

March 15, 2006

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PRESS ADVISORY

Annual D.C. Judicial Conference to be held March 30-31

-- STATE OF EMERGENCY: IS DC's JUSTICE SYSTEM PREPARED? --

WHAT: 2006 Judicial & Bar Conference

WHERE: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

WHEN: Thursday, March 30–Friday, March 31, 2006

WHO: United States Senator Mary L. Landrieu (D-LA)
Judge Ivan L. R. Lemelle, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of
Louisiana;
Kenneth Wainstein, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia
Robert C. Bobb, City Administrator
Robert J. Spagnoletti, Attorney General for the District of Columbia;
Avis E. Buchanan, Director, D.C. Public Defender Service
Judge Madeleine M. Landrieu, Civil District Court, Division E,
Parish of Orleans;

PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Thursday, March 30

1:45–2:45 p.m. Call to Order and Reports
2:45–5 p.m. **Plenary:** Disaster and Recovery: Lessons Learned from Other
Jurisdictions

Friday, March 31

9:30–11:30 a.m. **Plenary:** Disaster and Recovery: Is the District Ready?
12–1:45 p.m. **Keynote Luncheon** in the Atrium Ballroom
Presentation of the Beatrice Rosenberg Award for Excellence in
Government Service to Stuart E. Schiffer
2–4:45 p.m. **Seminars and Forums** (see details, next page)
6–8 p.m. **Reception Honoring the Judiciary**
Presentation of the D.C. Bar Foundation's Jerrold Scoutt Prize to
Edward Allen

PROGRAM DETAILS:

Disaster and Recovery: Lessons Learned from Other Jurisdictions

Thursday, March 30, 2:45–5 p.m.

Moderator: Maureen Bunyan, News Anchor, WJLA-TV, Washington, D.C. **Panelists:** Timothy F. Bergen, Executive Director, Sidley Austin LLP; Thomas D. Hall, Clerk of the Court, Supreme Court of Florida; the Honorable Madeleine M. Landrieu, Judge, Civil District Court, Division E, Parish of Orleans; the Honorable Ivan L. R. Lemelle, District Judge, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana; and Bettina B. Plevan, President, Association of the Bar of the City of New York

Disaster and Recovery: Is the District Prepared?

Friday, March 31, 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Moderator: Jonetta Rose Barras, Author, Columnist and Former Reporter for the *Washington Times*. **Panelists:** Robert C. Bobb, City Administrator, Deputy Mayor, and District of Columbia Homeland Security Adviser; Avis E. Buchanan, Director, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia; Michael C. Rogers, Executive Vice President, Corporate Services, MedStar Health; Robert J. Spagnoletti, Attorney General for the District of Columbia; and Kenneth Wainstein, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia

Keynote Luncheon

Friday, March 31, 12–1:45 p.m.

Featuring a keynote address by United States Senator Mary L. Landrieu (D-LA) and including the presentation of the Beatrice Rosenberg Award for Excellence in Government Service to Stuart E. Schiffer, deputy assistant attorney general at the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division.

Thinking Outside the Jury Box

Friday, March 31, 2–3 p.m.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit recently reversed two criminal convictions because each trial judge initiated an offer to assist a deliberating jury that expressed deadlock. In both cases the trial judge invited members of the jury to tell the court how it might be helpful to them. The appellate judge in one case recommended that there be a rigorous dialogue about whether it is advisable for trial judges to interact with deliberating juries on factual issues. This program sets up the critical interchange invited by the appeals court.

Moderator: The Honorable William C. Pryor, Senior Judge, District of Columbia Court of Appeals **Speakers:** The Honorable Harold L. Cushenberry Jr., Presiding Judge, Criminal Division, Superior Court of the District of Columbia; and The Honorable Gregory E. Mize (Ret.), Judicial Fellow, National Center for State Courts

OAH Inside and Out: A Primer on the Rules and Realities of Practice before the D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings

Friday, March 31, 2–3:30 p.m.

Learn the ins and outs of practice in the District’s newest agency, the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH). OAH is the independent administrative tribunal that hears administrative litigation involving over 25 different agencies, boards and commissions of the District of Columbia. For taxes, health, consumer affairs, family services, and even taxicabs, OAH is the place to go for an independent review of a claim or a dispute with a city agency.

Moderator: Robert H. Loeffler, Partner, Morrison & Foerster LLP. **Speakers:** Eric Angel, Legal Director, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia; Lisa K. Coleman, General Counsel, Office of Administrative Hearings; the Honorable Mark D. Poindexter, Acting Deputy Chief and Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings; and Robert J. Spagnoletti, Attorney General for the District of Columbia

Arbitration Works! A Primer on Fee Disputes before the D.C. Bar’s Attorney/Client Arbitration Board

Friday, March 31, 2–3:30 p.m.

How can arbitration work for you? Arbitration is a relatively informal and efficient service for resolving fee disputes between attorneys and their clients. Come watch a talented cast of litigants and arbitrators as they conduct a mock trial that will highlight the benefits of arbitrating fee disputes at the D.C. Bar Attorney/Client Arbitration Board (ACAB) and the differences between arbitrating at the ACAB and litigating in the D.C. Superior Court.

Moderator: Gloria F. Smith-Hill, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. **Speakers:** Wallace R. Meissner, Civil Alternative Dispute Resolution Training Manager, Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division, Superior Court of the District of Columbia; Joyce A. Mitchell, Joyce A. Mitchell & Associates; and the Honorable Susan R. Winfield, Senior Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Looking Back and Looking Forward: D.C. Superior Court’s Domestic Violence Unit After Ten Years

Friday, March 31, 2:15–4:15 p.m.

In 1995, with the assistance of a diverse group of individuals, the D.C. Superior Court created the court’s Domestic Violence Unit to reduce confusion, eliminate conflicting orders, and increase access to and perceptions of justice for all stakeholders. The panelists for this seminar look back at the court’s original goals, examine how the court has met those goals, and look forward at how to maintain the Domestic Violence Unit as a model program.

Moderator: Professor Laurie S. Kohn, Co-director, Domestic Violence Clinic, Georgetown University Law Center **Speakers:** Arthur Ago, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia; Deborah L. Epstein, Associate Dean, Georgetown University Law Center, and Co-director, Domestic Violence Clinic; Kimberly S. Knowles, Deputy Chief, Sex Offense/Domestic Violence Section, U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia; and the Honorable William M. Jackson, Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia

Poverty Law in the D.C. Court of Appeals: Important Recent Developments

Friday, March 31, 2:15–4:15 p.m.

More than 100,000 D.C. residents live in poverty. The D.C. Court of Appeals often renders decisions uniquely affecting this population. Some of these decisions have significant national implications. Experienced appellate litigators and experts will discuss trends and practice points emerging from the court's recent decisions in such areas as housing, family, and consumer law.

Moderator: Paul M. Smith, Jenner & Block LLP and D.C. Bar Board of Governors **Speakers:** Margaret Martin Barry, Associate Professor of Law, Families and the Law Clinic, Catholic University Columbus School of Law; Matthew I. Fraidin, professor of law, University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law; Barbara McDowell, Director of Appellate Advocacy Project, Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia; and David Reiser, Counsel, Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

Being Prepared When Disaster Strikes!

Friday, March 31, 2:15–4:15 p.m.

After September 11, 2001, many law firms had good intentions to begin disaster planning. Now, after the natural disasters of 2005, it's time to follow through with that planning. Experts on this panel, including the managing partner of a New Orleans law firm, advise how to prepare the law firm, clients, and employees for disaster.

Moderator: Marilyn Mickelson, Consultant, Adjunct Professor, Marymount University.
Speakers: George Nicholson, President, Sage Solutions; Martin E. Regan Jr., Managing Partner, Regan & Associates, P.L.C.; and Ed Ross, Area Office Senior Manager, Deloitte Services.

The Gold Standards for Jury Trials

Thursday, March 31, 2:45–4:45 p.m.

The jury trial is fundamental to our system of justice. In August 2005 the American Bar Association adopted comprehensive "Principles for Juries and Jury Trials." These principles embody the leading thoughts about "best practices" for jury trials. What are these practices and can they work in the District of Columbia? Would they improve the jury process? From assembling a jury to conducting the jury trial, jury deliberations and postverdict activity, this program will provide a forum for judges and attorneys to discuss the pros and cons posed by their adoption in practice.

Moderator: Stephan Landsman, Professor of Law, DePaul University, and Reporter, ABA American Jury Project. **Speakers:** Avis E. Buchanan, Director, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia; Shari Seidman Diamond, Professor of Law and Psychology, Northwestern University; Michael D. Jones, Kirkland & Ellis LLP; Kenneth Wainstein, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia; and the Honorable Melvin R. Wright, Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia

What Every Lawyer Needs to Know about Representing Immigrants and Clients with Limited English Proficiency

Friday, March 31, 3:15–4:45 p.m.

Washington's population has changed dramatically, with increasing numbers of immigrant residents. Learn practical advice from experienced practitioners for lawyers who endeavor to represent clients from other cultures who speak languages other than English, and whose immigration status may affect, or be affected by, their other legal issues.

Moderator: The Honorable Richard M. Urbina, Judge, United States District Court for the District of Columbia. **Speakers:** Bruce Klores, Bruce J. Klores & Associates PC; Elizabeth H. McGrail, Capital Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition; Jayne Park, Executive Director, Asian-Pacific American Legal Resource Center; Gwendolyn McDowell Washington, Staff Attorney, Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia; and Gladys Segal, Certified Court Interpreter, Seagull International, Inc.

Is Opposing Counsel Impaired?

Friday, March 31, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

Would you know if opposing counsel were impaired? Would you know what to do if he or she were? How could that impairment affect the matter at hand? After a short video clip, this panel discussion brings judges, practicing attorneys, the Office of Bar Counsel, and the D.C. Bar Lawyer Counseling Program together to explore the issue and your options.

Moderator: The Honorable Russell F. Canan, Associate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia. **Speakers:** Monique Fortenberry, Chief Counsel for Disaster Assistance, United States Small Business Administration; Lynn Phillips, Director, Lawyer Counseling Program, District of Columbia Bar; the Honorable Richard H. Ringell, Magistrate Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia; Wallace E. "Gene" Shipp, Bar Counsel, District of Columbia Office of Bar Counsel; and David Taylor, Chair, D.C. Bar Lawyer Counseling Committee, and Managing Partner, Tighe Patton Armstrong Teasdale, PLLC

Litigating Tax Matters before the D.C. Office of Administrative Hearings

Friday, March 31, 3:45–4:45 p.m.

The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) was established in March 2004 and began hearing cases in October 2004. Since its creation, District of Columbia taxpayers have had the benefit of a new administrative court for tax appeals. Attend this seminar to get the perspectives of a hearing officer, a representative of the Office of Tax and Revenue, and a tax practitioner on the impact that OAH has had on the tax appeal process.

Moderator: Stephen P. B. Kranz, Tax Counsel, Council on State Taxation. **Speakers:** Edward A. Blick, Assistant General Counsel, District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue; Peter J. Cohen, M.D., J.D., Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University Law Center and Chair, Physician's Health Committee of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia; the Honorable Janet James Mahon, Principal Administrative Law Judge, District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings; and Christian M. McBurney, Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP.

The District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission Turns One: The Year in Review and a Look Ahead

Friday, March 31, 2:15–4:15 p.m.

A panel of commissioners from the District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission will summarize the commission's work to improve access to justice for low-income residents, outline future plans, solicit ideas from attendees about additional projects, and discuss ways in which D.C. Bar members can get involved.

Moderator: Sunil Mansukhani, Executive Director, District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission. **Speakers:** Peter Edelman, Professor of Law, Georgetown University Law Center, and Chair, District of Columbia Access to Justice Commission; Patricia Mullahy Fugere, Executive Director, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless; Andrew H. Marks, Partner, Crowell & Moring LLP; and the Honorable Inez Smith Reid, Associate Judge, District of Columbia Court of Appeals

Judicial Reception

Friday, March 31, 6–8 p.m.

A special reception that honors members of the judiciary, particularly those who have retired or taken senior status in the past year. Also featuring the D.C. Bar Foundation presentation of the Jerrold Scoutt Prize for exceptional service to Edward Allen, professor of law at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law.

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