

FEDERAL COURT SECTION

SUBMITTED BY: John Robert Gotaskie, Jr., Esq.

2007-2008 Annual Report for the ACBA Federal Court Section

I. Meetings of Council were held on:

September 17, 2007,
October 15, 2007,
November 19, 2007,
December 10, 2007,
January 14, 2008,
February 11, 2008,
March 10, 2008,
April 14, 2008, and
May 12, 2008.

The Criminal Law Committee, co-chaired by Cynthia Eddy and Tina Miller, met monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

The Section's Annual Meeting was held on May 20, 2008, following the Third Circuit Review.

II. Continuing Legal Education Programs

A. Completed Programs:

1. Technology in the Courts, September 18, 2007 Co-Chairs: Fred Goldsmith and Bob Barth
2. Trial Advocacy Seminar: Opening Statements (with the Civil Litigation Section and Academy of Trial Lawyers), November 9, 2007.
Co-Chairs: David Porter and Judge Schwab
3. Paul McNulty Luncheon, November 16, 2007 Chair: Cynthia Eddy
4. Effective Rule 56 Motions, April 24, 2008 Co-Chairs: Charles Lamberton and Judge Fischer
5. The Third Circuit Review, May 20, 2008 Co-Chairs: John Gotaskie and Holly Whalen
6. New Local Rules for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pa. (Bench-Bar)
June 20, 2008
Co-Chairs: Dennis Watson and Thomas May

B. Planned CLE's

1. Criminal Sentencing, October 2008 (targeted) Chair: Cynthia Eddy
2. Trial Advocacy: Closing Arguments (with the Civil Litigation Section and Academy of Trial Lawyers),
November, 2008
Chairs: David Porter and Judge Schwab

3. New Federal Criminal Jury Instructions Seminar. TBD
4. 2009 Third Circuit Review, May 2009 Chairs: John Gotaskie and Holly Whalen
5. 2009 Supreme Court Review (Bench-Bar), June 2009
Chairs: TBD
(Judge D. Brooks Smith has offered to assist)

III. Support of the Federal Court and Judges

- A. The Section honored Magistrate Judge Caiazza upon his retirement and for his many years of service at the section's annual meeting with a Pirates' jersey bearing his name.
- B. The Section provided logistical and mailing support for the District Court's 190th Anniversary event on April 18, 2008.

IV. Electronic Newsletter

The Section's Newsletter (editor Bill Ward, as Vice Chair of the Section) was published three times in the past year.

V. Other

- A. Citizenship Ceremony-May 2008.
- B. Federal new attorney admission ceremonies.
- C. Donation of \$1,000 to ACBA's Attorneys against Hunger Campaign.
- D. Co-Sponsored Kaplan ADR Lecture with contribution of \$500.
- F. Co-Sponsored annual Darwin Days Lecture at Duquesne University at request of ACBA President Ken Gormley with contribution of \$500.