

**THE SAN DIEGO CHAPTER OF THE  
FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION  
AND THE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA**

**STATE OF THE DISTRICT**

**Thursday, November 12, 2020**

**James M. Carter & Judith N. Keep U.S. Courthouse  
Jury Assembly Room**



# **STATE OF THE DISTRICT**

## **I. Introduction**

*FBA President David P. Finn*

## **II. Lawyer Representatives**

*Co-Chair Janet Gertz*

## **III. State of District Report**

*Chief District Judge Larry A. Burns*

## **IV. Magistrate Judges Update**

*Presiding Magistrate Judge William V. Gallo*

## **V. Bankruptcy Court Update**

*Chief Bankruptcy Judge Margaret M. Mann*

## **VI. Hon. David H. Bartick Award for Civility & Professionalism**

*Chief District Judge Larry A. Burns*

*2020 Recipients:*

*In Memory of Peter J. Mazza*

*In Memory of Bruce C. Smith*

*Charles H. Adair*

## **VII. Closing**

*FBA President David P. Finn*

## **STATE OF THE DISTRICT**

### **FBA National Awards**

**Peter J. Mazza, Robyn J. Spalter Outstanding Achievement Award.** This award honors members of the federal bar who have attained high standards of professionalism, demonstrated leadership throughout their career, and have given back in a meaningful way to their community through legal, community, public, and charitable service. Mr. Mazza unequivocally embodied all of these qualities, and his contributions to our community will forever be remembered and appreciated.

**David P. Finn, 2020 Chapter Activity Award, Presidential Achievement.** This award is given to chapters that meet strict eligibility criteria, including diligent membership outreach efforts and dynamic programming.

**Dylan M. Aste, Younger Federal Lawyer Award.** This award honors federal lawyers who are no older than forty and have attained high standards of professional achievement and outstanding performance. Mr. Aste continually displays dedication, diligence, and professionalism through his work at the U.S. Attorney's Office and within the community.

### **FBA-San Diego Chapter Recognition**

**Outgoing Board Members:** The Honorable Linda Lopez; Jason M. Avelar; Debashish Bakshi; Ting H. Liu; Stephen M. Lobbin; and Michelle M. Pettit.

**Retiring Federal Attorneys:** Robert Ciaffa; James Fife; Phillip L. Halpern; Sherri W. Hobson; and Michael Stein.

## **STATE OF THE DISTRICT**

### **Hon. David H. Bartick Award for Civility & Professionalism**

Magistrate Judge David H. Bartick epitomized civility and professionalism in the practice of law. This award recognizes Judge Bartick's legacy and serves as a perpetual reminder to the bar of the importance of professionalism and civility in the practice of law. To be eligible, the recipient must exemplify the model set by Judge Bartick and he or she must have dedicated the majority of their practice to litigating in the Southern District for at least five consecutive years.

### **2020 Recipients**

**In Memory of Peter J. Mazza.** Mr. Mazza most recently served as First Assistant United States Attorney. Mr. Mazza deeply valued our federal court community and unified us with the common purpose of seeking justice and upholding the law. With an unparalleled sense of work ethic, humility, and kindness, Mr. Mazza is remembered for always pushing himself and others to do and be the best.

**In Memory of Bruce C. Smith.** Mr. Smith served as an Assistant United States Attorney. Mr. Smith was jointly nominated by his long-time colleagues at the U.S. Attorney's Office and by counsel he most frequently opposed in court—a tribute to the community's universal respect and admiration of Mr. Smith. A truly authentic and meticulously organized individual, Mr. Smith's reputation and legacy is one of fairness, honesty, and civility.

**Charles H. Adair.** Mr. Adair has practiced in San Diego since 1972, specializing in criminal defense. Representing clients in both state and federal court, Mr. Adair is credited for his devotion to his clients and his tireless effort to preserve his clients' rights. With over fifty years in active practice, Mr. Adair has been recognized for his courtesy, civility, and implicit goodness.