

2017 Report of the Lawyer Representatives of the U.S. District Court, District of Nevada

By Sheri Thome and Doreen Spears Hartwell

District Court Conference

The Court held its annual District Court Conference on May 11, 2017, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The District Court Conference rotates between Reno and Las Vegas and is open to the entire Nevada State Bar, state and federal court judges, law school professors and law school students. The Conference focused upon the changes in how information is communicated from the perspective of national security and the news media to office interactions between the different generations. The conference began with opening remarks from Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney Thomas, Chief Judge of the District Court of Nevada Gloria Navarro, and Chief Judge of the Bankruptcy Court Bruce Beesley. Dean Erwin Chemerinsky from the University of California, Irvine School of Law discussed the cases decided in the last Supreme Court term. A panel of experts discussed the interplay between freedom of speech, Wikileaks, and national security. This topical and interesting panel featured David E. McGraw, the Assistant General Counsel for The New York Times, John Carlin, former Department of Justice, Assistant Attorney General National Security, Stephen Bates, Associate Professor of Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies for the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

During lunch, Dr. Arin Reeves explored the topic of Overcoming Generational Diversity, discussing how attendees could recognize and address generational differences in the workplace and in the courtroom. A panel on substance abuse in the legal profession followed, with emphasis on how family members could participate in the recovery process. The day closed with civil, criminal and bankruptcy break-out sessions.

The District Court Conference is planned by a committee lead by one of the federal district court judges or magistrate judges. All the lawyer representatives, the District Court Clerk and other court executives. The goal of the conference is to provide a day of interaction and CLE credit for attendees.

District of Nevada Update

Former Court Clerk Lance Wilson retired as of February 28, 2017. Debra Kempf has taken over as the new Court Clerk and is excited to be attending her first Ninth Circuit Conference this July.

The vacant judicial seat resulting from Judge Jones taking senior status in 2016 remains unfilled.

Other Lawyer Representative Activities

Lawyer representatives attend quarterly meetings with the judges to review current issues in the District. They also participate in the Attorney Admission Fund Committee that reviews and makes recommendations on the use of monies in the Attorney Admission Fund for public and court-related projects. They also attend the ceremony in which the District admits new lawyers, and they speak on the benefits of becoming representatives. The lawyer representatives due the first round of review of the essays for the Ninth Circuit Civics Conference.

District of Nevada Lawyer Representatives:

Doreen Spears Hartwell	Term Expires August 31, 2017—Las Vegas
Sheri M. Thome	Term Expires August 31, 2017—Las Vegas
Alice Campos Mercado	Term Expires August 31, 2017—Reno
Debbie Leonard	Term Expires August 31, 2018—Reno
Molly M. Rezac	Term Expires August 31, 2018—Reno
Russell E. Marsh	Term Expires August 31, 2018—Las Vegas
Michael Van	Term Expires August 31, 2019—Las Vegas
Brenda Weksler	Term Expires August 31, 2019—Las Vegas
Michael Knox	Term Expires August 31, 2019—Reno

Lawyer Representative Coordinating Committee Chairs

The Nevada LRCC co-chairs for 2017-2018 are Molly Rezac, Russell E. Marsh and Brenda Weksler.