Welcome to the Faculty of Federal Advocates
March Electronic Newsletter

The Newsletter brings you news about FFA events and CLE programs along with useful information for federal practitioners, including links to relevant websites.

The FFA welcomes contributions to our Newsletter from our membership. Newer attorneys, experienced attorneys, and law students are all encouraged to submit articles. If you are interested in submitting an article to be considered for publication, please contact the FFA by emailing ahoffman@facultyfederaladvocates.org.

www.facultyfederaladvocates.org

Celebration of 100th Anniversary of Byron White Courthouse
By J. Bishop Grewell

In 2016, the Byron White United States Courthouse celebrated its 100th birthday. In an event co-sponsored by the FFA and the Tenth Circuit Historical Society, the United States Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals commemorated the milestone with a November 15, 2016 program about the history of the building and its namesake.

Former Tenth Circuit Judge Robert Henry served as Master of Ceremonies. He read letters of congratulations from U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor. Tenth Circuit Chief Judge Timothy M. Tymkovich and Chief Judge Marcia S. Krieger of the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado added their remarks.

The audience was then treated to the story of how a cadre of Tenth Circuit Judges managed to maneuver the building - originally designed to house both the U.S. Postal Service and the courts - to exclusive use by the courts with their expanding dockets, with a few lines in an appropriations bill nearly thirty years ago. That bill funded a major renovation to the building in 1994 that returned the building to much of its original stature.

Senior Tenth Circuit Judge David M. Ebel then talked about U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Byron White, for whom the building is named. Judge Ebel's stories about Justice White went beyond the legend of the Rhodes Scholar who led the National Football League in rushing yardage before becoming a Justice, and included his service as a naval intelligence officer in World War II.

My favorite story was Judge Ebel's tale of a snowy morning clerking for Justice White. A storm had dumped on Washington, D.C. As the morning wore on, Judge
Ebel and his co-clerk began to worry about the Justice. He was never late; yet, today he was. With the passing hours, their worry grew. Just as they were about to call the police, Justice White wandered into the office and shook the snow from his coat. When his clerks asked where he had been, he told them he had been doing what anyone else would do: pushing stuck cars out of the snow. With a smile, Judge Ebel depicted those forlorn folks who had looked on in awe at this 60-year-old man with the strength of an ox pushing them free. Though they likely knew nothing of the man lending them a hand or of his greatness, at the same time they knew everything about him.

I was grateful for the opportunity to add the following remarks at the event:

Your Honors and honored guests, good afternoon. Our nation's courthouses should be majestic. They are where we settle our disputes with filings rather than fists: where freedoms are protected and sometimes curtailed, and where the government is held accountable to its people on the most individual level. The awe inspired by the architecture of the Byron White Courthouse and courthouses across this country tells the people that these hallowed halls are built on a bedrock that has that power to protect them. And it conveys to the neutral arbitrators working in these halls what an awesome responsibility has been placed in their hands, their minds, and their pens. For those reasons and many others, the Tenth Circuit Historical Society and the Faculty of Federal Advocates are privileged to join the Tenth Circuit in celebrating the centenary of this grand building. The Tenth Circuit Historical Society is an organization dedicated to honoring the Tenth Circuit's illustrious and colorful past through its sponsorship of programs like this one. And the Faculty of Federal Advocates is an organization that works to improve advocacy in the federal courts of Colorado through programs that bring the bench and bar together to learn from one another. If either of those missions appeals to you, please consider becoming a member by visiting our websites, www.10thcircuithistory.org and www.facultyfederaladvocates.org, or picking up a brochure in the hall. Thanks to all of the people who worked behind the scenes over this past year, and over the many years before that, to make this event a reality. And thank you all for attending.

The event was followed by a brief reception.

Pioneers Recognized: Author Linda Hirshman Presents on Sisters in Law, Documenting the Achievements and Lives of the First Two Female U.S. Supreme Court Justices

By Kristin A. Lockwood

In an FFA-sponsored October 2016 special event, attendees enjoyed an afternoon of spirited discussion as attorney, philosopher, and author Linda Hirshman delivered a presentation of her book, *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World*. Participants gathered in the Colorado Supreme Court courtroom as Ms. Hirshman
discussed her book, recounting the journey of two different women who took two very different career paths to the Supreme Court, where they both effectuated legal and social change. Ms. Hirshman's presentation was followed by a reception and book-signing in the atrium of the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center, where participants mingled and conversed about the program.

Ms. Hirshman began the presentation by discussing the 1996 landmark majority opinion, authored by Justice Ginsburg, in which the Supreme Court struck down the Virginia Military Institute's long-standing, male-only admission policy (U.S. v. Virginia, 518 U.S. 515 (1996)). Ms. Hirshman explained that the majority opinion would not have been Justice Ginsburg's to write but for Justice O'Connor. Per custom, the most senior member of the majority had the right to assign the opinion to any justice within the majority, and he had assigned it to the most senior female, Justice O'Connor. Yet, she declined to accept it, instead stating: "This should be Ruth's." Justice Ginsburg, in just her third year on the Court, proudly accepted. She went on to pen one of the most crucial Supreme Court decisions in the history of the women's rights movement.

Justice O'Connor and Justice Ginsburg had each negotiated quite a journey in their respective paths to the Court. As Ms. Hirshman explained, Justice O'Connor was raised on a western ranch and was a lifelong Republican who had served as majority leader of the Arizona Senate. Justice Ginsburg, by contrast, was born and raised in Brooklyn as the daughter of a Russian Jewish immigrant, and was a professor and a litigator. Justice O'Connor was named to the Supreme Court by President Reagan in 1981. Twelve years later, President Clinton named Justice Ginsburg to the Court. Ms. Hirshman's message was straightforward: although the two Justices came from different backgrounds and perhaps different approaches to judging, when it came to gender equality, they were the same.

Ms. Hirshman illustrated her point through anecdotes. Justice O'Connor was fifteen years old when she drove a truck across her family's isolated, sprawling ranch to deliver lunch to her father and the crew in the scorching Arizona heat. Mid-route and alone, she got a flat tire. Having difficulty loosening the lug nuts, she used her body weight to jump on the lug wrench until the lug nuts finally loosened, and she was able to change the tire and continue on her trip. When she finally delivered the lunch, her father was angry that she was late. When she explained, she expected that her father would praise her for changing her tire at such a young age and in those circumstances, but instead he simply said, "You should have started earlier." From this, as Ms. Hirshman stated, Justice O'Connor learned a critical lesson: the value of no excuses, even when the incident is excusable. This prepared Justice O'Connor to expect to be capable of anything, as long as she-no excuses-did the work.

Justice Ginsburg was one of nine women in her Harvard Law School class. Despite the fact that she (as well as Justice O'Connor) excelled in law school and graduated at the top of her class, getting an initial job was difficult (as it had been for Justice O'Connor). Justice Ginsburg was recommended for a Supreme Court clerkship but was rejected because of her gender. Instead, she went into academia, hiding her pregnancy by wearing her mother-in-law's larger clothes. Justice O'Connor was hired by initially offering to work unpaid. Even so, both women had the self-confidence and drive to believe they could be lawyers and leaders.

Once on the Court together, Justice O'Connor and Justice Ginsburg were allies. Ms. Hirshman chronicled notable portions of their respective careers and
The 2016 Bankruptcy Bench-Bar Retreat - A Faculty of Federal Advocates CLE

By Ethan Birnberg

On October 21, 2016, the Faculty of Federal Advocates hosted another in a series of sold-out annual continuing legal education programs concerning bankruptcy law and practice. The program, first offered in 2004, facilitates discussions among practitioners, moderators, and Bankruptcy Judges, primarily from the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Colorado. The FFA was honored to host over 75 attendees including seven Bankruptcy Judges: Chief Judge Michael E. Romero; Judges Elizabeth E. Brown, A. Bruce Campbell (Ret.), Thomas B. McNamara, Joseph G. Rosania, and Howard R. Tallman (since retired); and Chief Judge Cathleen D. Parker of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Wyoming.

In a format designed to differ from that of other CLE programs, attendees were assigned to tables, each with two moderators and a Bankruptcy Judge, focusing on commercial and consumer bankruptcy topics based on attendees' preferences and respective practice areas. Commercial discussion topics included debtor-based issues such as the size and length of cases, the national market, and lessons from successful and unsuccessful cases. Practitioners discussed specific bankruptcy cases including those involving Sports Authority, Inc. and Triangle USA Petroleum Corporation-two companies with substantial connections to Colorado which nonetheless recently sought bankruptcy protection in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. Discussions also included bankruptcy filings in Colorado and industries that have recently sought, or are at risk of needing, bankruptcy protection, such as health care providers and oil and gas servicers.

Topics on consumer issues included disclosure requirements in bankruptcy, costs and client expectations, post-filing reaffirmation agreements for vehicles and residences, and creative alternatives for chapter 13 debtors based on recent case law developments. Several Bankruptcy Judges commented on civility and professionalism, including informal discovery procedures. Due to a substantial increase in written discovery disputes, several of the Judges have implemented a
streamlined discovery dispute resolution procedure. Under that procedure, after attempting to confer on a dispute, the parties contact the court's chambers and a hearing is promptly set. Each party must then file a one-page report identifying the discovery issues without elaboration or argument but including critical supporting authority. Judges and practitioners agreed this procedure has resulted in fewer discovery disputes overall, minimized discovery dispute costs for clients, and provided prompt resolution to disputes needing court intervention.

The FFA extends special thanks to moderators and Bankruptcy Judges who identified issues and topics for this program as well as attending the program. Bankruptcy practitioners may also be interested in related FFA offerings including the Bankruptcy Pro Bono Program and Trial Advocacy Skills Workshop. The Pro Bono Program provides opportunities for practitioners to assist unrepresented debtors in nondischargeability actions under Sections 523 and 727 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. The Trial Advocacy Skills Workshop allows attorneys to develop and hone their litigation skills at the courthouse with U.S. Bankruptcy Judges presiding over a one-day mock trial. Between these programs and the yearly Bankruptcy Bench-Bar Retreat, the FFA offers rewarding opportunities and programs for new and seasoned attorneys who want to further their knowledge about bankruptcy laws and emerging trends.

2016 FFA Prisoners' Rights Pro Bono Training Features Presentation by Clients

By Lisi Owen

In December 2016, the FFA Pro Bono Committee sponsored its annual prisoners' rights training, supplementing and building upon the 2015 presentation with new topics and subject matter. The training was designed to assist practitioners participating in the Civil Pro Bono Program of the United States District Court for the District of Colorado.

Attorney Ty Gee gave an in-depth presentation on discovery tools available to pro bono practitioners, highlighting the strengths and pitfalls of each. For example, Mr. Gee discussed using open records requests to obtain information outside of or in conjunction with litigation, and provided tips about how to make the most of such requests.

The second presentation of the day, to which practitioners enthusiastically responded, was a panel discussion by Alex Perez and Jonathan Apodaca about their experiences as clients in criminal and prisoners' rights cases. Mr. Perez and Mr. Apodaca, currently on parole, had collectively spent nearly four decades in prison, with many of those years in solitary confinement. While in prison, Mr. Perez contested, and was eventually acquitted of, capital charges and accordingly spent significant time interacting with lawyers on a life-or-death matter. Mr. Apodaca is a named plaintiff in a putative class action seeking monetary damages for denial by the Colorado Department of Corrections of the opportunity to exercise outdoors while in solitary confinement, an alleged violation of the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. Perez talked about the impact his capital defense lawyers had on his life. While fighting charges that would result in execution if he were found guilty, he found hope and inspiration in his legal team. He described how being around
people from outside the prison context—neither guards nor inmates—dramatically changed his perspective and exposed him to a part of the world he had never seen, even before he went to prison. He said he talked to his lawyers not only about his case, but also about news, events, culture, and other issues. He largely attributed those conversations, and his lawyers' willingness to fight for him, to his changing his life while incarcerated.

Mr. Perez added that after he was acquitted of capital charges, he was allowed to go back to the general prison population where he worked with other inmates to design a gang rehabilitation program at the Arkansas Valley Correctional Facility. While working on that project, he was paroled to Denver, his hometown. As of the date of the FFA program, he had been out of prison for a year and a half and was doing well, although not without the struggles that come with reintegrating into society after being away for many years.

Mr. Apodaca gave perspective to lawyers who might be unaware of how it feels to be a person convicted of a crime being visited and represented by free citizens. He talked about the perception that some people in prison—including himself—might have that lawyers who are committed to upholding the law and who have never been convicted of breaking the law look down on people in prison, although they are there to represent them. Mr. Apodaca described the feeling of mistrust that can arise from that dynamic and how some people in prison may not feel comfortable with lawyers as a result.

Mr. Apodaca's advice to help alleviate some prisoners' discomfort in dealing with lawyers was to meet with them in person and to set clear expectations from the beginning. He added that it is better for a lawyer to follow through on what he/she says will be done rather than to overpromise and under-deliver. He pointed out that people in prison understand that lawyers are busy and may not have time to frequently meet with clients in person. The best practice is for attorneys to explain to clients how often they will communicate with them, and by what means—mail, phone, in-person, and so forth—and then to do so. Consistency, he reiterated, is key.

Mr. Perez and Mr. Apodaca discussed the importance of developing the lawyer-client relationship beyond strictly discussing the facts or law related to the case. Both described gaining trust in their lawyers through broader discussions about subjects including philosophy and the legal system in general. They emphasized that trust is the capstone of a productive and successful lawyer-client relationship, and encouraged lawyers to spend time both getting to know their clients and letting their clients get to know them. Neither would expect a lawyer to divulge personal details he/she was uncomfortable discussing, but both cited their lawyers' willingness to treat the representation as non-clinically as possible as a significant factor in their positive feelings about those relationships.

The presentation concluded with tips on maximizing resources in pro bono cases. One way to reduce costs is to ensure that vendors, particularly court reporters and experts, are aware that representation is occurring through the District's Pro Bono Program, and to request that they provide services at reduced cost. The FFA, which sets criteria for reimbursement of costs in pro bono cases from an FFA-administered fund for such costs, recently added a requirement that counsel certify they have asked vendors for a reduced rate before seeking reimbursement from the fund.
Another suggested way to maximize resources was to team up with other lawyers and firms in providing pro bono representation. Working together can reduce the amount of time and money any single person or firm dedicates to providing such representation. Finally, practitioners were encouraged to be thoughtful and to plan ahead, including by making a budget from the outset and tailoring discovery and other litigation tasks to ensure that time and money are best spent on required tasks.

Attorneys with questions about pro bono representation through the District's Civil Pro Bono Program, or who would like to sign up to become a panel member through the program, are encouraged to contact the FFA (see http://www.facultyfederaladvocates.org/) or Ed Butler, the District's Legal Officer.

Perspectives from the Bench: A Presentation by United States Magistrate Judge Scott T. Varholak
By Jacob L. Rierson

On January 26, 2017, the District of Colorado's most recently appointed Magistrate Judge, Scott T. Varholak, shared his insights on practicing in federal court in a CLE presentation organized by the Faculty of Federal Advocates. Judge Varholak is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and a former law clerk for Chief Judge Catherine Blake of the United States District Court for the District of Maryland. The Judge brings a broad range of legal experiences with him to the bench, having worked in private practice and as a state and federal public defender. Judge Varholak gave the audience a host of practice pointers and then took questions from the audience.

Decorum

Judge Varholak began his remarks by emphasizing the importance of decorum. Denigrating opposing counsel-by characterizing their arguments as "absurd" or "frivolous," for example-is not only unprofessional but could also hurt a party's substantive argument. Judge Varholak views resorting to such conduct as a signal that attorneys' arguments lack substance. In addition, he cautioned that a lack of collegiality can hinder settlement discussions, as clients often take on the tone of their counsel. Judge Varholak advised attorneys to communicate frequently with opposing counsel and emphasized that last-minute emails, while sometimes unavoidable, should be eschewed as a means of conferral under D.C.COLO.LCivR 7.1. For example, emailing proposed motions shortly before filing them, or requesting relief in discovery disputes without talking through issues with opposing counsel, are usually inadequate forms of conferral. To facilitate good faith communication, Judge Varholak's practice standards require that parties meet and confer whenever they face a discovery dispute, and only after doing so may either party request a hearing-which the Judge prefers to hold in person with both parties. Often, when confronted with such disputes, Judge Varholak will propose a compromise that, in his view, parties could have reached themselves had they simply taken the time to talk.

Candor

Judge Varholak also stressed that counsel should be candid about weaknesses in their cases and forthcoming about mistakes made during litigation. Attorneys
should disclose and distinguish cases that may undermine their legal arguments. Pointing to his own law clerks seated in the front row, Judge Varholak made it clear that his chambers does its own research. If he discovers a contrary case counsel failed to raise in a brief or at oral argument, this both prevents an opportunity to persuade the court that the case is distinguishable, and also hurts counsel's credibility. Recalling his own days as a practicing attorney, Judge Varholak acknowledged that lawyers are human and sometimes make mistakes. For example, with a missed deadline, Judge Varholak encouraged attorneys to notify the court immediately and to "own" their mistakes.

Questions from the Audience

Judge Varholak then took questions from the audience. One participant asked for the Judge's views on effective trial advocacy. In response, Judge Varholak reiterated the connection between professionalism and persuasion. Maintaining proper decorum—particularly when one's opposing counsel does not—makes a legal argument even more persuasive. Judge Varholak added that being prepared is a crucial, yet often overlooked, component of effective advocacy.

Another participant asked about discovery: specifically, what the Judge views as a reasonable number of discovery requests, and how he handles discovery disputes. Judge Varholak responded that the more reasonable the discovery requests, the more likely he is to grant them. Counsel can appear reasonable, Judge Varholak observed, by clearly articulating precisely what information is being sought from the opposing party instead of seeking a very broad range of documents under boilerplate requests. Judge Varholak also suggested that, before simply objecting to discovery requests as overly broad and unduly burdensome, counsel should discuss with their clients, as a practical and logistical matter, which searches are technologically feasible, so counsel can articulate with precision the burden of performing those searches.

Finally, Judge Varholak stated that even in his short time on the bench, he has already become very busy, and attorneys should file motions as early as they reasonably can to accommodate his docket. That said, he added that parties whose clients wish to proceed to trial as soon as possible should consider consenting to Magistrate Judge jurisdiction, since District Judges generally must save space for their criminal dockets and cannot set trial dates as early as can Magistrate Judges.

At the conclusion of the question-and-answer session, Judge Varholak greeted members of the audience, who thanked him for his presentation.

Faculty of Federal Advocates Holds 2016 Annual Reception and Pro Bono Celebration

By Amanda Hoffman

Judges, FFA members, community supporters, and the FFA Board of Directors gathered at the FFA's Annual Reception and Pro Bono Panel Celebration at the History Colorado Center on November 29, 2016.

FFA Board President Charlotte Sweeney and President-Elect Christine Samsel reviewed the FFA's 2016 accomplishments and highlighted goals and new programs for 2017. In 2016, the FFA hosted eleven continuing legal education
programs, educational opportunities for new lawyers, receptions, and signature events including the Bankruptcy Bench-Bar Roundtable. The FFA published an informative newsletter three times in 2016. It continued support for the United States District Court Civil Pro Bono Program through the Pro Bono Panel Reimbursement Fund and several pro bono trainings.

Ms. Sweeney and Ms. Samsel also thanked the FFA Board of Directors for their contributions, acknowledged outgoing Board Members Brian Hoffman, Kate Stimson, and Doug Tumminello for three years of service, and welcomed three new FFA Board Members for the 2017-2020 term: Emily Hobbs-Wright, Daniel Shaffer, and Benjamin Strawn.

United States District Judge William J. Martinez spoke about the District's Civil Pro Bono Program and thanked the FFA for its help in developing the program. Judge Martinez and District Legal Officer Ed Butler received FFA awards for their work on the program. Judge Martinez honored the following individuals and firms who accepted cases through the program's Panel since its inception:

**Individual Honorees:**

- Teresa H. Abbott
- Peter Almaas
- Meghan Anne Baker
- Nathaniel Barker
- Scott Barker
- Mark Robert Barr
- Kathryn Anne Barrett
- Trevor Bartel
- Alexander Bastian
- Stephen E. Baumann
- Christelle Beck
- Kendra Beckwith
- William Bianco
- Anna Holland-Edwards
- Richard Hosley
- Ericka Houck Engler
- Jamie Hughes Hubbard
- Diego Hunt
- Christina M. Huszcza
- Kirstin Jahn
- Gail Kathryn Johnson
- Lamar Jost
- Hermine Kallman
- Kenzo Kawanabe
- Shaun Kennedy
- Christopher P. Kenney
- Lisi Owen
- Reid Page
- Shaun Paisley
- J. Patrick Park
- Nora Passamanec
- Courtenay Leigh
- Patterson
- Titus D. Peterson
- Andrew John Petrie
- Joseph George Phillips
- Leslie Prill
- Casey Quillen
- Edward T. Ramey


Gold Star Firms:

Bryan Cave LLP Prisoners' Justice League of Colorado Davis Graham & Stubbs, LLP Dentons US LLP Jones & Keller Killmer, Lane & Newman, LLP King & Greisen, LLP Lewis Roca Rothgerber
The FFA encourages attorneys to become members (by going to http://www.FacultyFederalAdvocates.org/membership) and to participate in the United States District Court Civil Pro Bono Program as well other pro bono programs supported or sponsored by the FFA. For more information, see http://www.facultyfederaladvocates.org/pro-bono-programs/.

SAVE THESE DATES!

FACULTY OF FEDERAL ADVOCATES
UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sign-up on our website:
www.facultyfederaladvocates.org

Friday, March 3, 2017
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.
Effective Trial & Appellate Advocacy
The Honorable David M. Ebel
Alfred A. Arraj Courthouse, Jury Assembly Room

Thursday, March 16, 2017
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.
U.S. District Court Advisory Committee on the Local Rules of Practice & Procedure
Community Forum
Alfred A. Arraj Courthouse, Jury Assembly Room

Friday, April 21, 2017
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.
How to Get Into (or Avoid) Ethics Trouble in Federal Court
Alfred A. Arraj Courthouse, Jury Assembly Room

Thursday, May 11, 2017
1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Special Presentation - The Winning Oral Argument
Professor Bryan Garner
Alfred A. Arraj Courthouse, Jury Assembly Room

Thursday, August 10, 2017
Thursday, August 17, 2017
12:00 - 1:15 p.m.
Limited Scope Representation and Unbundled Legal Services
Under the New Rules
Alfred A. Arraj Courthouse, Jury Assembly Room

Friday, September 15, 2017
1:00 - 4:30 p.m.
The Faculty of Federal Advocates FORUM
Judge | Lawyer | Client | Juror | Human
The Hyatt Regency Denver

More Programs Coming Soon!

Contact ahoffman@facultyfederaladvocates.org for more information or to register for any of these programs.
Or register on-line:
www.facultyfederaladvocates.org.

Faculty of Federal Advocates

Contact Mandi Hoffman, Executive Director, at ahoffman@facultyfederaladvocates.org for information about submitting an article for the newsletter.
New Attorneys and law students are always welcome to submit an article.

You can also register on-line for CLE programs on the Faculty of Federal Advocates website.