



Historical Society of the District of Columbia Circuit

No. 4 July 2010



The 20th Anniversary of the Historical Society - Comments from Chief Judge Lamberth

It's my pleasure to congratulate the Historical Society on its 20th year. From its beginning, the Society has played a critical role in preserving and telling the history of this circuit's courts. Particularly noteworthy in the early years were the two-day Bicentennial celebration and publication of a book documenting the history of the courts. More recently, the Society has conducted panel discussions of history-making cases, and constructed an interesting and visually attractive exhibit highlighting some of the courts' most important cases. Today, the Society continues to offer an array of programs and projects, including fascinating panel discussions, mock court programs for high school students, and a continually improving and expanding website. On behalf of the judges, I extend our appreciation for the Society's hard work, and I again congratulate the Society for 20 years of outstanding achievement.



Looking back:

While serving as Chair of the Historical Society, Judge Louis F. Oberdorfer oversaw the courts' bicentennial anniversary celebration in March 2001 which featured:

- a two-day symposium featuring a keynote address by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the Society's first Chair,
- a luncheon address by then Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist,
- the publication of *Calmly to Poise the Scales of Justice: A History of the Courts of the District of Columbia Circuit*, and
- an interactive exhibit in the Courthouse featuring seven of the oral histories taken by the Society.

The Historical Society Presents a Program at the 2010 Circuit Judicial Conference

"Who Solved Watergate?" was the central issue addressed by panelists from six institutions that investigated Watergate. Carl Stern (NBC/TV), led Richard Azzaro (law clerk to Judge Sirica), Rufus Edmisten (Ervin Committee), Barry Sussman (Washington Post), Earl Silbert (U.S. Attorney), Richard Ben-Veniste (Independent Counsel), and John Dean (White House) in a wide-ranging analysis of the conflicts, tensions, and issues that arose in the investigation.





Gribbon Pro Bono Advocacy Award

Established to honor the memory of Daniel M. Gribbon, the Historical Society's first President, the Gribbon Pro Bono Advocacy Award is presented each year to an attorney who, or a law firm that, has demonstrated distinguished advocacy before the District Court in a pro bono matter. Awardees to date include:

- Robert Cox and Jennifer Bagosy of Howrey LLP in 2006
- Donna Francescani of Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP in 2007
- Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP in 2008
- Jason Wallach of Dickstein Shapiro LLP in 2009
- Covington & Burling LLP in 2010

Meet the Board of the Historical Society

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