

## Community Outreach in the Central District of California

# February 2015

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### THE BANKRUPTCY COURT HOSTS ANOTHER GREAT POWER LUNCH

On February 6, the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California hosted another great Power Lunch. Junior high students from Bethune Middle School met with judges, lawyers and other professionals to learn about the law and the legal profession. Numerous judges participated, including Ninth Circuit Judge Paul J. Watford; Chief Bankruptcy Judge Sheri Bluebond; Bankruptcy Judges Erithe A. Smith, Sandra R. Klein, and Richard M. Neiter; District Judges André Birotte, Jr., Dale S. Fischer, Terry J. Hatter, Jr., and Beverly Reid O'Connell; Chief Magistrate Judge Suzanne H. Segal; and Magistrate Judges Jean P. Rosenbluth and Michael R. Wilner. Clerk of Court and Executive Officer Kathy Campbell, as well as members of her staff, also attended and helped make the event a huge success.

In addition to the judges listed above, many attorneys volunteered, including assistant United States attorneys, deputy federal public defenders, and attorneys from private practice. Judge Klein's law clerks also spoke with students and participated in the lunch.



Chief Judge Sheri Bluebond with students during the Power Lunch

The theme of the lunch was overcoming adversity and fear, and dreaming big. Judge Klein kicked off the program by introducing the guest speaker, Ninth Circuit Judge Paul Watford, who spoke about his background, dreaming big, and never letting obstacles get in his way.

Chief Judge Bluebond and Judges Hatter and Segal welcomed the students and

provided information about their courts and challenges they faced in their personal and professional lives.

The highlight of the lunch was a game of *Legal Jeopardy!* which is played like the traditional *Jeopardy!* game but with the following legal categories: “Judges and Lawyers,” “Trials,” “Bill of Rights,” “Think Like a Lawyer,” and “Who’s Who in the Courtroom.” The students had a great time answering the questions and learning about the law and the legal profession.



Seated in the front row left to right are District Judge André Birotte, Chief Magistrate Judge Suzanne H. Segal, District Judge Dale S. Fischer, Bankruptcy Judge Richard M. Neiter, Circuit Judge Paul J. Watford, Chief Bankruptcy Judge Sheri Bluebond, Senior District Judge Terry J. Hatter, Jr., Bankruptcy Judge Sandra R. Klein, and Bankruptcy Judge Erithe A. Smith.

## February 2015 (continued)

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### **JUDGES JOHNSON, HOULE, AND YUN PARTICIPATE IN SPEECH AND DEBATE TOURNAMENT**

In connection with continuing community outreach efforts in the Inland Empire, Riverside Judges Johnson, Houle, and Yun recently participated in one of the largest speech and debate tournaments in the country: the Inland Club Challenge held at the Immanuel Baptist Church in Highland, California, from February 18 to 21. Over 400 junior high and high school

homeschooled students from states throughout the country competed at the annual four-day tournament in 14 speech events and three forms of debate including the Lincoln Douglas Value Debate, Parliamentary Debate, and Team Policy Debate. The students sought to qualify for the national invitational tournament of champions that will occur later this year in South Carolina. Judge Johnson spent many hours coaching local students prior to the tournament and working with the volunteer staff (parents) who sponsored the tournament. On the final day of the tournament (February 21), Judges Houle and Yun served as judges for the finals of the Lincoln Douglas debate competition. One hundred and twenty-six students competed in the Lincoln Douglas debate and, after eight preliminary and outrounds, Judges Houle and Yun served on a distinguished panel with others (including a San Bernardino Superior Court judge) that decided the ninth and final round between the top two competitors. The resolution debated in the final round was "Resolved: When in conflict, an individual's freedom of speech should be valued above a community's moral standards." The affirmative speaker (from Arizona) won that final round, but you will have to ask Judges Houle and Yun how they voted. Rumor has it that their votes cancelled each other out.