

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2014 FBA ANNUAL CONVENTION  
September 4-6, 2014
- BIG BROTHER MEETS BIG DATA- THE PRICE OF VIRTUE: WALKING THE TIGHTROPE BETWEEN PRIVACY AND SECURITY  
September 16, 2014
- ANNUAL SUPREME COURT REVIEW AND JUDGE BARRY RUSSEL FEDERAL PRACTICE AWARDS  
October 2, 2014
- 9th CIRCUIT APPELLATE PRACTICE WORKSHOP  
October 23, 2014
- 11th ANNUAL BANKRUPTCY ETHICS SYMPOSIUM  
November 21, 2014

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## OVER 200 HEAR ABOUT THE STATE OF THE CIRCUIT/DISTRICT

By Laura E. Perry

On March 13, 2014, the Federal Bar Association Los Angeles Chapter presented the "State of the Circuit/District" luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

Each year, the FBA hosts the State of the Circuit/District luncheon in order to give local attorneys an opportunity to interact with Court leadership and hear the Chief Justices' comments and insights on the issues confronting each court. This year, the luncheon featured Circuit Judge Paul J. Watford, Chief District Judge George H. King, Chief Magistrate Judge Suzanne H. Segal and Chief Bankruptcy Judge Peter H. Carroll. Over 200 judges, attorneys, and law clerks attended the event. During the luncheon, each of the four Judges commented on the current state of their court, discussing such items as the lingering impact of sequestration on court programs and resources, newly appointed judges, and changes expected in the coming year.

### Ninth Circuit

Judge Paul J. Watford, a member of the 9th Circuit bench standing in for Chief Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski (for whom he formerly clerked), began the luncheon by welcoming the FBA members and announcing that for the first time in 30 years, the Circuit may soon be at full strength. At the time of the luncheon, there were only two open seats on the Circuit and there were two nominees before the Senate. The recent appointment of John B. Owens now leaves only one seat empty.

The 9th Circuit continues to be the biggest and busiest Circuit in the Country, serving nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. Judge Watford reported that the Circuit hears one-fifth of the nation's appeals. The number of new cases being filed every year has remained steady at approximately 13,000 and the Circuit resolves almost the same number of cases every year. There are approximately 14,000 cases awaiting resolution. Over the past few years, the

average time a litigant has had to wait for the resolution of his appeal has decreased. In 2011, litigants were waiting on average 17.4 months. In 2012, litigants waited an average 15 months. In 2013, litigants waited only an average 13.3 months. The average time between argument and disposition is only 1.2 months.

Of the new cases filed, 52% are brought by *Pro Se* litigants, with the largest single category being prisoner appeals. This Circuit also continues to see a high number of immigration cases, constituting 30% of the docket. With only 4.7% of the Circuit's work completed by visiting judges (far lower than the other Circuits using as high as 15%), the 27 Judges on the Ninth Circuit were busy this past year—issuing 600 published opinions. Thousands of unpublished opinions and orders made up 92% of the Circuit's work.

Our Senior Judges have been particularly busy handling 25% of the Circuit's appeals. On average, other Circuit's Senior Judges handle only 20%

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## SCENES FROM RECENT FBA-LA PROGRAMS



*(l. to r.) Bankruptcy Clerk of Court Kathleen J. Campbell, District Court Executive and Clerk of Court Terry Nafisi, and FBA LA Chapter Past-President Evan Jenness*



*(l. to r.) Magistrate Judge Michael R. Wilner, U.S. Attorney Andre Birotte, Jr., and Sandhya Ramadas*



### STATE OF THE CIRCUIT/ DISTRICT PROGRAM

*(l. to r.) FBA-LA Chapter President Sharon Ben-Shahar, Bankruptcy Chief Judge Peter H. Carroll, Magistrate Chief Judge Suzanne H. Segal, District Chief Judge George H. King, FBA-LA Chapter Treasurer David K. Willingham, FBA-LA Chapter Secretary Matthew W. Close, and Circuit Judge Paul J. Watford*



*District Chief Judge George H. King*



*(l. to r.) Robyn Crowther and Stephanie Ames*



*(l. to r.) Hilary Potaschner and District Judge Michael Fitzgerald*

## UCLA Law Welcomes new FBA Student Chapter

by Steve Sabel

This spring the Federal Bar Association welcomed a new student chapter at UCLA Law School. In the continuous effort to expand our membership base, FBA has been actively working on getting more law schools and more law students involved. Under the leadership of rising 3L Steven Sabel, the UCLA Law chapter put on two events before the semester drew to a close. They have even more in the pipeline for next year.

The kickoff event was a luncheon entitled “Firm Life and the Federal Practice.” The distinguished panel included Matthew Close (O’Melveny & Myers), Rob Kohn (Kohn Law Group), and Benjamin Lichtman (Bird Marella) and provided advice and perspective on what life is like after law school. Students heard about various practice areas, the do’s and the don’ts in legal jobs, the experience of clerkships, and what to expect when working at a law firm. This event was widely successful and drew in a crowd of over 50 students. Students speaking about the event had much praise for the speakers and the insight they provided.

The second event of the semester was a ‘viewing party’ for a webinar on “Recent High Profile Securities Law Decisions.” Thanks to the generous sponsorships

of the Federal Litigation Section and the Securities Law Section the student chapter was able to provide bagels, juice, and coffee to the dozen or so students that joined this event.

Next semester the student chapter hopes to offer a number of luncheons on various areas of the law including IP, Bankruptcy, and an overview of the federal judiciary. Anyone interested in sponsoring or speaking on one of these panels is encouraged to reach out to Steven Sabel directly at [steven@sabel.org](mailto:steven@sabel.org).



(l. to r.) FBA-LA Chapter Secretary Matthew W. Close, Robert Kohn, Steve Sabel, and Benjamin Lichtman

## A Reception Honoring the Judiciary

by Nicholas B. Melzer



Nicholas B. Melzer,  
Holland & Knight LLP

On Thursday, May 8, 2014, the Los Angeles Chapter of the Federal Bar Association hosted its annual Reception Honoring the Federal Judiciary. The event took place in the Tom Bradley Room, a magnificently restored ceremonial space on the top floor of the iconic Los Angeles City Hall. The highly anticipated reception lived up to its reputation as one of the highlights of the FBA-LA calendar. A record crowd of over 200 people came to honor the judges of the federal courts. Perfect weather and an observation deck with some of the best views in the city added to the night’s success.

The crowd was busy mingling when Sharon Ben-Shahar, President of FBA-LA, took to the podium to begin the night’s program and thanked the many members of the federal judiciary in attendance for their hard work and ceaseless commitment to justice in the face of difficult budget cuts and increasingly crowded dockets. The Honorable George H. King, Chief Judge of the Central District, then addressed the crowd to express the bench’s sincere appreciation for the work that the FBA does on behalf of the Federal Courts. Judge King explained that the Bar and the Judiciary are not adverse parties, but are “permanent partners” in the never-ending quest to improve the American justice system.

The Honorable Michael W. Fitzgerald, an FBA Board member and event organizer, eloquently summed up the evening. When asked for his thoughts, he responded simply “I’m pleased that we were able to maintain the tradition of the reception by keeping the program to a minimum so that we can eat, drink, and chat with each other.” And, for two hours, that’s what we did.

## President's Message



*Sharon Ben-Shahar*  
FBA Chapter  
President  
*Bird Marella Boxer*  
*Wolpert Nessim*  
*Drooks, Lincenberg*  
*& Rhow PC*

Our Chapter has always been a leader among bar organizations in the quality of its programs and this year is no exception. Since the last issue of this newsletter we put on a number of successful programs and events. On February 19, our new UCLA Chapter, led by law student and FBA member Steven Sabel, organized a successful kick-off event, featuring a panel discussion regarding federal practice and firm life. The panel included Chair of the Federal Litigation Section Robert Kohn, FBA board member Matthew Close of O'Melveny & Myers, and FBA member Benjamin Lichtman of Bird Marella.

On March 13, we presented our annual State of the Circuit/District luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel. This program was organized by board members John Carson of Foley & Lardner and David Willingham of Caldwell Leslie & Proctor. We were privileged to have many members of the judiciary in attendance and to hear the insights of Ninth Circuit Judge Paul J. Watford, Chief District Court Judge George H. King, Chief Magistrate Judge Suzanne H. Segal and Chief Bankruptcy Judge Peter H. Carroll, regarding the state of their courts.

On March 19, our Younger Lawyers Division held its third-ever Happy Hour, organized by YLD Chair Sandhya Ramadas from the Unites States Attorney's Office, FBA member and law clerk to Ninth Circuit Judge Alarcon Jeff Payne, and FBA member Celene Chan of Girardi & Keese. Like the two prior Happy Hours, we expected the event to be popular, but this time the response was extraordinary. For younger lawyers in Los Angeles, the Blue Cow Kitchen & Bar, where this

event was held, was "the place to be" on March 19.

On May 8, we hosted our annual Reception Honoring the Federal Judiciary in the beautiful Tom Bradley room atop the City Hall Tower. U.S. District Court Judge Michael Fitzgerald and Jeff Rutherford of Crowell & Moring organized this outstanding event, in which we paid tribute to the judges of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judges and the Bankruptcy Court judges of our District.

Our summer associates program "Federal Practice: A Primer for Summer Associates" was held on July 21, 2014. This half-day program featured a tour of the clerk's office, followed by observation of oral argument in real time, and a lunch discussion with District Court Judge Otis D. Wright, District Court Judge Beverly Reid O'Connell and Chief Magistrate Judge Suzanne H. Segal about the do's and don'ts of federal oral argument. And the best part? Participants received free FBA membership! Many thanks to Sandhya Ramadas, Celene Chan and Kristen Tuey for organizing this excellent program.

Then, on July 23 our Younger Lawyers Division knocked it out of the park again with another successful Brown Bag Lunch, this time with District Court Judge Philip S. Gutierrez and Magistrate Judge Patrick J. Walsh. Our YLD Co-Chair Jeff Chemerinsky was the moving force behind this program.

We thank all of the program organizers and the judges, attorneys and law students who participated in them, without whom these events would not be possible.

The next few months promise to be just as busy and exciting. Our upcoming program on

*(continued on page 9)*



*LA Chapter leadership team (l. to r.) Matthew W. Close, Sharon Ben-Shahar, and Kenneth Sulzer*

## MORE SCENES FROM RECENT FBA-LA



(l. to r.) Elizabeth Horowitz and Summer Shelton



(l. to r.) Bankruptcy Judge Sandra R. Klein and Candace Crociani



(l. to r.) Lena Afary and Molly White



(l. to r.) AOUSC Facilities Program Manager Gregg Miller, District Court Executive and Clerk of Court Terry Nafisi, and Circuit Judge Alex Kozinski



(l. to r.) Kristina Azlin, Sandhya Ramadas, and Benjamin David Lichtman.



(l. to r.) Vince Farhat and District Court Judge Josephine L. Staton

## RECEPTION HONORING THE JUDICIARY



**LOS ANGELES**  
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*cordially invites you to attend this special event*

**NINTH CIRCUIT APPELLATE PRACTICE WORKSHOP**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2014**

**RICHARD H. CHAMBERS U.S. COURT OF APPEALS BUILDING**  
125 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE  
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1:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M. REGISTRATION  
1:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. PROGRAM  
5:30 P.M. - 6:15 P.M. RECEPTION WITH JUDGES



Now under construction in downtown Los Angeles, this new federal courthouse. The 625,000-square-foot facility will contain 24 courtrooms and 32 judges' chambers. See more at: [www.som.com/projects/new\\_united\\_states\\_courthouse\\_\\_los\\_angeles](http://www.som.com/projects/new_united_states_courthouse__los_angeles)

## State of the District/Circuit (cont. from page 1)



*Laura E. Perry,  
O'Melveny &  
Myers, LLP*

of their Circuit's workload. Judge Watford also spoke of the future of the Circuit. He noted that 2013 will be the final year of Chief Judge Kozinski's term as Chief Justice; Judge Thomas will take the helm in the Fall of 2014.

Judge Watford also informed the audience of the effect the internet has had on the Circuit. The San Francisco and Pasadena courthouses began live streaming oral arguments. The hope is that by the end of 2014, live streaming will be available at all of the Ninth Circuit's courthouses.

### **District Court**

Chief District Judge George H. King was the next speaker. Judge King reported that the Central District was in a much better position than it was last year, largely thanks to the efforts of the District's staff and judges. Last year's sequestration had a significant impact on the Central District. The effects of furloughs, layoffs, and delayed payments are still being felt. Although the District has largely been able to mitigate the effects of the sequestration, the District must remain vigilant in terms of spending and costs. As a result, the District will focus on utilizing "multi-function" positions for its staff in order to increase cost efficiency.

In terms of staffing, Judge King also noted that as of the morning of the luncheon, District Judge Gary Fees has taken senior status. He also announced that the Central Dis-

trict has welcomed one new District Judge, the Hon. Beverly Reid O'Connell. Judge O'Connell comes to the Central District from the Los Angeles Superior Court, where she served since 2005, presiding over thousands of cases and approximately 150 jury trials. For a five-month period in 2010 and 2011, she sat by designation on the California Court of Appeal for the Second District, Division 8. Prior to her appointment as a Superior Court Judge, Judge Reid O'Connell served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Central District of California from 1995 to 2005. While with the U.S. Attorney's Office, she helped lead high-profile criminal prosecutions in narcotics, organized crime, and domestic terrorism cases, including cases that earned her awards of distinction from federal law enforcement officials.

On a positive note, Congress has extended the District's temporary judgeship for another year, and the District will continue to work with its representatives to convert the District's temporary judgeship into a permanent one. Additionally, construction for the new Central District courthouse, which will be located at First and Broadway, has officially broken ground. The project is still on target for completion in 2016. Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill LLP is the architect. Another exciting development for the District is that case initiating documents can now be e-filed on the ECF system in almost

every category of civil cases as part of a pilot program that will run through 2014.

### **Magistrates**

Chief Magistrate Judge Suzanne H. Segal was next to offer her comments. During the luncheon, Judge Segal focused her insights on staffing and caseload changes implemented in the last year and those that are expected. The Magistrate Judges continue to be busy presiding over preliminary proceedings in criminal cases, the trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases, adjudicating discovery disputes and conducting settlement conferences and various other pre-trial hearings in civil cases.

Judge Segal praised the success of the voluntary consent program as well as the Conviction and Alternate Sentencing (CASA) programs as just two of the myriad ways the magistrate bench contributes to the Central District. Under the voluntary consent program parties, in any civil matter, can elect to have their case reassigned to one of eleven Magistrate Judges, no matter the stage of proceeding, so long as all Parties to the action and the assigned District Judge consent. The CASA program is a post-guilty plea diversion program that offers a creative blend of treatment, sanction alternatives, and incentives to effectively address offender behavior, rehabilitation, and the safety of the community.

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# State of the District/Circuit (cont. from page 6)

Judge Segal also welcomed to the magistrate bench Alka Sagar, Douglas F. McCormick, and Louise A. LaMothe. Judge Sagar comes to the magistrate bench from the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles. She served as an Assistant United States Attorney since 1987, serving as a Deputy Chief in the Major Crimes Section since 1991 and as a Deputy Chief in the office's Major Frauds Section since 2001. From 2004 to 2006, she also served as a judge pro tem for the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Judge Sagar is the first American Indian woman to serve as a magistrate judge.

Judge McCormick also served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office in Santa Ana since 2001, and as a Deputy Chief of that office since 2007. In 2008, Judge McCormick received an Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service for his work on a domestic terrorism case against four members of a prison-based group plotting to attack military recruiting centers and synagogues.

Judge LaMothe practiced as a professional arbitrator and mediator, serving on the panels of the American Arbitration Association, and the International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution (CPR). She is a Fellow and Board member of the College of Commercial Arbitrators and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. She has been a long-time volunteer on the District Court's Attorney Settlement Officer Panel. While in private practice as a litigator she served twice as a Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference lawyer representative and was Chair of the American Bar Association Section of Litigation. Judge LaMothe will sit in Santa Barbara in the Court's Western Division.

Judge Segal explained that the Central District has 24 authorized full-time and one part-time Magistrate Judge positions, and 9 of these seats are currently up for retirement. As a result, the Central District is "looking for new blood" and encouraged those interested in serving as magistrates to apply.

## **Bankruptcy Court**

Chief Bankruptcy Judge Peter H. Carroll closed the luncheon with a report on the state of the Bankruptcy Court. He reported that there are currently 2 vacant seats on the bench. Judge Carroll indicated that the Central District has continued to do well despite budget constraints, but expressed concern for the future.

In 2013, the Bankruptcy Court reduced its workforce by 95 individuals, and hopes that further reductions will not be necessary. Because the Bankruptcy Court's budget is tied directly to the number filings, as the number of bankruptcies decrease, so too, will the budget. In fact, the number of courtrooms available to the Bankruptcy Court will be reduced from 16 to 6 over the next year. Judge Carroll expressed concern that because bankruptcies are expected to increase in 2018, the Bankruptcy Court may need to expand in order to meet demand.

Moving forward, Judge Carroll's focus is on developing the Court's long-term strategic plan in order to meet the political and socio-economic environment expected over the next ten years. He believes that this realignment is especially important given the challenges posed by the present economy. The Court's Strategic Plan, which defines its direction for the next 7-10 years, is available for review on

the Court's website at [http://www.cacb.uscourts.gov/sites/cacb/files/documents/Strategic\\_Plan\\_2014-2019.pdf](http://www.cacb.uscourts.gov/sites/cacb/files/documents/Strategic_Plan_2014-2019.pdf). The Strategic Plan identifies long-term issues facing the Court, together with the goals and strategies to address each of these issues. Chief Judge Carroll urges the members of the bar to review the Strategic Plan. He also announced that Judge Sheri Bluebond will be the next Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court.

We thank each of our members and the Judges for attending the luncheon and for your contributions to the running of our District and Circuit Courts.

## **SAVE THE DATE:**

*Los Angeles Federal Bar Association*

**11th Annual Bankruptcy Ethics Symposium**

**Friday, November 21, 2014  
Roybal Federal Building**

*paid advertisement*

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# President's Message (cont. from page 4)

September 16 "Big Brother Meets Big Data - The Price of Virtue: Walking the Tightrope Between Privacy and Security" will address constitutional and policy considerations relevant to the National Security Agency, counterterrorism, surveillance and the right of privacy. We have an outstanding slate of speakers, including District Court Judge for the Northern District of Ohio and member of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court James Carr, former Dean of Chapman University School of Law Professor John Eastman, Legal Director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation Cindy Cohn, former FBI agent Steve Martinez, counterterrorism expert Professor Seth Stodder, former CIA agent Andy Liepman and representative of the Legal & Corporate Affairs department of Microsoft Corporation Shont Miller. Registration for this event is now open.

Our Annual Supreme Court Luncheon will take place on October 2 and our Appellate Practice Program on October 23. Our thriving YLD is also planning another Happy Hour for October. Additional information regarding these programs is on our website, at [www.fbala.org/Events.php](http://www.fbala.org/Events.php).

As I mentioned above, our Chapter recently launched our first student decision at UCLA, with UCLA law student Steven Sable at the helm. We hope that students at other local law schools will follow suit. For law students, starting an FBA student division at their law school is a great opportunity to take on a leadership role, organize events, represent the interests of law students at the FBA and bring to their fellow students the great benefits that the FBA has to offer. If you are a law school student in Los Angeles and interested in starting a student division at your law school, please contact me at [sbs@birdmarella.com](mailto:sbs@birdmarella.com).

In April, President-Elect Ken Sulzer and I met with Chief Judge George King to discuss ways in which our Chapter can better serve the interests of the Central District Court. One of the points highlighted by Judge King was the need to increase awareness and acceptance of the Magistrate Consent Program. As many of you know, parties may consent to proceed before any available Magistrate Judge whose name appears on this "Voluntary Consent List" to conduct all the proceedings

in the case including trial, even if that Magistrate Judge was not initially assigned to the case. This program offers significant advantages to litigants, including the ability to hand pick their judge and a more flexible trial calendar, because the Magistrate Judges' dockets are not burdened by felony criminal trials that receive priority over civil trials. Moreover, we are lucky to have an outstanding magistrate bench in our district with highly qualified judges who come from diverse backgrounds and may be experts in a relevant area of the law. Please consider taking advantage of the Magistrate Consent Program when the appropriate case comes around. For more information regarding the program, please go to <http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/judges-requirements/court-programs/voluntary-consent-list-civil-cases-magistrate-judges-program>.

Many of you may be familiar with the *cy pres* doctrine. Through the use of that doctrine, third-party nonprofit entities may receive grants or distributions of unclaimed funds to save a testamentary gift that otherwise would fail or to distribute remaining funds in bankruptcy proceedings and, importantly, in class actions. The California State Bar's *Cy Pres* Committee has published a new "*Cy Pres* Toolkit." The purpose of the Toolkit is to encourage the Bar to be receptive to proposing *cy pres* awards in suitable cases. Federal and state funding for legal aid organizations has declined dramatically in recent years, and substitute funding from sources such as residual and *cy pres* awards has become increasingly important. Numerous legal aid programs are listed in the Toolkit as eligible recipients, including the State Bar's Justice Gap Fund that helps fund the State Bar's Legal Services Trust Fund Program and is something akin to an umbrella organization. The Toolkit comes in two versions: a short four-pager and a more detailed sixteen-pager. If you would like to review either of the versions, please contact me at [sbs@birdmarella.com](mailto:sbs@birdmarella.com) and please consider proposing a *cy pres* award in suitable cases.

If you are a Chapter member, please feel free to contact me or any of the Board members for ideas on how we can enhance the services and programs we provide to our Chapter members. If you are not a FBA member, please consider joining. I look forward to seeing you at our future events!

## From the Clerk of the Court

by Terry Nafisi



*Terry Nafisi,  
District Court  
Executive and Clerk of  
Court,  
United States District  
Court, Central District  
of California*

### **Attorney Case-Opening Pilot Project**

In October 2013, the District Court launched its Attorney Case-Opening Pilot Project. This Pilot Project permitted attorneys to open limited categories of civil cases online, by using the Court's CM/ECF System to file case-initiating documents electronically, rather than having to file those documents in paper at the Clerk's Office.

I am very happy to share that in February 2014 the Court extended this Pilot, so that attorneys can now file almost all new civil cases online through CM/ECF.

Under the expanded Pilot, most complaints and notices of removal may be filed electronically. Applicable filing fees must be paid online at the time of filing. Amended complaints, counterclaims, cross-claims, and other claim-initiating documents may also be filed electronically.

Attorneys have already opened more than 1,000 cases electronically under the Pilot Project, more than half of those since the Pilot was expanded in February. Approximately one-third of those cases have been intellectual property cases, but significant numbers have been filed in virtually every

other civil case category, including ERISA, contracts, torts, and civil rights cases.

For more detailed information on the scope and contours of the expanded Pilot Project, I urge attorneys to consult General Order 14-01, which can be found on the Court's website ([www.cacd.uscourts.gov](http://www.cacd.uscourts.gov)).

The Clerk's Office has also prepared an Attorney Case-Opening Pilot Project User Manual, as well as several short, step-by-step instructional videos that demonstrate how to open cases

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## FBA-LA Mentorship Program

by Robert Alan Fine

***"You get out of it what you put into it."***

With regard to the FBA Mentorship Program, I would argue the prior statement is absolutely true, whether you are a mentor or a mentee. But then, being a lawyer, I need to argue about something.

Let's first see things from the mentee's point of view. There is at least one compelling reason to sign up for the program: at your first meeting, your mentor will buy you lunch. Hopefully, a young attorney will then make a favorable impression, some chemistry will develop, and they will have earned a second meeting with the esteemed counsel who so generously provided their time and Mastercard. Such was the experience of Sandhya Ramadas, who signed up for the program when she began her career. For a mentor, she was fortunate to find no less an attorney than Evan A.

Jenness. The benefit for Sandhya was immediate: she found an attorney willing to share her accumulated knowledge about federal practice and the practice of law in general. Better yet, Sandhya's mentor was an outsider to the law firm where Sandhya was working. Evan provided a sympathetic ear for Sandhya to voice her challenges to, with Sandhya free of any risk that she might step into a political minefield.

Both women had a common interest in developing excellence in federal trial practice, and in furthering their professional ties within the Central District legal community. A busy attorney like Evan was not only able to make a commitment to the program, but she looks back fondly at the experience. This experience was not a one-way street, because Evan learned new legal information from

*(continued on page 11)*



*Robert Alan Fine,  
Law Offices of Stuart D.  
Meyers*

## From the Clerk of the Court (cont. from page 10)

electronically. These resources are also on the Court's website.

General Order 14-01 provides that the expanded Pilot Project will remain in effect until December 1, 2014. The Court anticipates, however, that the electronic filing of case-initiating documents will eventually become mandatory in the Central District of California.

### New Jury Assembly Room in Roybal

To eliminate the delay and complication of escorting prospective jurors from the jury assembly room in the Spring Street Courthouse to courtrooms in the Roybal Federal Building, the Court has built an additional jury assembly room in the Roybal Building (Room 1138). Prospective jurors reporting for service will be informed in advance whether they are to report to the Spring Street Courthouse or Roybal. We anticipate this will make the first day of trial a much smoother experience for everyone.

### How the Bar Can Help the Clerk's Office

Finally, as a reminder, here are some specific ways that attorneys who practice before the Court can continue to assist the Clerk's Office in serving the Court and the Bar:

- Consent to electronic service! Believe it or not, there

are still a number of practitioners in the Central District – most of whom joined the Court's Bar before electronic service was commonplace – who have neglected to consent to be served electronically through the Court's CM/ECF System. Electronic service saves the Court paper and labor costs, and provides attorneys with instant access to Court filings. Consenting is easy: just complete Sections I, IV, and V of form G-06 ("Notice of Change of Attorney Business or Contact Information") and e-mail it to [email\\_update@cacd.uscourts.gov](mailto:email_update@cacd.uscourts.gov). (Please follow the instructions on that form if you need to update any other business or contact information.)

- File under-seal documents by e-mail. At least 15 district judges and 9 magistrate judges in the Central District have authorized the electronic submission and filing of under-seal documents. Visit the Court's website for further details and a full list of participating judges. And as always, be sure to check the Judges' Procedures and Schedules page for a particular judge's requirements.
- Finally, consult the Court's website before calling the Clerk's Office or your judge's Courtroom Deputy Clerk. In particular, check the Judges' Procedures and Schedules page. It can save everybody, including you, a lot of time.

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## FBA-LA Mentorship Program (cont. from page 10)

Sandhya, who recently graduated law school and possessed knowledge of the latest developments in a variety of areas of the law that only recent graduates seem to have. Crucial to Evan, her mentoring of Sandhya put no strain on her time. Evan encouraged and then utilized their mutual attendance at professional events to further the mentor/mentee relationship. Evan says her FBA-LA mentoring role was fun, and no problem at all in terms of a commitment of time. She urges, "Just do it." In other words, don't make a federal case about it: participate. Sandhya and Evan both got out much more than they put in.

Judge Holly J. Fujie, the creator of the FBA-LA mentorship program, graciously spent an hour with me in chambers, speaking about a variety of issues including the program. We had a spirited back and forth discussion. I didn't get sanctioned once.

Judge Fujie created the mentorship program to fill the

professional void she felt when she was a young attorney, much like Sandhya Ramadas did. Back then, it was tough for her to staff the program with attorneys willing to be mentors because many were leery of a time commitment, ethics issues and the prospect of an unproductive or uncomfortable relationship. This hesitancy still exists. But Judge Fujie has answers for the concerns of a potential mentor. First, she describes the model mentorship relationship as being "The Five-Minute Mentor." This is not the Big Brother program: no ball games or visits to the zoo. Rather, all a mentor need do is meet briefly with a new mentee, and be available in the future for quick "tune-ups." Ethics issues can be avoided by keeping all advice general. Rather than being involved in a new type of mentoring trend called "Sponsorships," the FBA-LA's program does not require such an impliedly large commitment. (On the other hand, if you feel compelled to buy space on a race car with your mentee's name, go for it.)

(continued on page 12)

# FBA-LA Mentorship Program (cont. from page 11)

Given Judge Fujie's concept, the busiest attorney can be a mentor. But I must point out an observation about Judge Fujie: she is a brilliant manager of time. Nevertheless, being a mentor does not require another juggling act on your part: at a minimum, it requires just a short phone call every now and then from your mentee. I also must point out that Judge Fujie is an enthusiastic 'people person' who enjoys developing new relationships and nurturing existing ones. But mentors come in all types, just as mentees do.

Judge Fujie advises that mentees have responsibilities, too: they need to be considerate of their mentor's valuable time; they need to show enthusiasm; and, they need to make efforts to further the program. So advice to prospective mentees: be careful what you wish for.

Finally, there is my mentee relationship with John K. Rubiner, trial attorney and former president of the Beverly Hills Bar Association. Meeting with John, discussing my experiences and learning of his, has enabled me to further hone my skill set. Through John, I was also able to locate legal specialists that I needed for my cases. Like Sandhya, I certainly have gotten out of the program what I put into it. I'm hoping John has, too. (But whatever he thinks of me, he has to admit I pick good restaurants to meet at.)



## *In Memoriam*

**Alicemarie Huber Stotler**  
1942-2014

*Served on the District Court from 1984-2014*  
*Chief District Judge 2005-2009*

*Photo courtesy of the District Court*

### NEWS RELEASE

June 20, 2014

Contact: David Madden, (415) 355-8800

## **New Judge Appointed to U.S. Bankruptcy Court for Central District of California**

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit announced today the appointment of Scott H. Yun to serve as a judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California.

Mr. Yun will serve in the bankruptcy court's Riverside division, filling a position left vacant by the transfer of Judge Deborah J. Saltzman to Los Angeles. He will be sworn into office on June 23, 2014, by Chief Bankruptcy Judge Peter H. Carroll.

"We welcome the appointment of Mr. Yun to the federal bench," Chief Judge Kozinski said in announcing the appointment. "We are fortunate to have such an experienced practitioner serving in our busiest bankruptcy court."

Mr. Yun, 43, had been a shareholder with the former law firm of Stutman, Treister & Glatt since 2003. He joined the firm in 2000 and served on the executive board as president. His practice involved representing Chapter 11 debtors and official committees of unsecured creditors as lead or co-lead counsel.

Mr. Yun was previously an associate with the law firm Robinson, Diamant & Brill, from 1998 to 2000, and an associate with Steinberg, Barness & Foster, from 1997 to 1998.

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Mr. Yun received his B.A., cum laude, in 1993 from the University of California, Los Angeles, and his J.D. in 1996 from the University of Southern California, Gould School of Law. After law school, he served as a law clerk to Bankruptcy Judge Ernest M. Robles of the Central District of California in 1997.

### **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

### **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Release Date: July 1, 2014

## **KENLY KIYA KATO SELECTED AS UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

The United States District Court for the Central District of California announces the selection of Kenly Kiya Kato as a United States Magistrate Judge. Judge Kato was sworn in on July 1, 2014. She will preside in Riverside, California in the Eastern Division.

Judge Kato received her B.A. degree in Political Science from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1993, graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, and her J.D. in 1996 from the Harvard School of Law, graduating cum laude and serving as editor on the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Kato maintained her own private practice, focused primarily on federal criminal defense work. She has also represented both plaintiffs and defendants in civil rights and employment litigation. Judge Kato was a former Deputy Federal Public Defender before entering private practice. She started her legal career as a law clerk to now deceased Judge Robert M. Takasugi, United States District Court, Central District of California. Judge Kato has also previously served as a Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, as a member of the Merit Selection Panel, and as a member of the Standing Committee on Attorney Discipline.

## UPCOMING FBA-LA PROGRAM




LOS ANGELES  
**Federal Bar Association**  
*cordially invites you to attend*

**BIG BROTHER MEETS BIG DATA  
THE PRICE OF VIRTUE:  
WALKING THE TIGHTROPE BETWEEN PRIVACY AND SECURITY**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014**  
**5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.**

5:30 PM - RECEPTION	6:45 PM - PANEL DISCUSSIONS
6:00 PM - PRESENTATIONS	7:15 PM - Q&A

**WESTIN BONAVENTURE**  
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AND

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**THE HONORABLE BARRY RUSSELL**  
BANKRUPTCY JUDGE, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2014**  
**11:30 A.M. - REGISTRATION    12:00 P.M. - LUNCH & PRESENTATIONS**

**BILTMORE HOTEL**  
506 S. GRAND AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90071

## FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION

### Los Angeles Chapter

210 N. Glenoaks Boulevard, Suite C

Burbank, CA 91502

Phone: 818-843-1020

E-mail: [fbala@emaoffice.com](mailto:fbala@emaoffice.com)

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## About Us

### Federal Bar Association Mission Statement

The mission of the Association 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.

### The Federal Bar Association

The FBA represents the Federal legal profession. We consist of more than 15,000 federal lawyers, including 1,200 federal judges, who work together to promote the sound administration of justice and integrity, quality and independence of the judiciary. The FBA also provides opportunities for judges and lawyers to professionally and socially interact. and extends student scholarships.

**“The premiere bar association serving  
the federal practitioner and judiciary.”**

### The Los Angeles Chapter

The Los Angeles Chapter is one of the oldest chapters of the FBA. Originally chartered in 1937, the Los Angeles Chapter covers the Los Angeles Division of the Central District of California.

With approximately 400 members, the Los Angeles Chapter is the largest in the Ninth Circuit. Members come from private practice, government agencies, military branches, law schools and the bench.

The Los Angeles Chapter is committed to meeting the needs of the federal practitioner through educational seminars, training programs and social functions. To join FBA-LA, log onto our website: [www.fbala.org](http://www.fbala.org).