

# **Northern District of California**

**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
2008-2009 LAWYER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Submitted by Sarah Flanagan and Haywood Gilliam, Co-Chairs

I. District Conference

The Northern District of California held its annual conference at the Vintage Estate in Yountville, California from April 17 to 19, 2009. Over 170 judges and practitioners attended. Chief District Judge Vaughn Walker welcomed the attendees, and Circuit Judge Consuelo Maria Callahan offered greetings from the Ninth Circuit. The Court recognized Richard Wiekling, Clerk of Court and Interim Chief Pretrial Services Officer, and Ruben Deang, coordinator of the District's Criminal Justice Act Panel, for distinguished service to the District.

The conference theme was "The Lincoln Bicentennial: Reflections on American Justice." A diverse group of panelists, ranging from prominent Lincoln scholars to federal jurists and practitioners, examined American justice in a number of areas touched by President Lincoln's legacy. District Judge (and Lincoln aficionado) William Alsup moderated the opening panel, a discussion of President Lincoln's life and times featuring historian Julie Fenster, author of "The Case of Abraham Lincoln: A Story of Adultery, Murder and the Making of a Great President," and Professor Sean Wilentz of Princeton University. Other panels discussed the conspiracy trial of the Lincoln assassins, the voter initiative process in California, the U.S. Supreme Court's most recent term, and the potential influence of Lincoln's "Team of Rivals" philosophy on the Obama Administration's approach to governing. There were also breakout sessions addressing intellectual property, criminal practice, bankruptcy and ADR issues. The conference ended with a lively panel entitled "Advocacy Style: It Worked For Lincoln, Would it Work Today?" The panel, moderated by Magistrate Judge Richard Seeborg, featured insights regarding effective and ineffective advocacy from District Judges Charles Breyer and Susan Illston, with Ms. Fenster providing historical context about President Lincoln's pre-political career as an attorney.

II. Lawyer Representative Reception

In December 2008, we held a reception at the Attorney Lounge in the Federal Building in San Francisco to welcome our six incoming lawyer representatives and thank the outgoing lawyer representatives for their service. The reception was well attended by our District, Magistrate and Bankruptcy Judges and lawyer representatives.