



FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

THE SCHOOL OF LAW

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL  
AND NON-J.D. PROGRAMS

March 28, 2018

BY EMAIL: [akershley@gmail.com](mailto:akershley@gmail.com)

Ashley Akers, Esquire  
Chair, Federal Bar Association Law Student Division

Dear Ms. Akers:

I am writing to report on an initiative of the International Affinity Group of Fordham Law School in the hope that it can serve as a mode to be adopted more widely in other FBA local chapters.

The annual Mock Interview Program brings together Fordham LL.M. students with seasoned practitioners, judges, and other attorneys for an evening of brief interviews followed by a networking reception. Among the many benefits offered by this program, our students get the opportunity to develop interviewing and networking skills and to explore employment opportunities in numerous practice areas. It also gives us the chance to showcase the Law School and our programs to a broad range of professionals. Many of the participating interviewers have reported that they have been delighted with the quality and diversity of our students. Finally, the program is a great stewardship opportunity for the Law School and alumni and furthers our strategic goals to connect current students with alumni.

The Mock Interview program recently was expanded to include a videoconferencing component, which dramatically expands the number of attorneys who can participate. Although this program was designed for LL.M. students, it easily could be expanded to J.D. students.

The FBA has played a key leadership role in the Mock Interview Program. In 2017, then-President Judge Michael Newman traveled to NYC to support the program launch. Chief Judge Timothy Stanceu of the Court of International Trade was contacted by FBA Second Circuit Vice President Olivera Medenica and also agreed to be on hand to launch the program. FBA International Law Section Chair Judge Mimi Tsankov has participated in both events held thus far and FBA ILS board member Susan Kilgore conducted mock interviews via Skype from Texas. FBA Federal Litigation Section Chair John McCarthy, FBA leader Simeon Baum, and FBA Civil Rights Section Chair Wylie Stecklow all acted as mock interviewers and supported this effort. The program also had the support of the Network of Bar Leaders. Second Circuit Judge Denny Chin was the keynote speaker at this year's event, and FBA Federal Litigation Section board member Judge Loretta Preska of the Southern District of New York already has agreed to deliver next year's keynote. Finally, the program was organized by Raymond Dowd, former FBA

General Counsel, Vice President for the Second Circuit, member of the Board of Directors, and President of the Southern District of New York Chapter.

On a personal note, I should add that my affiliation with the Federal Bar Association as a Senior Counselor to the International Law Section has been enormously rewarding and helpful. It has given my students and me exposure to practitioners and judges that we otherwise never would have met.

I hope that the Law Student Division will consider adding a similar mock interview initiative to its nationwide programming. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions about the program.

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the Federal Bar Association Law Student Division!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toni Jaeger-Fine". The signature is stylized with a large initial "T" and "J".

Toni Jaeger-Fine  
Assistant Dean

cc. The Honorable Mimi Tsankov  
Raymond J. Dowd, Esquire