Career Paths to the Bench

August 12, 2016 | 1pm ET

Moderator Bio

Christopher G. Browning, Jr. is the Chair of the Lawyers Conference of the ABA’s Judicial Division. Chris is a partner with Troutman Sanders in Raleigh, NC. His practice focuses on appeals and complex litigation matters. He has argued five times before the United States Supreme Court and has had multiple arguments before state and federal appellate courts. His litigation experience includes defending one of the longest war crimes trials in history—a case tried in the Hague, Netherlands before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Prior to joining Troutman Sanders, Chris served for seven years as the first Solicitor General for the State of North Carolina. He is certified as an appellate practice specialist by the North Carolina State Bar and serves on various court and bar committees, including the Fourth Circuit’s Advisory Committee on Rules and Procedures. He is a former law clerk to the Honorable James C. Hill of the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Visit the ABA Legal Career Central Job Board to:

• Search and apply for more than 600 high-quality legal jobs nationwide,
• Upload your resume for review by hundreds of potential employers,
• Receive email alerts when new jobs are posted that meet your search criteria,
• Or post a job if you have an open position to fill.
Faculty Bios

Hon. Heather A. Welch is a Judge in the Marion (Indiana) Superior Court, Civil Division, where she presides over complex civil litigation across several areas of law. She previously served as a Master Commissioner/Magistrate, where she presided over cases involving major felonies, family law matters, and other civil matters. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Welch served as a Marion County Deputy Prosecutor and a Deputy Attorney General, and also spent time in private practice. Judge Welch serves the legal community in numerous organizations including the American Bar Association, Indiana State Bar Association, and Indianapolis Bar Association, to name a few.

Judge Andre M. Davis is a Senior Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Prior to this, Judge Davis served as a U.S. District Court Judge for nearly 15 years and, prior to that, he served on multiple Maryland State Courts. Earlier in his career, Judge Davis worked as an appellate attorney for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland where he handled civil and criminal cases. He also has experience as both a private practitioner and a law professor.

Faculty Bios

Judge Barbara M. G. Lynn assumed the federal bench in 2000. On May 1, 2016, Judge Lynn became the Chief Judge of the Northern District of Texas, the first female Chief in Texas. A summa cum laude graduate of the University of Virginia, Judge Lynn graduated first in her class from Southern Methodist University School of Law in 1976. She then joined Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal, LLP, where she served on the firm’s executive committee from 1983-89. Judge Lynn has been recognized for her numerous contributions and leadership in the profession including being a Fellow and former Committee Chair of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Past Chair of the Committee on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System of the Judicial Conference of the United States, as well as former Chair of the ABA Section of Litigation and Judicial Division.

Program Agenda

- Top Issues
- Tips on the Topic
- Participant Questions
- Agree/Disagree
- More Participant Questions
- Takeaways
- ABA Resources
Top Issues

- There are no guarantees for judgeship.
- There are many different types of judges (e.g., local, state, Article III, Article I...).
- Judges perform many roles besides deciding cases.

Tips on the Topic

- Participate in bar activities.
- Develop a reputation for professionalism.
- Obtain courtroom experience.

Audience Questions?
Agree/Disagree

There are really only a handful of career paths to the bench.

Agree/Disagree

Lawyering teaches you everything you need to know to be a judge.

Agree/Disagree

Networking is important if you aspire to ascend to the bench.
Audience Questions?

Questions?

Takeaways

- Many types of judgeships.
- A worthy aspiration, but no guarantees.
- Importance of professionalism cannot be overstated.

ABA Resources

- Legal Career Central website – abalcc.org
- Judicial Division – americanbar.org/groups/judicial.html
Upcoming LCC Second-Friday Career Programs

**Online Research Tips You Didn't Learn in Law School**
Friday, September 9, 1 p.m. ET

**Knowledge Management**
Friday, October 14, 1 p.m. ET

Watch for our offerings and innovations...coming soon.

Chair: Kathy Morris, Chicago and NYC
Board Members:
Casey Berman, San Francisco
Avery Blank, Philadelphia
Susan Fine, Washington, DC
Adam Friedl, New York
Carol Kanarek, New York
Betsy Munnell, Boston
Dr. Larry Richard, Philadelphia
Liz Stone, San Francisco
Mark Weber, Cambridge
Robert White, San Francisco
ABA Staff: Pamela McDevitt, Chicago
Emily Roschek, Chicago

Watch for more offerings and innovations...coming soon.

8/12/2016