National Law Journal: INADMISSIBLE



Page printed from: http://www.nlj.com

Back to Article

INADMISSIBLE

The passing of a 1960s political icon; an impressive wonk session; a mother of a call-in show; Chilton's pop culture infotainment; Trisha Hall gives Hope; and a new fellowship at Bingham to foster diversity in this week's column.

May 14, 2012

KATZENBACH RECALLED AS DEDICATED LEADER

Nicholas Katzenbach, the U.S. attorney general during the Johnson administration known for his confrontation of Alabama Governor George Wallace during the desegregation of the University of Alabama, died on the night of May 8 in his New Jersey home. An icon of the 1960s political scene, Katzenbach fought against FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover over the wiretapping of Martin Luther King Jr.'s phones and helped draft the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

John Seigenthaler, a former **Robert Kennedy** press aide, recalled that "until the president's assassination, [Katzenbach] was virtually invisible," but he became one of the Justice Department's most recognizable faces when called upon. Katzenbach served as an undersecretary of state and as general counsel to International Business Machines Corp., where he helped the company navigate a 13-year-long antitrust case.

Glenn Clark, managing partner of New Jersey firm Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti, where Katzenbach worked starting in 1986, said he brought "a level of status and prestige that was second to none." In a statement, Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. praised Katzenbach for his "dedicated leadership" at DOJ, which "helped to guide our Nation forward from the dark days of segregation and to secure the successful passage of the landmark Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts." — Rob Stigile

NOMINEE OUT-GEEKS SENATORS

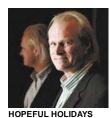
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit nominee Robert Bacharach of Oklahoma only needed about 20 seconds to wow the Senate Judiciary Committee during his nomination hearing last week. His answer to a question from Senator Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) — What do you see as the limits of congressional power? — went at a breakneck pace: "Well, there are nine sources of legislative power in the Constitution. There are, of course, the first 17 clauses of Article I, Section 8. There are the eight enforcement provisions: the 13th Amendment, Section 2; the 14th amendment, Section 5; the 15th Amendment, Section 2; the 18th Amendment; the 19th Amendment; the 23rd Amendment; the 24th Amendment; and lastly the 26th Amendment." That caused a geek-out from two attorney-senators, Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and Mike Lee (R-Utah). A moment later, Whitehouse said: "Mike Lee and I took a look at each other as you rattled off without notes the enumerated powers in the Constitution, and thought, 'You know, that's not bad, I can see why this guy got nominated.' " Coburn then quipped: "I can tell the committee I did not prep the witness for that question." — Todd Ruger



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

On a C-SPAN call-in show last week, not even the mother of American League of Lobbyists president **Howard Marlowe** was safe from callers' ire over lobbying in Washington. But a slur against Marlowe's mom was only one of the many barbs callers hurled at the League's president during an almost 45-minute *Washington Journal* segment on the role of federal lobbyists. "I really think you all are criminals," said "Bob" in Petersburg, Va. Marlowe dismissed the man's allegation with a chuckle. "I'm doing what anybody's First Amendment right is," he said. "I'm trying to help your First Amendment right to petition your government. And if that's criminal, then we're in the wrong country." Later, "Mike" in Houston said it was "brave" of Marlowe to appear on the show, before he launched his attack. "You're standing between us and resolution and resolve and anything we would like to accomplish," the caller said. Marlowe said he doesn't "stand between anything." He said: "Lobbyists stand there to give a louder voice to folks who got opinions like

you do." The final caller appeared to come to Marlowe's defense. "I do know that some lobbyists do work for good," said "Josh" in Harrisburg, Pa. "So I wanted to say I can't call you a criminal, and I certainly can't talk about your mother." — Andrew Ramonas



FINAL FRONTIER

What do Star Trek, Taoism, Huggy Bear, the Dixie Chicks and March Madness have in common? All have found their way into speeches by Bart Chilton. In a city filled with federal agency commissioners making speeches daily, Chilton, a Democratic member of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and former lobbyist for the National Farmers Union, stands out for his skill at using pop culture references to leaven potentially dry subject matter. "My target audience is not sophisticated Wall Street investors — it's consumers," he said in an interview. Using The Beatles' "Day Tripper" ("Taking the easy way out") to critique day traders or quoting the musical Hair ("Let the sunshine in") to discuss dark markets is a way "to try to communicate the importance of the markets and explain what's going on," he said. "I'm glad if I'm entertaining." — Jenna Greene

....

For nearly 10 years, **McKenna Long & Aldridge** legal secretary Trisha Hall has been the powerhouse behind the firm's annual partnership with the Children's Law Center's Holiday Hope Drive. Hall not only organizes McKenna's participation, where the firm is one of many to adopt Children's Law Center clients and donate clothes and toys, but does a lot of gift shopping and wrapping, too. "I just have a blast," she said. Hall was honored last week as the first recipient of the nonprofit group's Helping Hands Award, a new occasional award the nonprofit will give to recognize community members that play an important role in their work. Executive Director **Judith Sandalow** said that, although Washington's "pro bono culture usually celebrates lawyers' contributions...Hall is proof that law firm staff are key to that success." Sandalow estimated McKenna's participation has helped at least 400 children. — Zoe Tillman



BUILDING A LEGACY

It's been almost 45 years since **Thurgood Marshall** took the bench as the first African-American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. One firm is honoring his memory through its summer-associate fellowships. **Bingham McCutchen** has started accepting applications for its summer program. Of those accepted, two summer associates will receive the Thurgood Marshall Fellowship award of \$25,000. Marshall's son, **Thurgood Marshall Jr.**, is a Bingham partner. The program, he said, "will deepen our ties to students and help them get acclimated to private practice at an earlier stage in their careers." Promoting diversity in the legal community provides "a more knowledgeable voice for those who need representation." — *Matthew Huisman*