

Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference
Lawyer Representative District Report
Western District of Washington
 June 12, 2017

Lawyer Representatives for the Western District of Washington

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Term 2015-2017

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Lawyer Representative District Report

I. 2017 Annual District Meeting and CLE for Judges and Lawyers (May 5, 2017)

The Lawyer Representatives for the Western District of Washington hosted an annual half-day district meeting and CLE program for judges and lawyers in the District on the afternoon of May 5, 2017, at the United States District Court in Seattle, Washington. A total of approximately 100 judges, law clerks and lawyers registered for the program, described below.

A. Report on the State of the Courts

The Honorable Ricardo S. Martinez, Chief United States District Court Judge and the Honorable Brian D. Lynch began the program by presenting the states of their respective courts.

B. CLE Program

The CLE portion of the program consisted of four timely and informative plenary sessions. Professor Andrew Siegel of the Seattle University School of Law provided a review and analysis of recent Supreme Court decisions and their potential impact. Bankruptcy Judge Mary Jo Heston discussed a number of issues that remain undecided under federal bankruptcy law. A panel consisting of District Court Judges Richard Jones and John C. Coughenour, Federal Public Defender Michael Filipovic and Assistant Federal Public Defender Kyana Givens, moderated by Tessa Gorman of the United States Attorneys Office, discussed issues surrounding

implicit bias. Finally, Tahmina Watson, an experienced immigration law practitioner provided an overview of the state of immigration under our new administration.

C. Appreciation and Acknowledgments

As in years past, the Annual District Meeting and CLE was a success, due in large measure to the generous support and participation of the court staff, in particular Sharon Haas, Judicial Services Administrator, William McCool, District Court Clerk and Jeremy Sites, IT Specialist, as well as the District Court and Bankruptcy Judges. The contribution and participation of the judges adds immeasurably to the popularity of the program, as well as to its success.

D. Lawyer Representatives' Dinner with Judges, Speakers and Other Honored Guests

Following the reception, the Lawyer Representatives hosted a traditional dinner for the speakers and the Western District of Washington judges. As in recent years, the dinner was held in a private room at a local favorite restaurant, Blueacre Seafood. The intimate atmosphere allowed for informal and candid discussions regarding the afternoon's program, issues and trends in the Western District of Washington as well as an opportunity to socialize.

Preliminary planning is underway for next year's event.

II. Lawyer Representative Coordinating Committee and Judicial Conferences

A. Planning for the 2017 Judicial Conference

LRCC Co-Chairs and Western District Lawyer Representatives Christy Tobin-Presser and Tom Linde have participated in the planning for the 2017 Judicial Conference to be held in San Francisco, including attending an in-person brainstorming session in San Francisco with the Conference Executive Committee.

B. Chief District Judges Conference, San Diego

Christy Tobin-Presser and Tom Linde assisted in planning and attended the Chief District Judges Conference in San Diego Panel. Topics included eDiscovery, information sharing by lawyer representatives and a survey of the various ways in which districts select and utilize their lawyer representatives in which Ms. Tobin-Presser participated.

C. Chief Bankruptcy Judges Conference, Seattle

Christy Tobin-Presser and Tom Linde attended the conference for the Chief Bankruptcy Judges held in Seattle. After an introduction by Chief of the Bankruptcy Chief Judges, Brian D. Lynch, William Rule, Senior Economist of the AO Judicial Services gave a presentation regarding filing statistics and future projections. The following representatives from the Ninth Circuit Bankruptcy Appellate Panel discussed opt-out statistics: Chief Judge Meredith Jury, Judge Robert Faris, Judge Laura Taylor and Clerk Susan Spraul. Thereafter the conference proceeded in a series of four panel presentations. Mr. Linde participated in a panel regarding utilization of alternative dispute resolution in bankruptcy cases, followed by panels on asset valuation and expediting small business cases. Finally, there was an interactive discussion seeking lawyer representative input on various topics.