

# **Central District of California**

To: Members of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference

From: Samantha C. Grant and Paula Pearlman, Co-Chairs, Central District of California Lawyer Representatives

Date: June 17, 2009

Re: District Report

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This report is submitted on behalf of the Lawyer Representatives for the Central District of California (“Lawyer Representatives”) and relates to their activities and events in the past year. As discussed below, the Lawyer Representatives from this District were actively involved with the Courts and the community in a variety of ways. From the creation of new committees to foster alumni relations among former Lawyer Representatives to organizing a congressional outreach program designed to bridge the gap between the judicial and legislative branches, the Lawyer Representatives provided tremendous assistance to the Court. This year, Chief Judge Audrey B. Collins became the new Chief Judge, following the completion of Chief Judge Alicemarie H. Stotler’s term as Chief Judge.

**A. Lawyer Representatives**

Attached to this report are the names of the current Lawyer Representatives for the Central District of California and their respective terms of service.

**B. District Activities**

The Lawyer Representatives have been involved in a variety of activities with the District Court. Some examples follow:

The Annual Directory of Lawyer Representatives. The Lawyer Representatives published their annual directory of members, affectionately referred to as the “Look Book.” The Look Book provides a photograph and brief biography of each member. Now in its sixth consecutive year, the Look Book has proven to be a valuable resource to the Court and the Lawyer Representatives. The Look Book allows the Judges to become familiar with the Lawyer Representatives, their backgrounds, practices and hobbies, as well as introducing the various Lawyer

Representatives to each other. The Look Book is updated annually and distributed to all members of the Court and the Lawyer Representatives. The Judges have often expressed their appreciation for this unique and helpful publication.

Annual Chinatown Dinner. The Lawyer Representatives and the Central District Judges met again for a social evening in Chinatown. It was an opportunity for the Judges and Lawyer Representatives to meet informally to share concerns and interests regarding Court activities.

Congressional Outreach. The Lawyer Representatives organized a congressional outreach reception which afforded the Judges an opportunity to address a variety of issues, including ones affecting the judiciary, with the District's legislative representatives.

Court Committee Assistance. The Lawyer Representatives also participated in the attorney settlement panel selection committee. This committee worked with the Court and was able to provide valuable assistance in the day-to-day needs of the court. The attorney settlement panel selection committee aided the District in reviewing applications for attorney settlement officers.

The Lawyer Representatives also initiated a local rule regarding the admission of attorneys to the Central District who are admitted to the California bar as Registered Legal Services Attorneys (out of state attorneys practicing law in a non-profit legal services organization). Previously, these attorneys would be admitted on a pro hac vice basis for each case rather than admission to the Central District for all purposes. This was a collaboration between the California Access and Fairness Commission, Federal Courts Committee and the Central District Court's Local Rules Committee.

These are just some of the Lawyer Representative's accomplishments. As is apparent, the Lawyer Representatives were extremely active with the court and the community.

### **C. District Conference**

The District Conference was held on April 17-19, 2009, at the Ojai Valley Inn & Spa. We are pleased to report that the conference was well attended. The venue and the program provided the Court and Lawyer Representatives an

opportunity to hear from diverse view points on a range of educational subjects. All of the conference participants were provided with extensive educational materials and a book published by the conference's Friday dinner speaker.

On the first night of the conference, after the Chief Judge welcomed the participants, the attendees mingled over dinner and then heard a talk from Cliff Sloan, author of "The Great Decision" a book about *Marbury vs. Madison*. Mr. Sloan gave his perspective on the historic Supreme Court case, which led to a provocative discussion with conference attendees.

The next day, the Judges and Lawyer Representatives met for breakfast and then heard presentations related to the State of the District from Chief District Judge Audrey B. Collins, Chief Magistrate Judge Stephen J. Hillman, and Bankruptcy Judge Sheri Bluebond. These presentations addressed the current state of the courts, including recent judicial appointment to the Courts.

These presentations were followed by the Conference's educational panels. The first panel addressed the causes of the economic crisis and the criminal, civil, and regulatory ramifications of the crisis. This panel, entitled "In the Era of Madoff, Bail Outs, Foreclosures and Recession," included informative panelists Michael Fitzpatrick, John Hueston, and Asuncion Hostin. Laurie Levenson moderated the discussion.

Afterwards, there was a report from Judge Howard Matz on the opening of a new program of the Central District, the *Pro Se* Clinic. Others shared how this important concept is expanding and reaching the needs of many self-represented individuals requiring counsel.

Then, Robert O'Brien moderated a panel with fascinating panelists Erwin Chermerinsky, Maria Echaveste, and Susan Estrich. This panel, entitled "Emerging Issues in the Obama Era," included a timely discussion of new laws, shifts in the types of cases the Court may be seeing, and potential judicial appointments.

On Saturday evening, Christopher Edley, Jr., Dean of Boalt Hall spoke on "Inside View of the Obama Administration."

All enjoyed the extensive material and found the conference extremely successful. Everyone raved about the conference over brunch on Sunday.

The Judges and Lawyer Representatives agreed that the conference was an enormous success and provided a unique opportunity for the Court and members of the bar to discuss social and legal concerns in a warm and relaxing environment. Plans are under way for next year's conference, with the new co-chairs using our most recent conference as their blueprint.

**2008-2009 LAWYER REPRESENTATIVES**  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

**June 17, 2009**

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