



U.S. COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS BAR ASSOCIATION



E-Newsletter

Fall Edition | November 2018

Dear Member,

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Letter from the Chief Judge



*Chief Judge
Margaret M. Sweeney*

Greetings, members of the United States Court of Federal Claims Bar Association.

I am honored by the privilege to serve as the Chief Judge of the court, an institution that has been at the center of my legal career - as a law clerk to then-Chief Judge Loren A. Smith, litigator, special master, and judge - for over 30 years. I recognize the importance of a close working relationship between the court and the Bar Association and I will do my part to continue to foster those ties for the betterment of the court.

The court and the Bar Association are busy making final plans for the 29th Annual Judicial Conference. The conference will take place on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, at the courthouse, followed by a reception across the street at The Hay-Adams. You can learn more about the conference by [clicking here](#).

I have enjoyed learning about all of the interesting - and educational - programming being planned for this fall by the Bar Association and its Young Lawyers Division. I will attend as many events as I can, and I hope to see many of you there.

Thank you for your continued commitment to and interest in the United States Court of Federal Claims.

Margaret M. Sweeney
Chief Judge

President's Message



Bill Bergmann

I am pleased to remind everyone once again of the upcoming 29th Annual Court of Federal Claims Judicial Conference, which will be held next week, on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. The conference will take place at the National Courts Building, followed by an evening reception at the nearby Hay-Adams hotel. This is an event not to be missed! And, as an added bonus, we will be holding our annual Bar Association meeting and reception immediately following the conference (preceding the Hay Adams reception). I encourage everyone to attend one or

both of these events, for their educational value and to mingle with your fellow practitioners, judges, and court personnel.

I have been honored to lead the Bar Association over the past year. The Department of Justice and private bar representatives that make up the leadership of the bar have always exuded the utmost in professionalism, courtesy, and integrity, regardless of the circumstances. During the past year we have had an excellent line up of brown bag seminars, attended by many both in person and by webcast. Our Young Lawyers Division displayed energy and enthusiasm while hosting both educational and social events for the young and young at heart. I was particularly impressed by the number of judges that attended their events. We continued to publish our high quality newsletter, and our dedicated staff of editors provided case summaries in our [Inside 717 publication](#). As we do every year, we awarded a [scholarship](#) to a law school student with a demonstrated commitment to public service after completing the difficult task of choosing a winner among many highly qualified candidates. This year's winner was Bill Nguyen, a second-year law student at University of California, Berkeley School of Law and law clerk at the East Bay Community Law Center, which provides legal services to low-income communities.

One of our highlights this year was our annual Law Day luncheon, which featured remarks by Solicitor General Noel Francisco. Our membership committee made several important advancements, successfully implementing a Law Firm membership category and allowing us to sign up members "on the spot" using our new Square credit card processor. We were also very busy commissioning not one, but three judicial portraits. Keep an eye out for the portraits of Judges Campbell-Smith, Braden, and Allegra gracing the walls of the National Courts Building in the near future.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members, our executive administrator Sandy LoJacono, the Court's staff and judges, and Chief Judges Sweeney and Braden for all of the assistance and support they have given us during the past year.

Best regards,

Bill Bergmann
President, U.S. Court of Federal Claims Bar Association

29th Annual Judicial Conference

The United States Court of Federal Claims' 29th Annual Judicial Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. All sessions will take place at the National Courts Building, 717 Madison Place, NW, with an evening reception at The Hay-Adams, 800 16th Street, NW. The panels include discussions on Judiciary and National Security, Tax, Bid Protest, Rails-to-Trails and Vaccine. Please [click here](#) to view the agenda.

Annual Meeting/Election

Please join the bar association for the Annual Meeting/Election, which will take place on November 14, 2018 immediately following the 29th Annual Judicial Conference. The meeting will begin at 4:45pm at the Hay-Adams in The Concorde Room. [Click here](#) for registration and details.

Please vote! If you cannot attend in person, [click here](#) to vote via proxy ballot.

Brown Bag Series Recaps



On June 11, 2018, the Young Lawyers' Division sponsored a brown-bag lunch at the Dolley Madison House with a panel consisting of Judge Patricia Campbell-Smith, Special Master Katherine E. Oler, Alexander Canizares of the Department of Justice, and Jon Burd of Wiley Rein, and moderated by Rebecca Kruser of the Department of Justice. The program focused on practice tips for new or prospective attorneys practicing before the Court of Federal Claims. The panelists offered observations on their own career paths, effective written and oral advocacy, mentor relationships, and other ways for practitioners to build experience and skills in matters relevant to the Court's cases.

On November 1, 2018, the United States Court of Federal Claims and the United States Court of Federal Claims Bar Association sponsored the latest in the brown-bag series: "**Trial Practice Tips for New and Experienced Practitioners.**" The distinguished panel included Chief Judge Margaret M. Sweeney, Judge Campbell-Smith, Judge Lydia Kay Griggsby, and Judge Elaine D. Kaplan. The panel also included Robert E. Kirschman, Director of the National Courts Section at the Department of Justice and Lewis S. Wiener, Partner, Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP.

Among the practical tips offered by the panelists: (1) be courteous, collegial and punctual; (2) focus on important matters; (3) know the Court's rules; (4) spend extra time to ensure your written work is first-rate; and (5) work hard to make complex issues simple.

Thanks to the panelists for both programs and all attendees!

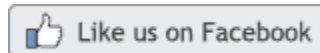
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