

Since this was a long legislative session, and our legislative subcommittee—composed of Kate Haakonsen, Edie McClure, and Shirley Pripstein—were busy evaluating and responding to the myriad of family law legislative proposals that seem to appear every long session. Our subcommittee spends many hours in research, meetings with legislators, testimony, and coordinating with our CBA lobbyists and other interest groups.

Our arbitration subcommittee, chaired by Rob Zaslow, has developed a draft arbitration bill specifically for family law. We hope to be ready with a proposal for the next legislative session.

Our film subcommittee, co-chaired by Larry Sarezky and Deborah Grover, has obtained approval from the CBA to use \$30,000 section funds for the production of a short movie on the effect of a contested custody case on a minor child. Production is in its early stages.

We are fortunate that our section continues to have excellent attendance and participation in its monthly meetings and seminars. I hope you will take advantage of our presentations at the Annual Meeting this year.

FEDERAL PRACTICE SECTION

DAVID N. ROSEN; ELIZABETH J. STEWART, CO-CHAIRS

PURPOSE

The Federal Practice Section is involved with all aspects of practice in the federal courts in Connecticut. Working closely with the federal judges, who are ex officio members of the executive committee, this section provides a forum for consultation and dialogue between the federal bar and bench on issues of mutual interest, including rules and practice in the federal courts, and relevant legislation. Through its committees, the section takes an active role in shaping and commenting on legal and procedural developments affecting federal practice.

ANNUAL REPORT

Section and executive committee meetings provided an opportunity for social interaction and professional dialogue, often in a dinner setting, for lawyers; Circuit, District, Bankruptcy, and Magistrate Judges; and court personnel. The active participation of the federal judiciary is a particular benefit to the section's practicing lawyer members.

The section began the year with a Bench-Bar Conference at St. Clement's Castle on September 19, 2008. The principal panel at the conference was a discussion of federal election law led by a panel of national experts. The attendees also heard from Dean Hugh MacGill of the University of Connecticut Law School and participated in a lively discussion about the law in the movies.

The section's first executive committee meeting was held on October 28, 2008. We heard comments on the District from Chief Judge Chatigny and discussed the goals for the year, which include advocating for a judicial pay raise, educating young lawyers, increasing the involvement of the criminal bar, particularly assistant U.S. attorneys and federal public defenders, and addressing legal services for the poor during this economic downturn.

On December 2, 2008, we held a full section meeting. The principal agenda item was a panel of Judge Mark Kravitz, Frank Silvestri, and Joe Garrison on proposed changes to Federal Rules 26 and 56 on expert and summary judgment procedure, respectively.

On January 13, 2009, we held another executive committee meeting. At that meeting, we heard comments from Chief Judge Chatigny on the state of the District, and discussed possible amendments to our bylaws, the Annual Meeting program, and two of our goals: educating young lawyers and increasing the role of the United States Attorneys' Office and the Federal Public Defenders' Office in the section.

On February 25, 2009, we had another full section meeting. We invited a speaker, Linda Greenhouse, who was until recently *The New York Times* reporter covering the U.S. Supreme Court for many years. At that meeting, the section voted to amend its bylaws and submitted those amended bylaws to the House of Delegates for ratification.

Our next executive committee meeting was held on April 21, 2009, followed by a full section meeting on May 19, 2009 when the section heard from former Judge Alan Nevas.

The section's June meeting will be its traditional year-end wrap-up social event at Pine Orchard on June 16, 2009. All of our judges and their spouses and clerks are invited to be the section's guests for a relaxing, business-free evening.

The section will present a CLE program at the CBA Annual Meeting on June 8, 2009 on Expert Witnesses.

The officers of the section for the past year were: Elizabeth J. Stewart and David N. Rosen, co-chairs; David Schaefer, vice-chair; Anne Louise Blanchard, secretary; and Gary Klein, treasurer. The section also had active subcommittees that undertook a number of projects on behalf of the section. Committees and their respective chairs were: Civil Practice/Local Rules, Patrick McHugh; Court of Appeals, David Schaefer; Criminal Practice, Hope Seeley and Anthony Kaplan; Education and Programs, David Atkins; Legislation, Peter L. Costas; and Bench-Bar Conference, Timothy Diemand.

FRANCHISE LAW SECTION

ALLAN P. HILLMAN, CHAIR

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Franchise Law Section is to bring together those CBA members practicing in the franchise law field to discuss the current issues affecting this practice area, to educate that membership on the legal issues affecting those rapidly developing topics, and to foster relationships between those practicing attorneys and the individuals buying and selling franchises.

ANNUAL REPORT

The growing Franchise Law Section held a well-attended meeting this year on "Franchise Bankruptcies, Chapter 11 issues, and Workouts in the Economy of 2009." Speakers were experts in franchise bankruptcy matters and with practical experience dealing with workouts and resolutions of economic issues in franchising from both a business and legal perspective.