Thomas B. McCoun, Mark A. Pizzo, Anthony E. Porcelli, Amanda Arnold Sansone, and Julie S. Sneed; Chief Bankruptcy Judge Michael G. Williamson; and Bankruptcy Judges Caryl E. Delano and Catherine Peek McEwen. Again, the Tampa Bay Chapter appreciates the tremendous support we receive from the District's judges!

The Tampa Bay Chapter was fortunate to be able to bring in renowned legal writing expert Bryan Garner



TBCFBA President Katherine Earle Yanes (left) with Immediate Past President Anne-Leigh Moe (right) at the Annual Luncheon.

for an Advanced Legal Writing Seminar in November 2016. The seminar was offered free of charge to attendees at the Stetson College of Law, Tampa Law Center, and was simulcast to judges and law clerks in all of the other divisions of the Middle District of Florida.

The Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the Tampa Bay Chapter offered numerous events throughout 2016. These included volunteer events, as well as a series of educational events throughout the year, including a Law Clerk Panel, a Federal Practice Seminar, and several "What You Need to Know About Practicing in the Middle District of Florida" sessions.

The Tampa Bay Chapter's Pro Bono Committee continued its excellent work in 2016 of matching volunteer attorneys with pro se litigants in need of assistance. Along with continuing this service, in 2017 the Chapter will be administering the Legal Information Program, a weekly clinic at the Sam Gibbons Federal Courthouse at which pro se federal litigants will be able to talk to an attorney who can provide information about federal procedure. The Chapter has received a grant from the Middle District of Florida Bench Bar Fund that will allow us to staff the clinic with attorneys from Bay Area Legal Services.

The Mentoring Program continues to offer law students and new attorneys an opportunity to be paired with an experienced federal practitioner in a one-on-one mentoring relationship. FBA members interested in becoming mentors or mentees should contact Mentoring Chair Peter King at PKing@wiandlaw.com.

I am looking forward to another great year for the TBCFBA! If you are interested in getting more involved in the chapter, please feel free to email me at kyanes@kmf-law.com.

Reentry Program Offers Fresh Start for Convicted Felons

By Hon. Elizabeth A. Jenkins, United States Magistrate Judge

After serving federal prison time for a cocaine conviction, Susan Leonard recalled, her record made it “hard to get a job.” She credits an intensive supervision program for assisting her in finding work and remaining crime-free, while at the same time providing her encouragement and respect. “They didn’t look down on us because we had been to prison,” she said.

The program offered Ms. Leonard personalized advice from some unexpected sources—federal judges, prosecutors, and public defenders who serve in the same judicial system that sent her to prison. “They really helped me a lot,” said Ms. Leonard, who graduated from the program in 2012.

Assistant federal public defender Adam Allen, who has been with the program since its inception in Tampa, said the program provided Ms. Leonard “the opportunity to rewrite her life narrative.”

In March 2011, Tampa became the third division in the Middle District of Florida to start an Intensive Reentry Program. Such programs now exist in a number of federal district courts nationwide. These programs work to reduce recidivism by providing certain individuals newly released from prison with enhanced supervision and reporting requirements, as well as counseling. Minimizing recidivism has economic as well as social benefits. Each inmate housed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons costs on average more than \$30,000 per year. In contrast, supervision by the U.S. Probation Office is less than one-fifth of that amount.

Upon a federal defendant’s release from prison, a period of supervised release commences. Consonant with the traditional sentencing principles of punishment, deterrence, and rehabilitation, supervised release facilitates the transition from prison to the community. Supervised release can last one or more years. Requirements of supervised release include reporting to a federal probation officer, completing any special conditions of release imposed at sentencing (e.g. restitution), and complying with the general conditions of supervised release (e.g. not violating the law, restrictions on travel and associations). The consequences of violating supervised release can vary, but may include revocation of release and return to prison. Ordinarily, a defendant does not come to court unless there is a violation of supervised release proceeding.

Reentry court is different. Conducted at 4 p.m. every

other Thursday, participants sit in the jury box, instead of at counsel table with an attorney. Unlike defendants in regular criminal court proceedings, these individuals are in court to report on their efforts to readjust to life outside of prison, including meeting financial obligations, finding employment, sustaining stable family and social relationships, and avoiding substance abuse and illegal activity.

Federal prosecutors and federal defenders talk with the participants about their progress and setbacks since their last court appearances. And federal probation officers report their frequent contacts with participants and suggestions for meeting goals and objectives. At the bench, the judge is part of the reentry team as well, offering advice, encouragement, and where necessary, imposing sanctions.

Supervisory United States Probation Officer Chong Bahng, the first probation officer to serve in the program in Tampa, describes it as “a very unique courtroom experience because the government, defense, probation, and judge all have the same goal and objective; that being the successful re-integration of the participant back into the community.” Indeed, as one veteran federal prosecutor has told participants: “I want you to be part of the community I am trying to protect.”

Since March 2011, sixty-three participants have successfully completed the program in Tampa. These individuals present higher risks of recidivism because of backgrounds that can include drug or alcohol abuse, supervision difficulties in the past, and lack of stable personal relationships or employment history. Sex offenders are ineligible for the program. Most program participants have served lengthy prison sentences for drug-related crimes. Once identified as candidates for reentry, participants are acquainted with the program through their probation officer and asked if they wish to participate. The sentencing judge must approve a participant’s involvement. A participant who completes all requirements of reentry will receive a year’s reduction in the supervised release term imposed at sentencing. However, the rigorous requirements of the program occasionally cause a participant to drop out and return to regular supervised release.

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Importantly, everyone in the program is a volunteer, including those on supervised release. The probation officers, prosecutors, and public defenders are also volunteers, as are the judges. The fact that every person is there on his or her own time creates a common bond which is sometimes cited by participants as a motivating factor in their desire to successfully complete the program.

Currently, U.S. Probation Officers Brian Gabriesheski and Courtney Cole anchor the reentry team. Their responsibilities are significant. In addition to preparing for all court appearances, including providing each participant with a progress sheet detailing both completed goals and missed ones, the probation officers spend considerable time outside court providing feedback to participants and monitoring compliance with program requirements. Judge James Whittemore and Magistrate Judge Anthony Porcelli, as well as the author of this article, have presided as judges since the program's inception in 2011. Judge Mary Scriven is the fourth Tampa judge to join the program. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Shauna Hale and Carlton Gammons and Assistant Public Defenders Adam Allen and Allison Guagliardo are also part of the reentry team.

The program has three components: treatment, personal enrichment, and feedback/support, all of which are designed to assist participants in developing internal behavioral controls to replace the external controls of the prison environment. Included in the treatment component is drug and alcohol testing as well as group cognitive behavioral therapy. The second component involves setting short and long-term goals in four areas: financial stability; sobriety and health; relationship stability; and accepting personal and social responsibility. The feedback component provides for encouragement and positive reinforcement as well as sanctions, if necessary, to motivate participants to meet their goals and graduate from the reentry program. The court sessions are integral to the feedback component. Participants progress through four phases as they meet certain benchmarks, including the required court sessions. Upon completion of phase four, a participant is eligible for graduation, earning a year's reduction in the supervised release term. It takes more than a year to complete the program, including required court appearances. Those who are sanctioned by losing credits take longer to graduate, but most do graduate. Two out of every three participants who begin the program complete it.

Crediting the reentry program for its efficacy in helping "many men and women reconnect with their families and find steady employment," U.S. Attorney Lee



Susan Leonard, graduate of the reentry program, hugs Assistant Federal Public Defender Adam Allen during her 2012 graduation ceremony. Photo courtesy of the Tampa Bay Times.

Bentley said that "Anyone who doubts the success of the program should attend one of the graduation ceremonies, which are as moving as anything you will ever see in a courtroom. I am extremely grateful to the judges in the District who have supported this worthwhile program."

A graduation ceremony is held at the courthouse twice a year. Attended by the graduates' family members and friends, the ceremony is the final phase of the program. Each graduate is introduced by an attorney member of the team, either a prosecutor or public defender. The "before" and "after" stories are powerful. The graduates have a chance to respond. Most take advantage of the opportunity, even though some are speaking in a formal public setting for the first time. Refreshments follow the ceremony.

"You will see how proud we are of these individuals," Judge Whittemore told the audience at the start of the most recent graduation ceremony, on December 15. "They have decided they're not going back. That is the key to this program."

Prosecutor Shauna Hale paid tribute to one of the graduates, noting that although he had been fired from a job at one point, "You learned from that. If you think things are getting dark, you can call any of us."

The graduate then stood at the lectern and thanked Ms. Hale and the other members of the program.

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Upcoming Events for the Tampa Bay Chapter

March 10	MDFL Swearing In Ceremony	June 9	MDFL Swearing In Ceremony
March 23	Panel Discussion: What Every Litigator Needs to Know about Bankruptcy Court	June 14	Judicial Clerkship Panel
March 30	What You Need to Know about the MDFL	June 28-30	26th Annual Federal Sentencing Guidelines Seminar
April 6	Chambers Luncheon with Chief Bankruptcy Judge Michael Williamson	July 6	MDFL Swearing In Ceremony
April 7	Staying in the Game: Getting to the Top Luncheon	July 13	Federal Practice Seminar/YLD Happy Hour
April 7	MDFL Swearing In Ceremony	Sept. 14	What You Need to Know about the MDFL
April 27	FBA Civics Outreach Program at the Federal Courthouse	Sept. 21	MDFL Swearing In Ceremony

He told his fellow participants seated in the jury box, "Look to the person next to you. Support each other. Help each other out."

Except in unusual circumstances, graduates remain on supervised release as ordered at sentencing, sometimes for a number of years.

According to Federal Public Defender Donna Elm, the program is "one of the most promising approaches to preventing crime developed in federal courts because it focuses on the *relationship* the defendant has with people in power in the justice system – defense counsel, prosecutors, judges, and probation officers. In truth, changes occur in the participants' behavior to a large extent because all of these people become part of a positive reinforcing system."

Finding and keeping a job remain the greatest challenge for participants. While many have their Graduate Equivalency Diploma (G.E.D.) or obtained one in prison, a number of participants lack a history of stable employment due to criminal activity, substance abuse, and minimal education or vocational training. To graduate from the program, a participant must be gainfully employed, absent disability or significant child care responsibilities.

A felony conviction, while a significant barrier, does not preclude all employment opportunities. A number of reentry graduates have held jobs in the food or construction industries. Some find temporary work through day-labor organizations. Occasionally, a day labor job can lead to a permanent employment opportunity. Other participants have started their own small

businesses as personal trainers, painters, or commercial truck drivers. Some job training programs focus on enhancing employment prospects for ex-offenders through intensive job training and support. Additionally, a federal bonding program, administered by the Department of Labor, provides some incentives to employers who hire previously incarcerated individuals.

In a 2015 Federal Bar newsletter article, Assistant Public Defender Mary Mills depicted the challenges faced by the participants and their need for occasional legal assistance in resolving child support or custody issues or in attempting to regain driver's licenses suspended due to unpaid fines, among other issues. That need remains. Federal bar association members who are interested in helping program members on a *pro bono* basis should contact a member of the FBA board.

The best testimonials of the value of the program continue to come from its graduates. Susan Leonard has had no further dealings with the criminal justice system since her graduation in 2012. She said she would tell individuals thinking of participating in the program that "You've got nothing to lose by doing it but a lot to gain. You can't change the past, but you can change the future. Help is out there. All you have to do is ask."

The author of this article is grateful for the assistance of Larry Dougherty, past Federal Bar Association Tampa Bay Chapter newsletter co-editor, in reporting and editing this article.

FBA Annual Luncheon Welcomes Distinguished Guests

By Katherine Earle Yanes

The Tampa Bay Chapter held its Annual Luncheon on December 8, 2016 at the University Club in Tampa.

The Chapter recognized and congratulated Judge Elizabeth Kovachevich on receiving the FBA's highest award, the Earl W. Kintner Award. Outgoing Chapter President Anne-Leigh Moe recognized and thanked the many volunteers who assisted the Chapter in 2016, including Bryan Hull, Josie Thomas, Erik Johanson, Harold Holder, Kim Koves, Mindi Richter, Traci Koster, Pam Miller, and Anita Flowers.

The Annual Luncheon included reports on the State of the District from Chief Judge Steven D. Merryday, United States Bankruptcy Court Chief Judge Michael G. Williamson, United States Attorney A. Lee Bentley, and Federal Public Defender Donna Elm. Judge Merryday noted the appointments of Magistrate Judges Sansone and Irick and the appointment of a new Chief of Pretrial Services, Jose Montanez. Judge Merryday explained that the United States Attorney's Office, the Office of the Federal Public Defender, and United States Probation Services are all "immensely busy" in the Middle District of Florida.

Chief Judge Michael Williamson of the Bankruptcy Court stated that the bankruptcy court in the Middle District is currently "in a good place." The Court was down to about 26,000 cases last year and had a full complement of eight judges, along with a ninth judge borrowed from South Dakota. The Honorable Roberta Colton joined the Court in 2016, and is seated in Orlando. Judge Williamson commended the Bankruptcy



Hon. Michael Williamson, Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Court's website for the wealth of procedural information it provides attorneys, including a set of orders that may be granted without a hearing. The Middle District was ranked third out of 94 bankruptcy courts nationwide by weighted caseload, and the second in pro se filings. Judge Williamson congratulated Judge McEwen on being presented with the Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice's Distinguished Federal Judicial Service Award.

United States Attorney Lee Bentley reported that the state of the United States Attorney's Office is "very good," adding, "I don't think the United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida has ever been in better shape." There are currently more than 120 Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSAs), as a result of the hiring of 45 new AUSAs. Mr. Bentley reported that the appellate division of the United States Attorney's Office is "outstanding," and that the Civil Division leads the United States in *qui tam* recoveries. The statistics regarding the Criminal Division are also good; while the number of cases filed remained flat, the case weight had risen, indicating "bigger cases." Additionally, white-collar crime prosecutions are up. The Middle District of Florida saw 84 federal criminal trials last year, which is "a big number." Additionally, several attorneys collectively spent thousands of hours contending with habeas cases stemming from the *Johnson* Armed Career Criminal Act cases. There were also more clemency petitions in the Middle District of Florida than anywhere else in the country.



Hon. Steven D. Merryday, Chief Judge of the Middle District of Florida, delivers the State of the District to attendees.

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Federal Public Defender Donna Elm explained that her office's caseload had doubled in the past year, from 1,600 to 3,200. The office hired twelve new employees including four new assistant federal public defenders. The Public Defender's Office for the Middle District of Florida has opened approximately 1,100 *Johnson* cases, and have about 250 more to go. The cases granted so far have resulted in sentence reductions totaling 7,100 months, saving taxpayers \$19 million. Ms. Elm served on the Steering Committee of Clemency Project 2014, and she noted that the clemencies granted thus far had reduced prison sentences by a combined total 16,000 months, saving taxpayers \$45 million. Ms. Elm commended the attorneys of the Middle District of Florida for the assistance they provided to clemency petitioners, explaining that within days of the Office of the Public Defender calling for assistance from local lawyers for 200 cases, enough volunteers were located.

Following the remarks on the State of the District, TBCFBA President Anne-Leigh Gaylord Moe took the lectern. She noted that TBCFBA membership was up to 525 members, with significant increases in the number of female and law student members. The TBCFBA is now one of the largest chapters in the country. President Moe thanked TBCFBA Membership Chair Erin Jackson for her "outstanding work." She also noted that the Tampa Bay Chapter will host the FBA National Convention in 2019.

The TBCFBA President's Award went to two recipients this year, Erica Bartimmo and Jordan Maglich. President Moe described them both as "superstars" for their work supporting the Chapter in 2016.

Judge Covington presented the TBCFBA's Pro Bono Award to Peter King and Jordan Maglich for their representation of Alfonso Jenkins, a 30-year Florida Department of Corrections prisoner who lost his vision

due to the prison's failure to obtain proper medical care. Two years of discovery and litigation in the case led to a resolution with a substantial payment to Mr. Jenkins. Judge Covington said the "wonderful work" of Mr. King and Mr. Maglich "made all the difference."

Former TBCFBA president Kevin Napper introduced the George C. Carr Memorial Award, which recognizes the "common sense, integrity and service" embodied by the late Judge Carr. Through a video statement, United States Senator Bill Nelson presented the award to John Fitzgibbons, stating "I think the award is richly deserved by John, for his long service to the United States." Senator Nelson acknowledged Mr. Fitzgibbons' long service as a member and Chair of the federal Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC), stating that his service is "the reason we have such quality federal judges in Florida." In accepting the award, Mr. Fitzgibbons thanked Senator Nelson for getting him involved with the Florida federal JNC, which he said is a "national model." Mr. Fitzgibbons stated that the only instructions he received from Senator Nelson were "Send me the best names. Period. No politics, no partisanship." Mr. Fitzgibbons said, "Those of us who want good judges, good U.S. Attorneys should thank Senator Nelson every time you see him." Mr. Fitzgibbons concluded by thanking the FBA and saying he wished his parents were still alive to see him accept the award. "My Dad to this day is still the best trial lawyer I've ever seen, and he would be in orbit over this."

The Annual Luncheon concluded with the swearing-in of the Chapter's new officers, and incoming President Katherine Earle Yanes offered Ms. Moe "thanks for her hard work and the great job she has done."



United States Attorney A. Lee Bentley.



The 2016 George C. Carr Memorial Award recipient, John Fitzgibbons (right) and Digna Alvarez, Regional Director for the Office of U.S. Senator Bill Nelson (left).

Photos from the 2016 TBCFBA Annual Luncheon



Federal Public Defender Donna Elm discusses the state of her office, including its recent post-conviction and clemency cases.



From left to right: Christopher Knopik, Stephen Senn, and Brian Albritton.



Immediate Past President Anne-Leigh Moe (left) awards Erica Gooden Bartimmo (right) with the TBCFBA President's Award.



Erik Johanson (left) and Larry Dougherty (right) pictured with their bronze eagles.



Chief Judge Steven D. Merryday swears in the 2016-2017 TBCFBA Officers. From left to right: Katherine Earle Yanes (President), Lauren Pilkington-Rich (Treasurer), Erin Jackson (Secretary), and Michael Matthews (Vice President). Not pictured: Jacqueline Simms-Petredis (President-Elect).

For more photos from the Chapter's events, please visit the Tampa Bay Chapter's Facebook page.

FBA hosts reception for Judge Amanda Sansone

On November 2, 2016, the Tampa Bay Chapter hosted a reception at the Tampa Club for Magistrate Judge Amanda Sansone, who was appointed in June. Judge Sansone thanked then-President Anne-Leigh Moe and the Chapter for hosting the event. Judge Sansone told the gathering that in her first five months on the bench, she gained new appreciation for the challenge of “making the best decision every time on the record before me.”

Judge Sansone, who was a civil litigator at Carlton Fields and a Senior Assistant Florida Attorney General before taking the bench, said she found the criminal cases “fascinating.” She noted the demands of “duty week,” when magistrate judges take turns handling initial appearances and other preliminary criminal matters, but the “constant conveyor belt” of civil motion practice does not stop. Judge Sansone reminded lawyers that she considers many cases every week, so providing short overviews can be extremely helpful to a judge who is revisiting a case after a break in time. “There is no such thing as dumbing down the facts or the law too much,” she said.

Judge Sansone said she appreciated efforts of counsel



Magistrate Judge Amanda Sansone at the reception the Tampa Bay Chapter hosted in her honor.

who highlight the time-sensitive nature of certain motions, for example, that “this deposition is in one week,” so chambers can help to address matters in a timely fashion. Judge Sansone expressed her surprise by “the lack of meaningful meet and confer” by opposing counsel before filing motions, although such conferences are required by Local Rule 3.01(g). Judge Sansone said she is using her calendar to set ticklers to see if discovery disputes or other problems arise in cases. If a case goes quiet, she may schedule a telephone conference to check on the parties’ progress.

Judge Sansone emphasized how much she enjoys serving as a judge. “I love this position,” Judge Sansone said. “There is so much variety. I will never feel I’ve seen it all.” Judge Sansone noted that some visitors to her courtroom asked how old she is, and she mentioned she was about to turn 40. Judge Sansone said she considers herself a “work in progress” and invited suggestions for improvement.

Past President Anne Leigh Moe concluded by thanking Judge Sansone on behalf of the chapter for her service.



Judge Sansone (left) with Sara Lui (middle) and Jeremy Rill (right).

Newsletter Editors

Brandon Breslow

Bryan D. Hull

Questions? Comments? If you would like to submit an article or have a suggestion for future newsletter content, please contact Bryan at bhull@bushross.com or Brandon at bbreslow@kmf-law.com.

Photos from the FBA reception for Judge Sansone



Judge Kovachevich (middle) poses with Tampa Bay Chapter board members Jordan Maglich (left) and Erica Gooden Bartimmo (right).



Judge Bucklew (left) and Tom Elligett (right).



Magistrate Judge Pizzo, Judge Castagna, and Chief Judge Merri-day attended the reception to honor their newest colleague.



John Lauro (left), Rachel May Zysk (middle), and Eddie Suarez (right) welcome Judge Sansone to the bench.



From left to right: Irene Bassel Frick, Magistrate Judge Sneed, Margaret Matthews, and TBCFBA President Katherine Earle Yanes.

For more photos from the Chapter's events, please visit the Tampa Bay Chapter's Facebook page.

Recent events hosted by the Tampa Bay Chapter

What You Need to Know About Practicing in the Middle District of Florida

On November 4, 2016, the Young Lawyer's Division hosted its semi-annual "What You Need to Know About Practicing in the Middle District" at the Sam M. Gibbons U.S. Courthouse. Attendees listened to a presentation given by Magistrate Judge Anthony E. Porcelli and attorney Jason Stearns (pictured right) on helpful tips and recommendations for practicing in the Middle District. The YLD is grateful to Judge Porcelli and Mr. Stearns for volunteering their valuable time. The next "What You Need to Know" will take place on March 30, 2017, and members interested in attending should contact Kim Koves at kkoves@wiandlaw.com or Anitra Raiford at araiford@shb.com.



Legal Writing Workshop

On November 21, 2016, members of the FBA and local judiciary attended a presentation by noted lexicographer Bryan Garner on advanced legal editing and writing. Mr. Garner, who is perhaps most well-known for his role as editor-in-chief of Black's Law Dictionary, gave a three-hour presentation on the intricacies of legal writing at Stetson Law School's Tampa Law Center. The FBA wishes to thank Mr. Garner as well as Presenting Sponsor the Middle District Bench Bar Fund, Platinum Sponsors Wiand Guerra King and Hill Ward Henderson, and Gold Sponsors Westlaw, Akerman, Shumaker, Anthem Reporting, Bush Ross, Holland & Knight, Foley & Lardner, Stichter Riedel, Stetson College of Law, and the Florida Bar YLD.

Chambers Lunches

The Chambers Lunch is a small-group, invitation-only luncheon that fosters unique and meaningful interaction between federal judges and members of the Tampa Bay Chapter. Participating judges may host up to ten attendees for lunch, conversation, and a brief tour. The FBA thanks Judge Mary Scriven, Magistrate Judge Julie Sneed, and Magistrate Judge Amanda Sansone for graciously hosting recent Chambers Lunch events. Available seats for future Chambers Lunches will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to any member who provided pro bono services through the FBA in calendar year 2016 or 2017. FBA President Katherine Earle Yanes handles requests and can be reached at president@federalbartampa.org.

Mentoring Program Kick-Off Event

One of the most significant factors contributing to an attorney's professional success is the presence of an effective mentor. The TBCFBA Mentoring Program provides participants with an opportunity to form mutually beneficial relationships that foster professional growth and career development and, most important, to meet interesting people.

The Mentoring Program held its annual Kick-Off event on January 26 at TAPS in downtown Tampa. Many mentors and mentees met and mingled. Participants included lawyers in private practice, government, and law students from both Stetson and Cooley. Peter King, chair of the program, introduced the program and offered suggestions on how to make the program useful for both mentees and mentors. Following the event, mentors and mentees have been paired and are well underway in developing their professional relationships.

It is not too late to get involved. FBA members are eligible to participate as mentors if the member has been in practice for six or more years and has experience handling federal litigation. FBA members are eligible to participate as mentees if the member is a law student, has been admitted to The Florida Bar for five years or less, or has practiced in federal court for less than two years. In addition to the one-on-one interactions of our mentors/mentees, the Mentoring Program will be hosting several social events through the year which are fun, low-key opportunities to make new acquaintances. If you would like to take part in the mentoring program or have any questions, please contact Mentoring Chair Peter King at pkking@wiandlaw.com or 813.347.5103.

Cathy Morgan, deputy clerk for Judge Sansone, receives Federal Court Clerks Association Award

By Adam Labonte

Cathy Morgan, courtroom deputy clerk for Magistrate Judge Amanda A. Sansone and formerly the courtroom deputy clerk for Magistrate Judge Elizabeth A. Jenkins, was the 2016 recipient of the Dwight D. Opperman Public Service Award, awarded by the Federal Court Clerks Association. This award recognizes a deputy clerk who provides exemplary customer service, and the recipient receives a plaque of recognition. Ms. Morgan, endorsed by Clerk of Court Sheryl Loesch, was selected over nominees from federal courts across the country.

Ms. Morgan's nomination highlights her longtime commitment to customer service in the federal courthouse, as well as her penchant for going above and beyond the requirements of her position. Ms. Morgan regularly assists her colleagues with jury assembly for trials, provides training to new deputy clerks, and has served on a national court committee for CM/ECF. She has also assisted in programs welcoming local high school students and foreign judicial delegations to the courthouse. This award recognizes Ms. Morgan's commitment to providing exemplary customer service to all those she interacts with in her position as a courtroom deputy clerk.



Cathy Morgan (middle) with Judge Jenkins (left) and Judge Sansone (right).

2017-2018 Officers, Board of Directors, Committee Chairs and Liaisons

Officers:

President: Katherine Earle Yanes
President-Elect: Jacqueline Simms-Petredis
Vice President: Michael Matthews
Secretary: Erin Jackson
Immediate Past President: Anne-Leigh Moe

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Erica Bartimmo	Richard Martin
Brandon K. Breslow	Scott McLaren
Heather Brock	Edward Peterson
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Larry Dougherty	Jason Stearns
Lara R. Fernandez	Eddie Suarez
Alec Hall	Josie Thomas
Calvin Hayes	Mamie Wise
Bryan D. Hull	Rachel Zysk

**To contact the officers, directors,
committee chairs, or liaisons,
please visit our website:
<http://www.federalbartampa.org/>**

Federal Bar Association Application for Membership

The Federal Bar Association offers an unmatched array of opportunities and services to enhance your connections to the judiciary, the legal profession, and your peers within the legal community. Our mission is to strengthen the federal legal system and administration of justice by serving the interests and the needs of the federal practitioner, both public and private, the federal judiciary, and the public they serve.

Advocacy

The opportunity to make a change and improve the federal legal system through grassroots work in over 90 FBA chapters and a strong national advocacy.

Networking

Connect with a network of federal practitioners extending across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Leadership

Governance positions within the association help shape the FBA's future and make an impact on the growth of the federal legal community.

Learning

Explore best practices and new ideas at the many Continuing Legal Education programs offered throughout the year—at both the national and chapter levels.

Expand your connections, advance your career

THREE WAYS TO APPLY TODAY: Join online at www.fedbar.org; Fax application to (571) 481-9090; or Mail application to FBA, PO Box 79395, Baltimore, MD 21279-0395. For more information, contact the FBA membership department at (571) 481-9100 or membership@fedbar.org.

Applicant Information

First Name _____ M.I. _____ Last Name _____ Suffix (e.g. Jr.) _____ Title (e.g. Attorney At Law, Partner, Assistant U.S. Attorney) _____
☐ Male ☐ Female Have you been an FBA member in the past? ☐ yes ☐ no Which do you prefer as your primary address? ☐ business ☐ home

Firm/Company/Agency _____ Number of Attorneys _____
Address _____ Suite/Floor _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____
() _____
Phone _____ Email Address _____

Address _____ Apt. # _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Country _____
() _____ / /
Phone _____ Date of Birth _____
Email Address _____

Bar Admission and Law School Information (required)

U.S. *Court of Record: _____
State/District: _____ Date of Original Admission: / /

Foreign *Court/Tribunal of Record: _____
Country: _____ Date of Original Admission: / /

Tribal *Court of Record: _____
State/District: _____ Date of Original Admission: / /

Students Law School: _____
State/District: _____ Date of Expected Graduation: / /

***Court of Record:** Name of **first court** in which you were admitted to practice.

Authorization Statement

By signing this application, I hereby apply for membership in the Federal Bar Association and agree to conform to its Constitution and Bylaws and to the rules and regulations prescribed by its Board of Directors. I declare that the information contained herein is true and complete. I understand that any false statements made on this application will lead to rejection of my application or the immediate termination of my membership. I also understand that by providing my fax number and email address, I hereby consent to receive faxes and email messages sent by or on behalf of the Federal Bar Association, the Foundation of the Federal Bar Association, and the Federal Bar Building Corporation.

Signature of Applicant _____ **Date** _____

(Signature must be included for membership to be activated)

****Contributions and dues to the FBA may be deductible by members under provisions of the IRS Code, such as an ordinary and necessary business expense, except 4.5 percent which is used for congressional lobbying and is not deductible. Your FBA dues include \$15 for a yearly subscription to the FBA's professional magazine.**

Application continued on the back



**Federal Bar
Association**

Membership Categories and Optional Section, Division, and Chapter Affiliations

Membership Levels

Sustaining Membership

Members of the association distinguish themselves when becoming sustaining members of the FBA. Sixty dollars of the sustaining dues are used to support educational programs and publications of the FBA. Sustaining members receive a 5 percent discount on the registration fees for all national meetings and national CLE events.

	Private Sector	Public Sector
Member Admitted to Practice 0-5 Years.....	<input type="radio"/> \$165	<input type="radio"/> \$145
Member Admitted to Practice 6-10 Years	<input type="radio"/> \$230	<input type="radio"/> \$205
Member Admitted to Practice 11+ Years	<input type="radio"/> \$275	<input type="radio"/> \$235
Retired (Fully Retired from the Practice of Law)	<input type="radio"/> \$165	<input type="radio"/> \$165

Active Membership

Open to any person admitted to the practice of law before a federal court or a court of record in any of the several states, commonwealths, territories, or possessions of the United States or in the District of Columbia.

	Private Sector	Public Sector
Member Admitted to Practice 0-5 Years.....	<input type="radio"/> \$105	<input type="radio"/> \$80
Member Admitted to Practice 6-10 Years	<input type="radio"/> \$165	<input type="radio"/> \$140
Member Admitted to Practice 11+ Years	<input type="radio"/> \$210	<input type="radio"/> \$170
Retired (Fully Retired from the Practice of Law)	<input type="radio"/> \$105	<input type="radio"/> \$105

Associate Membership

Foreign Associate

Admitted to practice law outside the U.S. ☐ \$210

Law Student Associate

First year student (includes four years of membership)	<input type="radio"/> \$50
Second year student (includes three years of membership)	<input type="radio"/> \$30
Third year student (includes two years of membership)	<input type="radio"/> \$20
One year only option	<input type="radio"/> \$20

All first, second and third year student memberships include an additional free year of membership starting from your date of graduation.

Dues Total: _____

Practice Area Sections

<input type="radio"/> Admiralty Law	<input type="radio"/> Intellectual Property Law
<input type="radio"/> Alternative Dispute Resolution	<input type="radio"/> International Law
<input type="radio"/> Antitrust and Trade Regulation... ..	<input type="radio"/> Labor and Employment Law
<input type="radio"/> Banking Law	<input type="radio"/> LGBT Law
<input type="radio"/> Bankruptcy Law	<input type="radio"/> Qui Tam Section
<input type="radio"/> Civil Rights Law	<input type="radio"/> Securities Law Section
<input type="radio"/> Criminal Law	<input type="radio"/> Social Security
<input type="radio"/> Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources	<input type="radio"/> State and Local Government Relations
<input type="radio"/> Federal Litigation	<input type="radio"/> Taxation
<input type="radio"/> Government Contracts	<input type="radio"/> Transportation and Transportation Security Law
<input type="radio"/> Health Law	<input type="radio"/> Veterans and Military Law
<input type="radio"/> Immigration Law	
<input type="radio"/> Indian Law	

Career Divisions

<input type="radio"/> Corporate & Association Counsel (in-house counsel and/or corporate law practice)	<input type="radio"/> \$20
<input type="radio"/> Federal Career Service (past/present employee of federal government)	<input type="radio"/> N/C
<input type="radio"/> Judiciary (past/present member or staff of a judiciary)	<input type="radio"/> N/C
<input type="radio"/> Senior Lawyers* (age 55 or over)	<input type="radio"/> \$10
<input type="radio"/> Younger Lawyers* (age 40 or younger or admitted less than 10 years)	<input type="radio"/> N/C
<input type="radio"/> Law Student Division	<input type="radio"/> N/C

*For eligibility, date of birth must be provided.

Sections and Divisions Total: _____

Chapter Affiliation

Your FBA membership entitles you to a chapter membership. Local chapter dues are indicated next to the chapter name (if applicable). If no chapter is selected, you will be assigned a chapter based on geographic location. *No chapter currently located in this state or location.

Alabama <input type="radio"/> Birmingham <input type="radio"/> Montgomery <input type="radio"/> North Alabama	Illinois <input type="radio"/> Central District of Illinois-\$25 <input type="radio"/> Chicago <input type="radio"/> P. Michael Mahoney (Rockford, Illinois) <input type="radio"/> Chapter <input type="radio"/> Southern District of Illinois <input type="radio"/> Tucson-\$10	New Hampshire <input type="radio"/> New Hampshire-\$10 New Jersey <input type="radio"/> New Jersey New Mexico <input type="radio"/> New Mexico New York <input type="radio"/> Eastern District of New York <input type="radio"/> Southern District of New York <input type="radio"/> Western District of New York North Carolina <input type="radio"/> Eastern District of North Carolina <input type="radio"/> Middle District of North Carolina <input type="radio"/> Western District of North Carolina North Dakota <input type="radio"/> North Dakota Ohio <input type="radio"/> Cincinnati/ Northern Kentucky-John W. Peck <input type="radio"/> Columbus <input type="radio"/> Dayton <input type="radio"/> Northern District of Ohio-\$10 Oklahoma <input type="radio"/> Oklahoma City <input type="radio"/> Northern/ Eastern Oklahoma Oregon <input type="radio"/> Oregon Pennsylvania <input type="radio"/> Eastern District of Pennsylvania <input type="radio"/> Middle District of Pennsylvania <input type="radio"/> Western District of Pennsylvania Puerto Rico <input type="radio"/> Hon. Raymond L. Acosta/ Puerto Rico-\$10	Rhode Island <input type="radio"/> Rhode Island South Carolina <input type="radio"/> South Carolina South Dakota <input type="radio"/> South Dakota Tennessee <input type="radio"/> Chattanooga <input type="radio"/> Knoxville Chapter <input type="radio"/> Memphis Mid-South <input type="radio"/> Nashville <input type="radio"/> Northeast Tennessee Texas <input type="radio"/> Austin <input type="radio"/> Dallas-\$10 <input type="radio"/> El Paso <input type="radio"/> Fort Worth <input type="radio"/> San Antonio <input type="radio"/> Southern District of Texas-\$25 <input type="radio"/> Waco Utah <input type="radio"/> Utah Vermont* <input type="radio"/> At Large Virgin Islands <input type="radio"/> Virgin Islands Virginia <input type="radio"/> Northern Virginia <input type="radio"/> Richmond <input type="radio"/> Roanoke <input type="radio"/> Hampton Roads Chapter Washington* <input type="radio"/> At Large West Virginia <input type="radio"/> Northern District of West Virginia-\$20 Wisconsin <input type="radio"/> Wisconsin Wyoming <input type="radio"/> Wyoming
Alaska <input type="radio"/> Alaska	Arkansas <input type="radio"/> Arkansas	California <input type="radio"/> Inland Empire <input type="radio"/> Los Angeles <input type="radio"/> Northern District of California <input type="radio"/> Orange County <input type="radio"/> Sacramento <input type="radio"/> San Diego <input type="radio"/> San Joaquin Valley Colorado <input type="radio"/> Colorado Connecticut <input type="radio"/> District of Connecticut Delaware <input type="radio"/> Delaware District of Columbia <input type="radio"/> Capitol Hill <input type="radio"/> D.C. <input type="radio"/> Pentagon Florida <input type="radio"/> Broward County <input type="radio"/> Jacksonville <input type="radio"/> North Central Florida-\$25 <input type="radio"/> Orlando <input type="radio"/> Palm Beach County <input type="radio"/> South Florida <input type="radio"/> Southwest Florida <input type="radio"/> Tallahassee <input type="radio"/> Tampa Bay Georgia <input type="radio"/> Atlanta-\$10 <input type="radio"/> Southern District of Georgia Chapter Hawaii <input type="radio"/> Hawaii Idaho <input type="radio"/> Idaho	Indiana <input type="radio"/> Indianapolis <input type="radio"/> Northern District of Indiana Iowa <input type="radio"/> Iowa-\$10 Kansas <input type="radio"/> Kansas and Western District of Missouri Kentucky <input type="radio"/> Kentucky Louisiana <input type="radio"/> Baton Rouge <input type="radio"/> Lafayette/ Acadiana <input type="radio"/> New Orleans-\$10 <input type="radio"/> North Louisiana Maine <input type="radio"/> Maine Maryland <input type="radio"/> Maryland Massachusetts <input type="radio"/> Massachusetts -\$10 Michigan <input type="radio"/> Eastern District of Michigan <input type="radio"/> Western District of Michigan Minnesota <input type="radio"/> Minnesota Mississippi <input type="radio"/> Mississippi Missouri <input type="radio"/> St. Louis <input type="radio"/> Kansas and Western District of Missouri Montana <input type="radio"/> Montana Nebraska <input type="radio"/> Nebraska Nevada <input type="radio"/> Nevada
Chapter Total: _____			

Payment Information

TOTAL DUES TO BE CHARGED

(membership, section/division, and chapter dues): \$ _____

☐ Check enclosed, payable to Federal Bar Association
Credit: ☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Name on card (please print)

Card No.

Exp. Date

Signature

Date