



# Federal Bar Association

## FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION (FBA) – LAW STUDENT DIVISION (LSD) OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 2023

- Zoom -

### Roll Call

Jen Tomchak (Chair) - **Present**  
Brendan Mohan (Student Chair) - **Present**  
Meg Glasmann (Student Treasurer) - **Present**  
Shane Hursh (Student Secretary) - **Present**  
Eyal Schwartz (1st Cir.) - **Present**  
Mary Johnson (2nd Cir.) - **Present**  
Negin Nader Bazrafkan (2nd Cir.) - **Present**  
Eli Yemzow (3rd Cir.)  
Caleb Morris (4th Cir.) - **Present**  
Janell Thompson (5th Cir.) - **Present**  
De'Naesha Mitchell (5th Cir.) - **Present**  
Patricia (Pati) Limon de Rodriguez (5th Cir.) - **Present**  
Caitlin Harrington (6th Cir.) - **Present**  
Derrick Foster Ransom II (6th Cir.) - **Present**  
Malcolm Deisz (7th Cir.) - **Present**  
Brandy Johnson (8th Cir.) - Excused  
Taylor Brown (8th Cir.) - **Present**  
Andrew Fender (10th Cir.) - **Present**  
Maddie Bacon (10th Cir.) - **Present**  
Briana Harris (11th Cir.)  
Kijana Mitchell (11th Cir.)  
Colleen Donald (11th Cir.)  
Christina Hough (At Large/Ex Officio)  
Mitch Jacob (At Large/Ex Officio) - **Present**  
Kevin Maxim (Ex Officio) - **Present**  
Anna Howard (Ex Officio) - **Present**  
Dina Miller (Ex Officio/Professional Member) - Excused  
Arturo Thompson (Ex Officio/Professional Member) - **Present**  
Joseph Feldstein (Ex Officio/Professional Member) - **Present**  
Mike McCarthy (Staff Liaison) - **Present**  
Daniel Hamilton (Staff Liaison) – **Present**  
**\*Quorum Present**

## **OCTOBER MEETING**

### **Welcome**

#### **Jen Tomchak (Chair)**

- Welcome to all new Board Representatives! We had great energy last year and doubling the size of the board will allow more to be accomplished and more perspectives. Very exciting year ahead!
- **Update on FBA National Meeting:** Great event! The FBA Law Student Division (LSD) was recognized with special accolades which shows the excitement and willingness to work with the LSD. Next year will be in Kansas City so let's carry this momentum!
- **Committee & Liaison Assignments:** Students will be assigned to a Committee and Section. This is a great opportunity if you have a specific interest in the law. Email Jen Tomchak afterwards if interested in a specific Section.

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### **Meg Glassman (Secretary)**

- Updated funding for this year: \$5,0000. Not limited by the \$5,0000 due to grants and other funding avenues.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Communications & Publications Committee**

#### **Jen Tomchak (Chair)**

- Communications & Publications Committee mainly works with Jen Tomchak on keeping track of different events and providing notice to other Circuits. It also assists with social meeting to promote events and highlight them afterwards.

#### **Programming Committee**

#### **Meg Glassman (Secretary)**

- Health Law Division has an upcoming "boot camp" event for law students: "General Overview of Health Law"

#### **Malcolm Deisz (7th Cir.)**

- Next Friday is the Federal Litigation Section Panel. Malcolm will be moderating the panel! They will touch on topics from how they got into the career field, what a day in the life looks like, and how to get involved as a student. Broad range including financial/bankruptcy litigation to commercial litigation. Let your local chapters know. Free for all FBA members.
- Program Committee is responsible for planning events that highlight different practice areas. The foundation was laid this year, and we will really take off on it this year. Reach out if interested. Great chance to meeting lawyers across the county and promote events that will help students immensely.

Jen Tomchak (Chair)

- The Programming Committee usually aims for one event per quarter. These events are very helpful for all students – from those that know what they want to do after law school to those that are not. The Committee also does “tips & tricks” events – such as bar prep.

Membership Committee

Janell Thompson (5th Cir.)

- One of the things that the Membership Committee does is welcome new FBA members and getting them started early. The Committee has also been implementing a Diversity & Inclusion Plan. Any thoughts on ways we can improve and include all perspectives would be greatly appreciated. Reaching out to diverse schools would be important part of the Plan as well for building for a diverse and inclusive FBA!

Networking Committee

Shane Hursh (Student Secretary)

- The Networking Committee works on national and regional events between the LSD with Sections and Divisions. Plans that the Committee has had are a Trivia Night, a Travel Guide, a forum for Student Chapters to collaborate, starting Student Chapters at law schools without them, and promoting national FBA events (See National Conference & Leadership Summit).

Brendan Mohan (Student Chair)

- Working at expanding access to lawyers and judges for students. Focus judicial internships.

Law School to Practice Committee

Eyal Schwartz (1st Cir.)

- Law School to Practice Committee focuses on the niche needs that help law students transition into practice. The FBA does a great job at helping students get involved with practice through pipeline efforts and expanding services for graduating students.

**Introductions**

Jen Tomchak (Chair)

- Graduated of Utah Law. Practiced at a big Commercial Litigation firm before branching out and now runs Tomchak Law. Past-President of local chapter and FBA Young Lawyers Division. This is my second year as the Chair of the LSD.

Meg Glassman (Secretary)

- Graduate from University of Utah Law! Just passed the bar! Currently clerking for a federal judge.

Malcolm Deisz (7th Cir.)

- University of St. Thomas Law Student in Minneapolis Minnesota!

Kevin Maxim (Ex Officio)

- Practices law out of Atlanta, Georgia. Has been with the FBA for 30 years and has been involved with In-House Counsel, on the Board of Directors, and as FBA Membership Chair. Leadership Training is one of the best things that is offered by the FBA and will be coming up in March. FBA National Convention 2024 will be September 5-7th.

Janell Thompson (5th Cir.)

- Liaison to Bankruptcy Section and Antitrust Section. Excited to improve connections between respective Student Chapters with our local Divisions like were doing here in San Antonio!

Mary Johnson (2nd Cir.)

- 3L at St. John's Law School in New York. Excited to help the FBA LSD grow, specifically in the 2nd Circuit!

Shane Hursh (Student Secretary)

- 3L at Charleston Law in South Carolina. Working at a DC Mass Torts law firm. Been part of FBA since the first day of law school. The benefits have been immense. Excited to spread the good word to all law students in the country.

Brendan Mohan (Student Chair)

- From Akron, Ohio. 3L at Akron Law. Working at In-House at Goodyear after law school.

Eyal Schwartz (1st Cir.)

- Graduated from Northeastern Law School in Boston, MA. Awaiting Bar Results. Looking forward to adding FBA Student Chapters at law schools and for bar prep courses for graduating students.

Negin Nader Bazrafkan (2nd Cir.)

- Born and raised in Denmark and really excited to be involved in the FBA. Interning at the District Attorney's Office.

Caleb Morris (4th Cir.)

- 2L JDMBA at Georgia School of Law. Currently VP at UGA FBA Chapter. Looking forward to adding Student Chapters to law schools in the 4th Circuit.

De'Naesha Mitchell (5th Cir.)

- 2L at Southern University Law. Looking forward to adding Student Chapters in the 5th Circuit. Interested in Civil Rights Law and has been working at the Attorney General's Office.

Patricia (Pati) Limon de Rodriguez (5th Cir.)

- 2L at South Texas Law in Houston, TX. Looking forward to adding Student Chapters in the Houston area. Interested in Criminal Law.

Caitlin Harrington (6th Cir.)

- 2L at Cleveland State Law. Worked at the USAO and want to go into Federal Prosecution. Been involved with FBA through 1L and the FBA events I went into were very exciting.

Derrick Foster Ransom II (6th Cir.)

- 3L at Memphis Law. Currently extern for the Chief Bankruptcy Judge in the Eastern District of Tennessee. Interested in Corporate Law as well. Looking forward to spreading Student Chapters in Tennessee.

Taylor Brown (8th Cir.)

- 3L at Nebraska Law. I started a Student Chapter at Nebraska Law. The Starter Kit will be so helpful for upcoming Student Chapters. Interested in Government Law. Spent time in DC at the DOJ and FEMA in law school.

Andrew Fender (10th Cir.)

- 2L at Utah Law. Worked in Commercial Litigation and Intellectual Property Law. Excited for networking opportunities, specifically with judges. Events that I've attended have been phenomenal. The value of networking is so important.

Maddie Bacon (10th Cir.)

- 2L at Oklahoma Law. Currently Oklahoma Law's FBA VP of Membership. Looking forward to membership efforts. Interested in White-Collar Crime and Securities Law.

Colleen Donald (11th Cir.)

- 3L at Barry Law in Orlando, FL. Part of the Orlando FBA Chapter. Looking forward to promoting FBA to students, specifically in Orlando. Interested in Intellectual Property, specifically Copyright/Trademark Law, Environmental law, and International Law.

Arturo Thompson (Ex Officio/Professional Member)

- Dean at Utah Law. Previously Dean at Kansas Law. Huge Jayhawk fan. Founding President of Kansas and Western Missouri FBA Chapter. Looking forward to helping the FBA in its LSD efforts.

Mike McCarthy (Staff Liaison)

- Director of FBA Sections and Divisions. Contact if you need help connecting with Sections and Divisions. Look forward to working with the Law Student Division!

**Conclusion**

Jen Tomchak (Chair)

- Looking forward to this year! Incredible group of applicants and looking forward to Committee and Section Appointments. We will hit the ground running next weekend! Have a great weekend!

**- Meeting Adjourned -**