



Federal Bar Association

FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION (FBA) – LAW STUDENT DIVISION (LSD)

FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2024 – 3:00 PM EST

- Zoom -

Roll Call

Jen Tomchak (Chair) - **Present**
Brendan Mohan (Student Chair) - **Present**
Meg Glasmann (Student Treasurer) - **Present**
Shane Hursh (Student Secretary) - Excused
Eyal Schwartz (1st Cir.) - **Present**
Mary Johnson (2nd Cir.) - Excused
Negin Nader Bazrafkan (2nd Cir.) – Excused
Eli Yemzow (3rd Cir.) - Excused
Caleb Morris (4th Cir.) - **Present**
Janell Thompson (5th Cir.) – *Cycled Off
De’Naesha Mitchell (5th Cir.) - Absent
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.) – Absent
Taylor Brown (8th Cir.) – Excused
Elle Peterson (9th Circuit) – **Present**
Andrew Fender (10th Cir.) - **Present**
Maddie Bacon (10th Cir.) - Excused
Briana Harris (11th Cir.) – *Cycled Off
Kijana Mitchell (11th Cir.) - **Present**
Colleen Donald (11th Cir.) - **Present**
Christina Hough (At Large/Ex Officio) - Excused
Mitch Jacob (At Large/Ex Officio) - **OUT
Kevin Maxim (Ex Officio) - **Present**
Anna Howard (Ex Officio) – **Present**
Dina Miller (Ex Officio/Professional Member) – **Present**
Dean 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**

FEBRUARY MEETING

Welcome

Introduction

- New Member Added - Elle Peterson, 9th Circuit. University of San Diego

National Board Meeting Recap (Jen Tomchak)

- Policies adopted by National Board.
- Anticipating a circulation of the final policy soon
- Policies are intended to define the roles of professional chapters in relation to student chapters.
- Agreement Form now due at the end of the school year, as opposed to the end of the year (December).
- A total of 42 law student chapters officially confirmed, up from 18.
- Washburn is the most recent confirmation, 10th circuit school.
 - 9th circuit is in talks with Hastings and other Cali schools to start an FBA Chapter

Amendments

- Working on a Constitutional amendment approved to allow for the first year of practice being free.
- More CLEs will be made available on
- Approved meeting minutes that were recently sent out. No changes needed.

Treasurer Updates (M. Glassman)

- The board has approved us for \$5,000. Intended to cover travel to the Leadership Summit.
- Last year costs were about \$3,900. This mostly went to officer travel and some food.

Calendar

- Working on putting together “Form Calendar”.
- Meant to show our goals for the year and have dates for goals.
- Members may send further suggestions for events that should be added to the calendar.

Send emails to Jen Tomchak or those managing the calendar.

- Prof. Feldstein explains that one chapter in Puerto Rico is not affiliated with the national division. 97 members are paying the chapter dues but not FBA members yet.

- Having the PR chapter affiliated may assist with adding new events to the calendar.

Membership

- D. Hamilton reports that there a total of 3,621 members
- We are attempting to “clean” our membership roster list.
- The goal is to ensure that everyone who *believes* they signed up for FBA membership has in fact been listed as a member.
- Goal to self-audit because there are a lot of members who have forgotten to sign up.
- Miller, Hamilton, and Tomchak are requesting that Circuit Representatives send out the roster list for each school. School presidents/leaders can review the roster and add or drop members as needed.
- Arturo and others are making a plan for law schools that have student *members* but no student chapters.
 - List of schools to reach out to first (schools with much more than 5 members).
 - Plan: start with reaching out to the Professional Chapter Leaders in the area.
 - Professional leaders may know why there aren’t chapters.
 - Next, reaching out to Cir. Representatives and Professional Cir. Representatives to find information about the lack of chapters.
 - Goal in the future: to create a webinar on *how to start a chapter* and have a date/scheduled time to present the webinar to interested students or chapters.
 - Arturo Thompson - letter writing campaign that goes to the schools (dean or faculty members). This would encourage membership by starting with school academic leaders.
 - “CVPs” leaders for the circuits are accessible to all student members if assistance is needed with starting chapters etc.

Event Showcasing/Plans for Leadership Summit

- Starting an Ad Hoc committee to review the event proposals.
- Those not selected to participate in the presentation panel will still have their events published in an event book created by K. Maxim.
- Event Proposals
 - Malcolm Deisz & Keona M. - bar exam style webinar - event proposal

- Government attorney event program, where attorneys explain how they made it to their respective positions. (Dates considered: Possibly April 12th or April 26th)
 - For future proposals, review the calendar of current events first.
- EDNY is sponsoring a program with the AUSA office. Miller is sending out the program flyer. The event will walk through how to apply to the AUSA office, step-by-step. RSVP not necessary.

Networking (Brendan Mohan)

- Goal to plan the meeting around the annual convention.
 - Tomchak suggests that there is a benefit to doing the presidents meeting in April rather than the annual convention for the benefit of those who may be leaving later. This would be followed by In-person meeting at the national convention.
- Requests from Arturo for proposals
 - Proposal from senior atty: Suggested a wine webinar, potentially chagrining for the event to raise our budget.
 - Maybe marketing the event to students (ex: 10 best wines under \$50...best wines of the year ...). If the event is popular, it may increase our budget for the year and for travel.
 - Suggestion to do a webinar, with viewing/watch parties scattered across locations.
 - An additional idea to have an in-person component broadcasted live to online participants. Increases the revenue.

Media (Pati Limon de Rodriguez)

- Linking multiple social media accounts for FBA such that Facebook and Instagram are all posted at one time. As opposed to one at a time.
- Have a centralized place to suggest posts.
- D. Hamilton will create a webpage.
- FBA Law Student Division LinkedIn is up and running!

Federal Lawyers Submission

- New dates have been posted.
- This applies to anyone interested in posting/submitting an article to the national magazine.

- Submission deadlines will be shares.
- Law Student Division is encouraged to apply.

Announcements

Schwartz is aiming to create a Q&A with an attorney from the 1st circuit that explains how to move into a public interest job and then segway into a private law firm job.

Upcoming Event (Brendan Mohan): A judicial event is coming up, with Judge Bloom as a primary speaker. The event will explain how to get a clerkship and it is well attended by judges.

Health Law Section: Glassman has sent out inquiries regarding setting up a health law boot camp. Will report back with updates as they become available.

Space Law: C. Morris - Attempting to engage students with interest in the area of space law.

Rising Professionals - Agenda for next month.

- Meeting Adjourned -