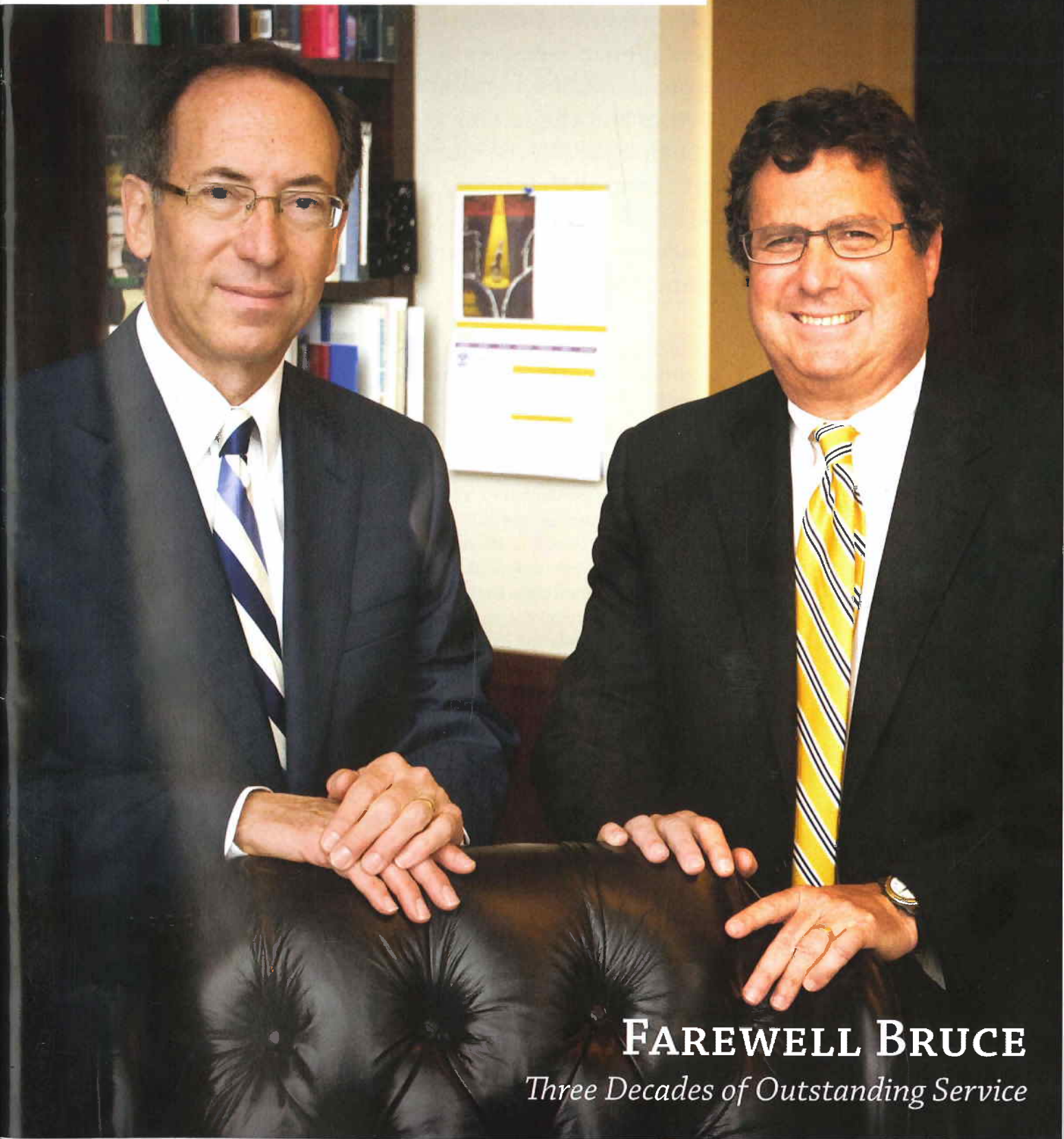




FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION

WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

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FAREWELL BRUCE

Three Decades of Outstanding Service

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Kirk Johns

The goal of the Federal Bar Association of the Western District of Washington (FBA-WDWA) is to serve its membership. It aims to do this by providing members with unique, high-value programs and activities. This year, your leadership is making an effort to increase membership benefits by expanding the representation of members in leadership roles and by creating opportunities for greater member involvement in FBA activities and affairs. Our hope and expectation is that, through these efforts, our members will derive further benefit from all that the FBA offers. Specifically, we are (1) broadening leadership opportunities, (2) starting a "President's Dinner Program" and (3) representing you at the Annual Ninth Circuit Judicial Conferences.

I. Broadening Committee Leadership and Harvesting the Experience and Perspectives of Our Members

Committee Leadership

An effort has been made this year to appoint co-chairs to all FBA committees. Our committees have had co-chairs from time to time in the past, but this has never been a standing FBA goal. This year, it is.

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The appointment of current committee co-chairs reflects an effort to pair members with different practice backgrounds and perspectives (e.g., private practice, government practice, in-house practice) and different levels of experience in the leadership of each committee. We foresee a variety of benefits stemming from this approach: a broader perspective brought to bear in managing the affairs of each committee (benefiting both the co-chairs and

committee members); mentoring opportunities; the ability to reach out to and involve a broader spectrum of the FBA in committee activities; greater continuity in committee leadership from year to year; and the preparation of co-chairs for greater responsibilities and further appointments in FBA leadership. Our overall rationale for these appointments is twofold: to reinvigorate committee activities and to involve more members, with more diverse backgrounds and levels of experience, in committee activities.

Committee Activities

Each committee with a practice area focus has been asked to conduct some type of CLE program *at least* once a year. These will range from short brown-bag lunches to formal CLE programs.

These committees are encouraged to organize CLE programs aimed at actively involving our most experienced members and exploiting their knowledge and views. Our members' depth of experience, knowledge and perspective is an enormous resource for the FBA. By actively enlisting and drawing upon that experience, our committees have the ability to present



programs which are more in the nature of a colloquium than a typical speaker-oriented CLE program – a gathering of members to jointly consider, discuss and report on issues, challenges, or subjects of interest. Programs of this nature present an ideal opportunity to develop practice tips, or "best practices" guidelines, for our members. Depending on the subject matter (e.g., discovery of ESI, or effective practices for the presentation of certain types of cases or evidence), such colloquia could also involve our district judges as participants, further enriching the experience and increasing the potential for the development of sound, practical and useful guidelines for our members and the Court.

II. Something New – The "President's Dinner" Program

This year we will be starting a new program for our members and our Western District and resident Ninth Circuit judges – the President's Dinner Program. The goal of the program is to nurture the professionalism and collegial bench-bar relations that we enjoy in the Western District by providing members and judges with an opportunity to gather on an informal and predominantly social basis for an

Continued on page 12

President’s Message2

Bruce Rifkin: Bidding Farewell After Three Decades of Service4

Justice for All, Not Just For Those Who Can Afford It5

Remembering Judge Franklin D. Burgess.....6

Upcoming Changes to the Federal Rules7

Changing Roles, Changing Times: Are We Ahead or Just Keeping Up?8
The Annual District Meeting and CLE

Photo Gallery.....9

On the Cover:

Chief Judge Robert Lasnik and
retiring Court Clerk and Executive
Bruce Rifkin.

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