



PICO

NEWS MEMO

December 2003

Public Information and Community Outreach Committee for the Ninth Circuit



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR Judge Alicemarie H. Stotler

Welcome to the *PICO News Memo*, a periodic report on the efforts of judges, court staff and others in the legal community to improve the public's understanding of and confidence in the federal judiciary.

Let me first recognize those participating this month in "Open Doors to Federal Courts," the AO-sponsored outreach program for high school seniors. This year's program was built on the theme "Working for Justice: Careers in the Courts," and focused on careers in the federal judiciary. Courts in Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington were planning events.

I also want to commend the Civic Education Subcommittee of the Judicial Conference U.S., chaired by Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr. of Sacramento, which is working

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TELL US WHAT YOU'RE DOING

The PICO Committee wants to hear from you. We know many judges and court staff are involved in community outreach. Why not share your experiences? Email us at:

pico@ce9.uscourts.gov

Circuit Court Manages Crush of Media Covering California Recall Case

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals proved up to the challenge of handling an onslaught of media reporting on the legal battle over the California gubernatorial recall election.

More than 40 media outlets converged on the Court of Appeals in San Francisco to cover the oral arguments made Sept. 22 before an en banc court of 11 judges.

The proceeding was televised live by C-SPAN, which fed the video signal to various commercial networks. National media covering the event included CNN, NBC, ABC, CBS, Fox, the Associated Press, Reuters and the *New York Times*. Many network affiliates also sent representatives, and there was coverage by many local newspapers.

To keep the press and public informed, Clerk of Court Cathy Catterson arranged to have virtually every court document available on the Court of Appeals website. Several hours of advance notice also were given when the court issued its opinion the next day.



Associated Press



Programs of Note in the Ninth Circuit

The Central District of California hosted its third annual Teacher's Institute Oct. 17 in Los Angeles.

Working through the AO, the district obtained "Fed Facts: The Real Deal," a CD-ROM program based on curriculum developed by the U.S. Probation Office, for the Middle District of Florida. The program focuses on the lesser known, but more severe federal

penalties for drug offenses, and shows young adults how crucial choices they make in given situations can have a profound legal significance for the rest of their lives.

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From the Chair *cont.*

with educators and the legal community to revive civics education programs in our schools.

The PICO Committee, meanwhile is completing its third year as a resource to courts of the Ninth Circuit. In 2003, we sponsored media workshops for the circuit's chief district and chief bankruptcy judges. In 2004, we are planning media workshops in Boise and Los Angeles.

To share information about your community outreach efforts, send email to pico@ce9.uscourts.gov or contact one of the PICO Committee members listed below.

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After School Tutoring at the Court of Appeals



Each week, employees of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco volunteer to tutor low-income children living in the urban neighborhood surrounding the courthouse. The program is coordinated by the clerk's office and sponsored by a local nonprofit group.

Programs of Note *cont.*

Eleven teachers replied to the court's invitation to attend the half-day program. Panelists included Judge Florence-Marie Cooper, Federal Public Defender Maria Stratton, Assistant U.S. Attorney Gonzalo Curil and CJA Panel attorney Jay Lichtman.

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Circuit Judge Stephen Trott presided over a debate on the McCain-Feingold Act, the campaign finance reform law enacted last year and currently under review by the United States Supreme Court. The debate was held Nov. 19 at Boise State University with former Idaho Supreme Court Justice Cathy Silak arguing in support of the law and attorney Allyn Dingle, Jr. against it. Judge Trott, who has chambers in Boise, is involved in a number of Idaho educational and community outreach programs.

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The U.S. District Court for the District of Montana observed the sec-

ond anniversary of 9/11 attacks with a naturalization ceremony for new citizens. The ceremony was held at the Paul G. Hatfield Federal Courthouse in Helena with Chief District Judge Donald W. Molloy presiding. In his remarks, Judge Molloy said the ceremony should remind everyone that America was and is a nation of immigrants. The event, the only naturalization ceremony held anywhere in the country that day, was covered by the media in Helena and elsewhere in Montana.



'Fireside Chat' for Law Students

Judge Sandra Brown Armstrong, right, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Alicia Fenrick chat during the judge's annual "Fireside Chat" for ethnic minority law students in the San Francisco Bay Area. Some 50 persons attended the Oct. 25 event, including students from University of San Francisco and UC Berkeley schools of law.



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