

Court Information Release



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

Release Date:
May 5, 2014

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FIFTEENTH ANNUAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN PRO BONO AND PUBLIC INTEREST SERVICE

CHICAGO – The United States District Court’s Fifteenth Annual Awards for Excellence in Pro Bono and Public Interest Service is scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, May 8, 2014, in the James Benton Parsons Memorial Courtroom (2525) of the Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse at 219 South Dearborn Street in Chicago, Illinois. The program is open to all attorneys and those interested in pro bono and public interest law and is free of charge.

This annual ceremony recognizing pro bono and public interest service before the Court is sponsored jointly by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. **Hon. Gustavo A. Gelpí**, the National President of the Federal Bar Association, will be the keynote speaker.

The Honorable Gustavo A. Gelpí, Jr. has been a FBA member since 1992. He was president of the Puerto Rico Chapter in 2000, served as vice president for the First Circuit for two terms, from 2002–2006, and served on the national Board of Directors from 2006–2009. In 2012, Judge Gelpí served as National Treasurer, and in 2013 as President-Elect. Throughout the years, Judge Gelpí has been a member of several FBA committees and task forces, and he served as chair of the FBA Audit Committee during 2008 and 2009. He has also been a frequent article contributor to *The Federal Lawyer* and has served as lecturer and panelist in numerous FBA events throughout the nation. In his chapter, he was instrumental in establishing FBA student divisions at all three ABA-accredited law schools in Puerto Rico, which are presently among the most active of all the chapters. Judge Gelpí became a Fellow of the Foundation of the FBA in 2002 and a Life Fellow in 2013.

Judge Gelpí is a graduate of Brandeis University and Suffolk University Law School. He clerked for U.S. District Judge Juan M. Perez-Gimenez and then worked as an assistant federal public defender, as solicitor general of Puerto Rico, and in private practice, before being appointed a U.S. magistrate judge in 2001. In 2006, he became a U.S. district judge, following confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Judge Gelpí also serves as adjunct faculty at Suffolk University, University of Puerto Rico and Interamerican University Law Schools, where he teaches a course in Federal Criminal Practice and Sentencing.

Ten “Awards for Excellence in Pro Bono Service” and three “Award for Excellence in Public Interest Service” will be presented on May 8, 2014 to area attorneys for their contributions in helping people most in need of assistance before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Award winners include: **Timothy J. Barron**, **Benjamin J. Bradford**, and **H. Ashley Chi** of Jenner & Block, and **Michael Skopets** formerly of Jenner & Block; **Joseph F. Schmidt** and **Megan K. McGrath** of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP; **David J. Philipps** of Philipps & Philipps, Ltd.; **Jeffrey J. Scolaro** of Daley Mohan Groble; **Phillip S. Reed** of Patzik, Frank & Samotny Ltd.; **Z. Scott**, **Lauren Schrero**, and **Michelle Marek** of Kaye Scholer; **Daniel J. Hesler** of the Federal Defender Program; **Robert A. Seltzer** of Cornfield and Feldman LLP; **John L. Abramic** of Steptoe & Johnson LLP; **Gwen Hochman Stewart** of Sidley Austin LLP; **Jordan M. Heinz**, **Emily Nicklin**, **Amy Crawford**, **Kristina Alexander**, **Kate Guilfoyle**, **Jeremy Press**, and **Lally Gartel** of Kirkland & Ellis; **Michael Y. Scudder** of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates; and **MiAngel Cody** of the Federal Defender Program.

The awards program will also feature written comments and introductions by **Chief Judge Rubén Castillo** and **Margaret H. McCormick**, President of the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association