

# CACB Community Outreach

Community Outreach Committee Chair: Hon. Sandra R. Klein

EVENT	HOST	DATE
South Pasadena High School Students visit Los Angeles Division	Hon. Barry Russell	04/03/2018
FED Day in San Fernando Valley Division	Hon. Maureen A. Tighe	04/05/2018
FED Day in Santa Ana Division	Hon. Erithe A. Smith	04/10/2018
Students from Loyola Law's LLM Program visit Los Angeles Division	Hon. Sandra R. Klein	04/13/2018
Los Angeles Division hosts Loyola Law School Consumer Bankruptcy Clinic students for mock oral arguments and reception	Hon. Sandra R. Klein	04/17/2018
Youth from Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services visit San Fernando Valley Division	Hon. Maureen A. Tighe	04/27/2018
STEAM Elementary School students visit San Fernando Valley Division	Division Judges	06/01/2018
Central District of California Civics Contest Awards Ceremony	Hon. Sandra R. Klein	06/13/2018

## South Pasadena High School Court Visit

Seven students from South Pasadena High School's Bildungsroman Club visited the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Los Angeles to observe hearings on April 3, 2018. The students observed hearings in Bankruptcy Judge Barry Russell's courtroom. Afterwards, Judge Russell met with the students, answered their questions, and provided a tour of his chambers.



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## Federal Career Day in San Fernando Valley

On April 5, the San Fernando Valley Division hosted Federal Career Day for 25 students from Santa Clarita's College of the Canyons. Federal officers representing various agencies shared insight and advice regarding their career paths. Representatives from the FBI, Federal Public Defender's Office, U.S. Attorney's Office, U.S. Pretrial Services Office, IRS, DEA, ICE, U.S. Probation, U.S. Marshals Service, and Federal Protective Service participated in a panel discussion moderated by Bankruptcy Judge Maureen A. Tighe. The panelists discussed preferred degrees and educational backgrounds for their respective positions, described their day-to-day activities, and reviewed the application process. Following the panel, students shared lunch with Judge Tighe and the agency representatives and enjoyed a robust discussion.

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## FED Day in Santa Ana

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California held the Third Annual Federal Courthouse Exploration Day at the Santa Ana courthouse, where over 30 students and chaperones from nearby Samueli Academy experienced exclusive backstage look at the judiciary. The event held April 10, 2018, was organized by Bankruptcy Judge Erithe A. Smith. The day began with Bankruptcy Judge Theodor C. Albert speaking about the federal court system and the three branches of government, Bankruptcy Judge Mark S. Wallace discussing the history of the Bill of Rights and the importance of jury service, and Bankruptcy Judge Scott Clarkson sharing what a typical day is like for a federal judge and leading the students in an impromptu mock trial. The students then shared a delicious pizza lunch with Bankruptcy Judges Catherine E. Bauer and Sandra R. Klein, District Judge David Carter, and special guests, including, California Superior Court Judge Karen Robinson, Rotary Club of Orange President Carolyn Cavecche, and numerous attorneys.

As the visit was near conclusion, the U.S. Marshals surprised the students with a grand tour of their offices.

Aside from the fantastic experience of visiting a federal courthouse, the students each received a swag bag that contained pens, magnets, a lunch bag, and a full set of baseball cards with the opening day roster of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2018 justices!



## Students from Loyola Law's LLM Program Visit Los Angeles Division

On April 13, 2018, Bankruptcy Judge Sandra R. Klein hosted a group of international LLM students from Loyola Law School. For the past year, the students, who are all foreign law school graduates or foreign attorneys, have been studying the nuances of the American legal system and taking courses with LLS JD students. The LLM students included attorneys from China, El Salvador, Italy, Korea, Panama, Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Spain. Also in attendance was Professor Aaron Ghirardelli, faculty director of Loyola's LLM/JSD programs.

Judge Klein began the event by asking the students to describe their background and what they were seeking when they applied to Loyola. After the students described their diverse backgrounds and their goals, they asked Judge Klein about her background and experience, and whether being a bankruptcy judge has impacted her personal life. She responded that she has become more conscious of finances and more grateful for the opportunities she has been given. Judge Klein stated that although she has always lived frugally—she drove her last car for 16 years and 170,000 miles—she has become even more aware of her spending habits since becoming a judge. She also noted that every day in her courtroom, she sees good people, who, due to no fault of their own, are in very difficult situations. Judge Klein stated that she is incredibly grateful for the opportunities that she has had, including living in this great country, getting a J.D. and an M.B.A., and being appointed as a bankruptcy judge, which she described as the best job in the world. The visit concluded with Judge Klein sharing career advice with the students. She emphasized the importance of finding a mentor to help support, assist, and guide the students throughout their careers.



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## Students from Loyola Law School's Consumer Bankruptcy Clinic Visit Court for Mock Arguments

Six Loyola Law School students who participated in the Consumer Bankruptcy Clinic argued a mock nondischargeability action before Bankruptcy Judge Sandra R. Klein on April 17, 2018. The CBC is a two-semester program during which students, under the supervision of local bankruptcy practitioners and attorneys from nonprofit organizations, gain real-life experience interviewing, counseling, and assisting self-represented individuals.

After the oral arguments, Judge Klein provided the students individualized feedback on their arguments and performance. Judge Klein answered the students' questions and gave them useful tips such as knowing your audience, headlining your argument for the listener, and paying close attention to which side bears the burden of proof.

Judge Klein then hosted a reception for the students, which was attended by Chief Bankruptcy Judge Sheri Bluebond, Bankruptcy Judges Neil W. Bason, and Robert N. Kwan, as well as numerous bankruptcy practitioners and chambers and court staff.



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## Youth from Optimist Youth Homes & Family Services Visit San Fernando Valley Division

On April 27, 2018, several young women in high school from the Optimist Youth home visited the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California's San Fernando Valley Division. The visit was an opportunity for the students to spend time with professional women. They met with Fern Campbell, operations manager for the San Fernando Valley Division; Bankruptcy Judge Maureen Tighe and her law clerk, Hilda Montes de Oca; local members of the bar Yi Sun Kim and Robyn Sokol, both bankruptcy attorneys; Kendra Thomas, a family law attorney; and Melissa Estrada, a financial planner and former Marine. The professionals answered the students' questions and shared advice on succeeding as women in what were traditionally male-dominated professions. Some of the professionals also shared stories of overcoming adversity and finding their strength. The participants hoped to inspire the young women to learn about the diverse career opportunities that are available to persons of all genders.

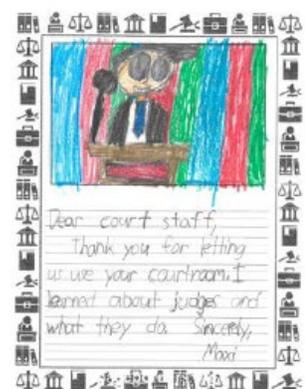
The event was co-sponsored by the Community Outreach Committee of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California and the San Fernando Valley Bar Association, in conjunction with Women to Women, a networking group that seeks to bring women from a variety of industries and professions together.

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## STEAM Elementary Students Visit San Fernando Valley Division

Sixty third graders from Haskell STEAM Magnet visited the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California in Woodland Hills for a mock trial held June 1, 2018. Bankruptcy Judges Geraldine Mund, Alan M. Ahart, and Victoria S. Kaufman welcomed the group and answered their questions. Law clerks, externs and Clerk's Office staff helped, facilitating deliberations and providing a tour of chambers (always a hit!). The students—who took their roles very seriously—did a great job with their trials and the verdicts were mixed, though very well-reasoned.

Haskell STEAM Magnet is a Title I LAUSD school, which means that it has a larger number of students from low-income families than other district schools. The students' teacher, Erica Lundy, relayed that more than half of the students who participated in the mock trial did not speak English when the school year started.



## Court Hosts Awards Ceremony for 14th Amendment Civics Contest

On June 13, the United States District Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California hosted their annual Civics Contest Awards Ceremony at the Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. The Central District's Civics Contest was held in conjunction with the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, an essay and video competition for high school students, with the theme "The 14th Amendment: What Does Equal Protection Mean to Students?" The prompt asked contestants to consider how the legislature and the courts have applied the Equal Protection Clause to high schools and universities in admissions, classroom instruction, or athletics. Students were encouraged to consider relevant legislation, such as Titles VI and IX, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1990, and significant court cases such as Mendez v. Westminster School District, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Regents of the University of California v. Bakke, Jackson v. Birmingham Board of Education, and Endrew F. v. Douglas County School District.

Following lunch, Bankruptcy Judge Sandra R. Klein extended a warm welcome to all attendees. Judge Klein mentioned that the Central District received a record number of entries: over 300 essays and 18 videos. The first-, second-, and third-place winners of the Central District's contest were recognized during the reception and received cash prizes. Each year, the top essays and videos in the Central District's contest advance to the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest to compete with the essay and video winners from all the other districts in the circuit. In addition, the district contest's first- and second-place winners, along with a parent or guardian, were invited to a reception at the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference held in July in Anaheim, California.

Chief District Judge Virginia Phillips welcomed all the guests and noted how competitive this year's Central District Contest was, with more than 300 entries. She highlighted that the students whose essays and videos were selected as the winning entries, as well as the students whose essays and videos were selected for honorable mention, should be proud of their accomplishments. Chief Bankruptcy Judge Sheri Bluebond introduced the judges and the special guests in attendance. The following judges participated in the reception: Chief District Judge Virginia A. Phillips, and District Judges Dale S. Fischer, John A. Kronstadt, Consuelo B. Marshall, and Manuel L. Real; Chief Magistrate Judge Patrick J. Walsh, and Magistrate Judges Paul L. Abrams, Jean P. Rosenbluth, Alka Sagar, and Suzanne H. Segal; Chief Bankruptcy Judge Sheri Bluebond, and Bankruptcy Judges Neil W. Bason, Sandra R. Klein, Robert N. Kwan, and Barry Russell. Special guests included Chief Probation Officer Michelle Carey, Naturalization & Special Programs Coordinator Pamela Gamble Jackson from U.S. District Court, Communications Assistant Stella Huynh from the Office of the Ninth Circuit Executive, Senior U.S. Pretrial Services Officer Ileen Rodrigues, and Chief Deputy of Administration Cristina Squieri from U.S. District Court. In addition, Bankruptcy Clerk of Court/Executive Officer Kathleen J. Campbell, Officer of Planning and Personnel Management Beryl Dixon, Chief Deputy of Administration John C. Hermann, and Chief Deputy of Operations Ben Varela participated in the event.

The audience watched a black-and-white video from 1957 showing the "Little Rock Nine," the African-American students who bravely integrated Little Rock Central High School after the Supreme Court issued its landmark "separate is not equal" Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka decision, which held that all segregated schools were unconstitutional and called for their desegregation. Following the video, Judge Klein introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Terrence Roberts, who was one of the Little Rock Nine. Dr. Roberts, the eldest of seven children, was a sophomore when he volunteered to integrate Little Rock Central High. The following year, the governor of Arkansas closed all high schools in Little Rock. Dr. Roberts moved to Los Angeles to complete his high school education. Dr. Roberts earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from California State University of Los Angeles, a Master of Science in social welfare from the University of California, Los Angeles, and in 1976, Dr. Roberts earned his Doctor of Philosophy in psychology from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Dr. Roberts has served as core faculty and co-chair of the Master of Arts in Psychology Program at Antioch College in Los Angeles. In 1999, Dr. Roberts and other members of the Little Rock Nine were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal by President Bill Clinton. Throughout his remarks, Dr. Roberts shared the complexities of life after the Supreme Court edict and the resulting integration of Little Rock Central High School. Dr. Roberts revealed how he learned to "navigate the racial maze" of integration while sworn to a "vow of nonviolence." The term "hit and run," he explained, had a different meaning for the Little Rock Nine, because white high school students routinely accosted them in the school's hallways and stripped them of their books and supplies. Living with daily fear of death and injury, Dr. Roberts, with the support of his parents, prevailed and finished his sophomore year. While attending Little Rock Central High, he recalled that there was a continuum of reactions from the white teachers and students: some teachers and students showed compassion, but many others expressed vile hatred. Dr. Roberts recalled that a white student boldly and empathetically shared her textbook with him, and as a consequence, she was followed home after school that day and beaten. Despite being subjected to daily racial discrimination, Dr. Roberts has admirably managed to maintain a very positive attitude. He considers himself the "CEO of his own learning" and finds the only differentiators among people are knowledge and education. It seems a hunger for knowledge was an important factor in Dr. Roberts' volunteering to integrate Little Rock Central High School, despite the dangers of doing so.

The focus of the reception then shifted to the contest. The first- and second-place essays were read during the reception. The first-place essay, written by Veronica Yu of Arcadia High School, explained how “the American Dream was built upon the foundation of education.” The second-place essay, written by Emily Thomas, exemplified equal opportunity through a touching story of a girls’ softball team’s quest to obtain functional facilities and supplies equivalent to those provided to the boys’ baseball team. Emily Thomas and her softball team—after noticing that the boys’ team had certain privileges that they did not—decided to do something about it. Emily asked, “Why should our pitching mound be placed at the wrong distance?” She and her teammates answered this question by invoking the Equal Protection Clause. “Perhaps we aren’t ‘A-plus athletes’ quite yet, but we are inching closer and closer. We can thank the Equal Protection Clause for that. Next, the first- and second-place videos from the contest were shown. The first-place video, produced by Cindy Law, Karen Thai, and Veronica Yu from Arcadia High School, contained interviews with Sylvia Mendez, who discussed the lawsuit her father filed to challenge segregated schools for Mexican Americans, which resulted in the Ninth Circuit’s Mendez v. Westminster decision; Dr. Terrence Roberts, who shared his experience with segregated schools; and Dr. David Vannasdall, Arcadia Unified School District superintendent, who discussed transgender policies in schools. The second-place video was produced by Sabrina Huang and Jingyi Zhou from University High School recounting the landmark equal protection cases and legislation involving students. Judge Klein also recognized the students whose essays and videos were awarded honorable mentions. Parents, family members, principals, and teachers all beamed with pride as the essays were read and the videos were played. The ceremony closed with Judge Klein thanking all the attorneys who took the time to review the essay submissions and the panel of judges who participated in selecting the contest winners. Judge Klein extended a heartfelt acknowledgment and her sincere gratitude to the Bankruptcy Court staff who worked so tirelessly behind the scenes, led so ably by Jessica Garibay, administrative specialist at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California. The impressive reach of the Equal Protection Clause is best summarized in the words of Emily Thomas, the second-place essay winner: “Our home [plate] was rebuilt with our efforts. It was strengthened and so were we. Today, we do the same drills, the same stretches we did in those days, but everything is refurbished, everything is fixed, everything is just like new. We look out at our home [plate] and we are proud because we did that, because Title IX did that, because America did that.”

