

District of Arizona

United States District Court for the District of Arizona, 2009 District Report

Lawyer Representatives:

Three-year Term Expires

Sean Brearcliffe	2009
Christina Cabanillas	2009
Andrew Jacobs (Co-Chair)	2009
John Masterson	2009
John Doran	2009
Dan Collins	2010
Maria Davila	2010
Ann Harwood (Co-Chair)	2010
Ed Laber	2010
Vince Lacsamana	2010
Rob Charles	2011
Geoffrey T. Cheshire	2011
Kelly J. Flood	2011
Geoffrey M.T. Sturr	2011
Madeline C. Wanslee	2011

Appellate Lawyer Representatives:

Bennett Cooper (Chair, Appellate Reps)	2012
Mark Caldwell	2010

District Conference

The 2009 Arizona District Conference was held in Tucson, Arizona on March 6, 2009 at the Westward Look Resort. Approximately 200 judges and lawyers attended this year's conference, making it the best attended ever. The venue in particular was well-received. The conference was sponsored by the Arizona Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives.

Our conference began with breakfast. Our breakfast speaker was United States Attorney, Diane J. Humetewa, who spoke on her perspectives as U.S. Attorney, and more specifically, concerning the different prosecutorial priorities of the prior and current administrations.

The general session consisted of two presentations. The first presentation was "The Supreme Court In The Time Of The Forty-Third President: 2001-2009," which focused on a variety of Supreme Court developments and the Bush Administration's positions in the Supreme Court, on matters such as terrorism, gun rights, and search and seizure. The panelists were: former Assistant Attorney General of the United States Ronald Tenpas, University of California-Davis Professor Vik Amar, University of Arizona Professor David Marcus, and Lawyer Representative Andrew Jacobs (moderator). The second general session presentation was "The Neurobiology of Addiction" by Dr. Leo Kadehjian.

Lunch included both a “State of the District” address by our Chief Judge, the Hon. John M. Roll, and a panel, “Questions from the Bar for the Bench” by Hon. Raner C. Collins, Hon. James A. Teilborg, Hon. David K. Duncan, Hon. Jennifer C. Guerin, and Lawyer Representative Ed Laber (moderator). The afternoon consisted of breakout sessions for Criminal, Civil and Bankruptcy practitioners. Civil law breakout topics and their presenters included: The Future of Chevron Deference (Prof. Vik Amar), Punitive Damages After Exxon (Robert Mandel, Esq.), and Perspectives on Jury Voir Dire (Hon. Neil V. Wake, and Hon. Frederick J. Martone). The Criminal law breakout session, Access to Justice in Arizona's Indian Country, was a lively and fascinating discussion among U.S. Attorney Diane J. Humetewa and head Federal Defender Jon M. Sands. Hot Topics in Criminal Law was presented by attorneys Leslie Bowman, John Boyle, Bruce Ferg, and Dan Kaplan. The Bankruptcy law breakout topics were Securitization Alphabet Soup: What Does It All Mean?, featuring our Chief Bankruptcy Judge, the Hon. Redfield T. Baum, the Hon. James M. Marlar, and attorneys Jeff Wagner, and Daniel Williams, and Whose Loan Is It Anyway? (Who Owns the Loan and What Rights Does That Confer?), led by the Hon. Eileen W. Hollowell, the Hon. Randolph J. Haines, and attorney Robert Shely. The high caliber and entertainment value of the Breakout Sessions were greatly appreciated by all in attendance.

The 2009 Arizona District Conference ended with an outdoor reception honoring our breakfast speaker, U.S. Attorney Humetewa. Chief Judge Roll presented U.S. Attorney Humetewa with a plaque and a gift of appreciation for her many years of service to our District.

Lawyer Representative Activities

Brown Bag Lunches With the Court

On April 29, 2009 (in Phoenix) and on May 18, 2009 (in Tucson), the District Court hosted “brown bag” lunches for lawyer representatives from Phoenix and Tucson to exchange ideas and discuss matters of interest to the court and practitioners. The judges and practitioners in attendance discussed a wide range of topics, including topics to be considered for presentation at the 2010 District Conference, an assessment of the 2009 District Conference, matters relating to local rules, recent developments in the law, administrative burdens upon the Court, and facilitating bench-bar dialogue.

Participation in Conferences

Arizona's Ninth Circuit Lawyer Representatives actively participated in a variety of conferences within the Ninth Circuit. Dan Collins helped prepare the program for the December 2008 gathering of Chief Bankruptcy Judges in Maui. Andrew Jacobs and Ann Harwood attended the Chief District Judges' conference in Newport Beach in February 25-26, 2009. Andrew Jacobs co-presented a panel on pro bono program management on November 15, 2008 to the Appellate Judges' Educational Institute, and co-presented a different panel on issues in pro bono program management both in Newport Beach to the Chief District Judges and again on May 7, 2009 to the Executive Board of the Magistrate Judges.

Pro Bono Program

The Lawyer Representatives continued their work on the program, founded in 2007, through which the District Court seeks counsel to appoint in particular pro se matters. The Lawyer Representatives presented information about the program to those assembled at the District Conference. The District Court added the program to its website. See <http://www.azd.uscourts.gov/>. Lawyer Representative Geoff Sturr joined the program as a co-coordinator. The other co-coordinator, Lawyer Representative Andrew Jacobs, met with the District Judges on May 4, 2009 concerning various issues relating to the program. Both Sturr and Jacobs worked to place many cases. The program has placed roughly thirty matters since early 2007, and is understood to be the subject of a short profile upcoming in The American Lawyer.

July 2009 Ninth Circuit Conference Arizona District Dinner

This year's District Dinner will be held at Stokes' Restaurant in Monterey on July 21.