

**Lawyer Representatives' Annual Report: 2016-2017**  
**Eastern District of California**

Submitted by: Scott Cameron

**Eastern District Conference**

The Eastern District of California held its annual conference (Conference) October 14-16, 2016 at the Tenaya Lodge, just outside Yosemite National Park. The theme of the 2016 Conference was the environmental challenges faced by the Eastern District, a very large and geographically diverse district in Northern California. Over 150 attendees enjoyed the Conference. The plenary session included experts on the drought, flood control, and fire dangers in the Eastern District, and featured speakers Felicia Marcus, Chairwoman of the California State Water Resources Control Board, Joe Forbis, Acting Chief, Water Management Section, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Kelly Martin, Chief of Fire and Aviation Management, Yosemite National Park. The Conference included breakout sessions focused on bankruptcy, civil, and criminal practice areas, each with distinguished panels. "International Man of Memory" Chester Santos captivated the crowd with an amazing display of memory and tips for all attendees to increase their own memory capacity. Chief Judge Lawrence J. O'Neill provided a state of the district address and the Bench/Bar program focused on the experiences that led several judges to their spots on the bench. Finally, Judge Stanley A. Boone presented a program in recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Eastern District, and Federal Defender Heather Williams gave a presentation on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the *Miranda v. Arizona* decision.

The next Conference will be held October 27-29, 2017 at the Resort at Squaw Creek in Squaw Valley, California. The 2017 Conference will focus on the future, including the future of the profession, the future of the Supreme Court, and the effect of emerging technology on the practice of law. Dean Erwin Chemerinsky, University of California, Irvine Law School, will discuss his view of the future of the profession and the Supreme Court. The Conference's technology focus will also touch on use of technology in the courtroom. Conference attendees will also learn about recent trends in criminal sentencing, U.S. Supreme Court decisions on bankruptcy cases, and other topics.

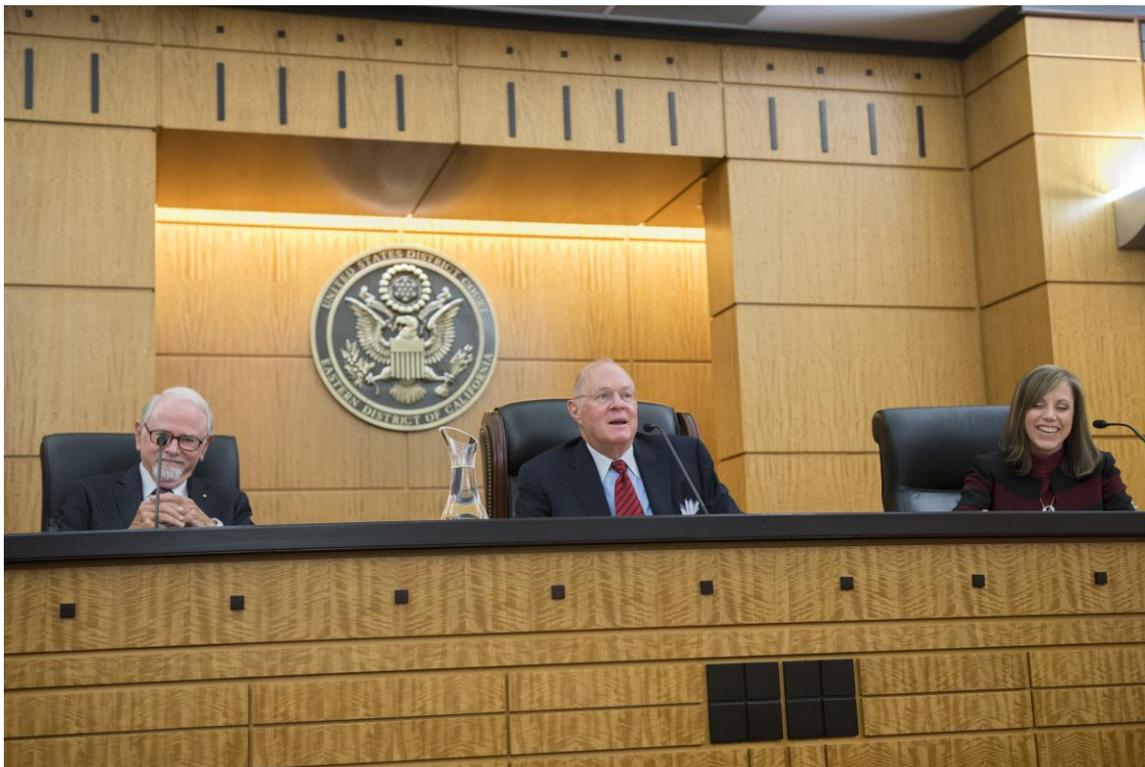
**Sacramento Chapter of the Federal Bar Association**

The Sacramento Chapter of the Federal Bar Association has continued to provide educational and networking opportunities for its members, and has sought to strengthen the connections between federal practitioners and the judges of the Eastern District of California.

In July 2016, the Sacramento Chapter hosted its 26th annual Supreme Court Year in Review. Professors Clark Kelso and Leslie Jacobs, of the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law, discussed key cases and trends from the Supreme Court's

most recent term. Hosted at the Citizen Hotel in Downtown Sacramento, this event continues to be one of the Sacramento Chapter's largest and best-attended events.

On September 16, 2016, the Sacramento Chapter co-sponsored an event with the Eastern District Historical Society to celebrate the District's 50th anniversary. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy and Judge William B. Shubb (pictured below) shared their recollections about the formation of the District, its early days, and significant developments throughout its history. Moderated by a former president of the Sacramento Chapter, Breann Moebius, and featuring remarks by Congresswoman Doris Matsui, the event was a huge success and was truly a celebration of the Eastern District's rich history. A reception held in the Kennedy Library and Learning Center followed the discussion, and provided attendees a chance to mingle and celebrate.



In November 2016, the Sacramento Chapter sponsored its annual Night to Honor Service, a reception recognizing and thanking those attorneys who volunteer their time to assist the court. Volunteers from the Bankruptcy Help Desk, the Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program, and the Pro Bono Panel are all invited to attend this event at the Sacramento courthouse. In addition to the many honorees, the United States Attorney's Office and the Federal Defender's Office each select an attorney from their respective offices that has gone above and beyond in public service that year. This year's award recipients were Matthew Bockmon from the Federal Defender's Office and Chi Soo Kim from the US Attorney's Office. Additionally, an award is given each year in memory of Joe Ramsey, a well-respected attorney who received numerous appointments as pro bono counsel and was involved in the volunteer mediation pilot program for prisoner cases. This year, Robert Chalfant received this prestigious award. Judge Troy L. Nunley gave

the keynote address, sharing his personal experiences with the value of public service and its impact on the legal community and the community at large.

The Sacramento Chapter kicked off 2017 with its annual election mixer, graciously hosted by Judge Consuelo M. Callahan in her chambers. It elected its new board, welcomed new members to the organization, and thanked past presidents for their service. In March, the Sacramento Chapter hosted a snack table for students participating in the Open Doors to Federal Courts program. Students from high schools in the greater Sacramento area and beyond participate in this program, acting as attorneys and jurors in mock trials addressing teen-relevant legal issues. As in years past, FBA members volunteered to assist the program as jury moderators and attorneys. Finally, in May 2017, with the co-sponsorship of the Qui Tam Section of the Federal Bar Association, the Sacramento Chapter hosted a CLE, “The False Claims Act Today.” This CLE provided an overview of the False Claims Act, a discussion of relevant Supreme Court cases, practice tips, and recent developments in the Ninth Circuit. The panelists included numerous practicing attorneys and Judge Kimberley J. Mueller.

The Sacramento Chapter’s busy year has been a rewarding one—in 2016, the Sacramento Chapter received a Presidential Achievement Award from the FBA national organization, and the student division recently received the Pacific Tiger Award from the University of the Pacific Alumni.

### **San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the Federal Bar Association**

The San Joaquin Valley Chapter of the Federal Bar Association continued in its efforts to provide continuing education, outreach and networking opportunities to its members. The inaugural summer teacher’s institute took place in June 2016 and provided local educators in the Fresno area with an introduction to the role and operations of the federal courts and assisted with development of Common Core compliant curricula. The institute will be held again in July 2017 and will focus on the topic of the Japanese Internment.

In September 2016, Professor Brian Soucek of the UC Davis School of Law presented his annual Supreme Court Year in Review to a full house. In October, judges and lawyer members presented a civil rights program to high school students to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Miranda decision. Also in October, the San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento Chapters of the FBA co-sponsored a mixer for members at the Eastern District Conference.

In January 2017, the San Joaquin Valley Chapter presented its annual MCLE Saturday in which members and local attorneys attend to receive hard-to-get MCLE credits prior to the end of the reporting period. This year was very successful, both in terms of speakers and attendance. We hosted our annual Open Doors program in both Bakersfield (February 2017) and Fresno (March 2017). Magistrate judges presided over mock trials that pitted AUSAs against AFDOs. Approximately 350 high school students attended collectively. In addition to the mock trials, snacks, and lunch, the students then

participated in an assembly where representatives from federal agencies, including FBI, USM, pretrial services, HSI, US Secret Service, USAO, FDO, and others spoke to students about their offices and positions. The feedback was positive from everyone who participated.

In April 2017, FBA organized two special events. On April 20, 2017, the FBA hosted its biennial Judicial Appreciation Dinner. The keynote speakers were Peter Anderson and Helene Freeman who were the trial attorneys for Jimmy Page and Robert Plant in the Led Zeppelin “Stairway to Heaven” copyright trial. The FBA also recognized members of the Pro Bono Panel and recognized Robert D. Wilkinson with the Robert E. Coyle Professionalism Award. On April 28, 2017, the FBA hosted its annual Law Day celebration in Yosemite, with guest speakers Saburo and Marion Masada and Honorable Wallace Tashima, Senior Judge, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, who discussed the topic “Not to be Forgotten: Legal Lessons of the Japanese Internment.” Law Day is attended by students from counties surrounding Yosemite National Park. An award-winning student band performed patriotic music while student winners of an essay contest read their essays and received prizes.

In June 2017, the FBA hosted its annual Court Staff Appreciation Day, in which the FBA hosts law clerks, courtroom deputies and members of the clerk’s office, and their families to a BBQ dinner and baseball game at the local ball park. The FBA will also sponsor a young lawyers mixer Fall 2017 to encourage membership from young lawyers and law students.

### **Justice Anthony M. Kennedy Library and Learning Center**

The Justice Anthony M. Kennedy Library and Learning Center promotes public understanding of an independent judiciary, the rule of law and the rich history of the federal courts. The Center’s reputation is growing rapidly. Over the last nine months, it has been host to a significantly increased number of events and visitors. Since September 2016, there have been more than 60 scheduled events which have brought over 2,000 visitors to the Center.

The Center’s signature programs – the Operation Protect & Defend classroom visits and art and essay contest, and the Summer Institutes in Fresno and Sacramento – have involved scores of teachers and hundreds of students in study and activities focused upon civics and government education. Winning artwork is on display at the Center.

In January of this year, the Sacramento Federal Judicial Library and Learning Center Foundation, which provides financial support for the Kennedy Learning Center, adopted a 5-year strategic plan to guide the Center’s and the Foundation’s operations. The plan includes goals related to improving the exhibit space and exhibits at the Center, building on the successful educational programs that have already been established, creating an online and digital communications strategy, improving the effectiveness of the Board, and expanding and focusing the Board’s fund-raising activities to support implementation of the strategic plan.

Comprehensive information about the Center and the Foundation can now be found on recently established websites. The Center's website, created by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, is at [www.ca9.uscourts.gov/klc/](http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/klc/). The Foundation's website is at [www.sacjlc.com](http://www.sacjlc.com).

### **ADR and Pro Bono Program**

The Eastern District's pro bono program is comprised of a panel of volunteer attorneys willing to take appointments in prisoner civil rights cases. Currently approximately 350 attorneys serve on the panel. In 2016 the court appointed attorneys to 31 cases and has appointed attorneys to 15 cases so far in 2017.

The ADR program includes the Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program (VDRP), which is available for parties in non-prisoner cases as a means to informally resolve their disputes. In 2016, eighty-four cases were referred to VDRP. Prisoner ADR programs for Section 1983 cases are also a component of the program. In 2010, the court and members of the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law's faculty established a prisoner mediation clinic. The students enrolled in the clinic conduct mediations with Magistrate Judges Kellison and Newman. The Clinic was recognized when the University received the 2013 Ninth Circuit ADR Education Award. The Clinic has just completed its seventh year.