

WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON



Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference
Lawyer Representative District Report
Western District of Washington
 June 11, 2018

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Term 2016-2018	Term 2017-2019	Term 2018-2020
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Lawyer Representative District Report

I. 2018 Annual District Meeting and CLE for Judges and Lawyers (April 13, 2018)

The 2018 Annual WDWA FBA District Meeting and CLE sponsored by the Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives was held on Friday, April 13, 2018 at Seattle University. Inspired by a presentation at last year's Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in San Francisco, this year the district's annual meeting and CLE were expanded to include the participation of law students and the general public, in addition to the judges from our district and lawyers from the federal bar association and others. The agenda for the program was split up with a program open to the public in the morning and a program for lawyers and law students in the afternoon.

This year's program was entitled: **"The Japanese American Incarceration: Civil Liberties and Upholding the Rule of Law, Then and Now"**. During World War II, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were removed from their West Coast homes and incarcerated in desolate camps in the interior of the United States. Two-thirds were American citizens. They had committed no crimes; they were incarcerated simply because of their race.

The morning program which was open to the public addressed the issues presented by the Japanese incarceration cases and featured presentations by: Hon. Marilyn Hall Patel, Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California (retired); Karen Korematsu, Founder and Executive Director, Fred T. Korematsu Institute; Lorraine Bannai, Professor of Lawyering Skills and Director, Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality; and Robert S. Chang, Professor and Executive Director, Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality.

The afternoon program which was open to members of the bar and to law students addressed the issues presented in the *coram nobis* litigation in the 1980's which vacated the convictions of Fred Korematsu and Gordon Hirabayashi and featured presentations by the following members of the Hirabayashi legal team: Camden Hall; Rod Kawakami; Michael Leong; and Sharon Sakamoto. In addition, the afternoon program included a presentation from Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson relating to the haunting relevance of the Japanese internment cases with respect to current events.

Overall, the expanded program (at a venue outside of the federal court house and open to the public) was both well attended and incredibly well received particularly in light of the historical significance and current applicability of the due process and equal protection issues raised by the Japanese internment cases. Finally, outside the program, an exhibit from the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society was installed relating to the internment cases. The program would not have been possible without the generous support and participation of Karen Korematsu and the above referenced faculty of the Seattle University School of Law, along with Dean Annette Clark and CLE Director Mark Sideman.

Also, as in years past, the Annual District Meeting and CLE was a success, due in large measure to the support and participation of the court staff, in particular William McCool, District Court Clerk, and Sharon Haas, Judicial Services Administrator, as well as the District Judges, the Magistrate Judges and the Bankruptcy Judges. The contribution and participation of the judges adds immeasurably to the popularity of the annual district meeting, as well as to its success.

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

Following the reception, the Lawyer Representatives hosted a traditional dinner for the program 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 day's program as well as an opportunity to socialize.

III. Lawyer Representative Coordinating Committee and Judicial Conferences

A. Planning for the 2018 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference

LRCC Co-Chairs Thomas Linde and Roger Townsend participated in the planning for the 2018 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference to be held in Anaheim, including attending, in October 2017, an in-person brainstorming session in San Francisco with the Conference Executive Committee.

B. Chief District Judges Conference, Tucson

In January, 2018, LRCC Co-Chairs Thomas Linde and Roger Townsend also assisted in planning and attended the conference of the Chief District Judges in Tucson. Topics included an overview of the executive office for immigration review, preserving the future of the legal profession by assisting young lawyers in developing oral advocacy skills, and the importance of providing accommodations for mothers of young infants both in the courtroom and in the courthouse.

C. Chief Bankruptcy Judges Conference, Reno

In early May, 2018, LRCC Co-Chair Thomas Linde and Lawyer Representative David Neu attended the conference for the Chief Bankruptcy Judges in Reno. Topics at the conference addressed the warning signs of dementia; elimination of bias, including gender bias; civility and addressing bullying; handling reports and recommendations to the district court; and administering challenging assets such as cryptocurrency.