



Federal Bar Association

FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION LAW STUDENT DIVISION

BOARD MEETING 2 MINUTES – MARCH 3, 2023

Roll Call

Eyal Schwartz (1st Cir.) Schwartz (1st Cir.) – Here

Eli Yemzow (3rd Cir.) – Excused

Shane Hursh (4th Cir.) – Here

Janell Thompson (5th Cir.) – Here

Brendan Mohan (6th Cir.) – Here

Brandy Johnson (8th Cir.) – Here

Christina Hough (9th Cir.) – Here

Meg Glassman (10th Cir.) – Here

Briana Harris (11th Cir.) - Here

Anna Howard (Ex Officio) – Excused

Malcolm Deisz (At Large) - Here

Jen Tomchak (Chair) - Here

Mike McCarthy (Liaison) - Here

Daniel Hamilton (Liaison) – Excused

Welcome

- Jen Tomchak (Chair): The drive encouraging students to join the law student division has kicked off. It went out last week. The local chapters should be getting it out to the schools. When Jen gets us in contact with the local chapters, she encourages us to mention it to them and have it sent out again.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): Did Meg Glassman receive any comments on the Meeting?
- Shane Hursh (4th Cir.): I move to approved the meeting minutes.

- Briana Harris (11th Cir.): Seconded.
- All: Approved unanimously

Committee Reports:

Communications and Publications Committee:

- Christina Hough (9th Cir.): My memorandum was sent out to everyone. We will be in a best position to address communications and publications once we know what other parts of the FBA are doing. The 9th Circuit had the events coming up posted on their website. It looks to me like most chapters don't have a superb online presence and a lot of their website pages have not been updated in some time. I think that's definitely something that can be improved.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): Recently, social media has become bigger – and has made the focus on websites smaller. Thus, there should be a focus on making sure the websites are kept up to.
- Meg Glassman (10th Cir.): Thank you for doing that. Utah started a LinkedIn – but the website isn't great.
- Briana Harris (11th Cir.): It will be easier to move forward once we are in contact with other members.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): The memorandum looks great. I love it and I was incredibly impressed when I read it. Memorandums are not required if anyone is unable to do so.

Programming Committee:

- Malcolm Deisz (At Large): Meg Glassman and I were able to connect last week and talk more about programming ideas. We had potential dates and we were talking about what to do with those. “Day in the Life” segments are helpful and bring in lawyers who can come in and talk about their journey into a practice area. We laid out a couple of ideas, and I'll talk about a few that I had. One of the ideas that I was thinking about was a couple of “In-House Counsel” FBA events that I've gone to via zoom. In-House Counsel is such a great place to be, but it's rare to go into out of law school. There is an increased interest for In-House Counsel in recruiting law students rather than veteran lawyers. There are different areas that In-House Counsel touches as well – such as sports, banking, corporate, etc.

- Meg Glassman (10th Cir.): In addition to the In-House idea, we also discussed Health Law in particular – which I have a great interest in. We talked about all the different areas of law that Health Law touches. I know several Health Law attorneys in Utah that would be interested in helping. Health Law involves other practice areas such as Medical Malpractice, Insurance, Constitutional, and Social Security Benefits Law. I also reached out to the FBA Health Law Section, and they said that they could find someone for a “Day in the Life” webinar. Also, they’re looking for student work to publish. Two more ideas involve Chatgpt and Privacy Law. Chatgpt is interesting – and is changing law and privacy. International law is another idea as well.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): Sounds great and amazing. We actually just did an In-House panel locally and it was very well received. Kevin was on the group that planned it and he has questions (for the panelists). We could take a look at the questions that he’s already prepared and it could make it easier to have the panel done.
- Malcolm Deisz (At Large): Taking an existing list of questions and adding to it would be phenomenal. We could add questions such as interviewing, how they came across the job, etc.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): I really liked the idea that articles with law student submission can be added to the resources page and go into communications next month.
- Meg Glassman (10th Cir.): A huge service to students would be having young attorneys do a panel on how they prepared for the bar exam. They’re beneficial conversations for a difficult time, and good to have for first generation law students.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): Great idea! We should move on this quickly due to graduation coming up. We have potential dates at the end of April and the middle of May. Although, May could be in the middle of finals. Should we do it before or after graduation?
- Meg Glassman (10th Cir.): I’d be more interested in before graduation and believe that it would be more helpful.
- Eyal Schwartz (1st Cir.): I also wanted to say that would be a great idea, and personally I believe that having the event before graduation would be beneficial because studying for the bar exam will increase after graduation. Mid-April, around the 20th or so, would be a great time and option. Also, I think the programming idea will be great and that’s something that we have discussed. We didn’t get super in-depth about all of the program but wanted to put it out there.
- Mike McCarthy (Liaison): It looks like April 28th will be the earliest.
- Meg Glassman (10th Cir.): That’ll probably be finals for most folks.

- Jen Tomchak (Chair): Mike McCarthy, can you look and see if it's possible to add different webinar dates? This would be great to have mid-April if possible.
- Mike McCarthy (Liaison): They don't have it on the website yet, so there still may be a change. I'll share the idea and see if there are any opportunities to switch things out.
- Christina Hough (9th Cir.): I think this is a great idea. I am speaking with In-House Counsel for the NFL and I'll see if they're interested. I used to work with a Health Law attorney and I'll ask him as well.
- Malcolm Deisz (At Large): I just wanted to say thank you to Christina Hough and mention that we wanted to keep the communication channel open and streamline communication for ideas.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): Let's see if we can do a webinar that works for bar prep in April, and then look at over the summer or fall for the In-House Counsel events.
- Meg Glassman (10th Cir.): I would say that it's fine for it to happen over the summer. Sometimes this is even a better time since students may have more time.
- Brandy Johnson (8th Cir.): I was just going to suggest that we don't do it over the lunch hour in the summer because student may not be able to join.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): Maybe August would be good as well.
- Brandy Johnson (8th Cir.): Early August date would be optimal as it's before OCI and is a perfect opportunity.
- Meg Glassman (10th Cir.): Too early in the morning may be bad for West coasters.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): Great work. If you want to circle the wagon and look at other ideas afterwards.
- Christina Hough (9th Cir.): Will there be a federal law component to the In-House Counsel Panel?
- Malcolm Deisz (At Large): Yes – federal law is the nexus to the event – but also how different industries connect with federal law and regulations and how they navigate those.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): A large part will be the day-to-day and how they got there.
- Meg Glassman (10th Cir.): Any recommendations are welcome!

Networking Committee:

- Brendan Mohan (6th Cir.): I've been going to the Employment Section's board meetings. We are preparing for Federal Litigation. I'm looking on setting up some law student events. I also made a connection with the Judiciary Committee. It would be great to have a judicial clerkship event between judges and students. Future ideas are being talked about. If anyone has anything for networking please let us know.
- Shane Hursh (4th Cir.): Our biggest goals are to increase networking laterally between student and students, and vertically between students and lawyers. Brendan Mohan did a great job adding networking between students and the judiciary. An idea that we spoke of last week was making an FBA Student Travel Guide – so that students are aware of local FBA Law Student Division chapters across the county. Another idea was virtual events, such as a Trivia Night. Ultimately, we would like to see the world of FBA become smaller for FBA law students by showing them the web of connections that they have across the country.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): I loved the judicial clerkship idea. I was thinking about how we could host an event that could allow them to network with judges. I knew a lot about how to apply to clerkships that were local, but not outside my district. A clerkship event would be phenomenal. This would help with studetns who are applying to clerkships in other districts.
- Brandy Johnson (8th Cir.): If we do a judicial event, we may want to do it in late May. The application deadline is June 8th.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): They used to be in the fall. They moved it up?
- Brandy Johnson (8th Cir.): June 8th.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): That might be hard on short notice.
- Meg Glassman (10th Cir.): Social media is another great area that can be utilized for networking. I started following the New Orleans FBA chapter and was able to attend their virtual events. I wonder if there is a single law student FBA social media account that could be utilized to connect local FBA student chapters.
- Christina Hough (9th Cir.): I was thinking about the judicial clerkship. I attended one in the past. They're really great events and we actually just had 9th Circuit Oral Arguments and they had a judicial reception afterwards. I think that it would be cool to do both district and circuit judges. Each areas could provide insight regarding their area.

- Jen Tomchak (Chair): A lot of opportunities for clerkships that are not thought about. The virtual events – I just wanted to tell you that we have a small budget that we might be able to do a trivia thing if we wanted to use money.

Law School to Practice Committee:

- Brandy Johnson (8th Cir.): We met and discussed an overview plan. We recognize that it's a tall order, but we wanted to implement a solid plan in pages. We realized that we needed a list of student chapters. If that doesn't exist we can make it. Goals for the transitions would be to strengthen students chapters, connect them to local chapters and increase the engagement between the two. When students are engaged and mainly with the local chapter, they will want to maintain that connection when they go into practice. We suggest programming and planning. Having members of the local chapter come to the school would be beneficial as well. Having a calendar would help to so that people can see what is going on with the law student division. Membership questionnaire is suggested as well. During May and June 3L are only focused on the bar, so April may be the best time to send it out. The Membership questionnaire could also give congratulations and help with renewals. A "Welcome to the FBA" events could assist in allowing the new practitioners to attend an in person event where they are able to continue the networking that they started in law school – or getting to know new attorneys in that circuit.
- Eyal Schwartz (1st Cir.): I just wanted again to restate what I said earlier about hitting on the head what law students would want during this transition such as bar preparation and first and second year tips for success. This is what we thought about diversity and showing what it takes to be successful in each area. This will help hit imposter syndrome and assists with someone being on the other side and helping the person who is going to go through what they just went through.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): I love this plan and it is a really great idea. I encourage collaboration in areas where committees overlap. I would just note that will all the good ideas With some of the in person ideas that you have for events – we have more control over the virtual events that we do because we can't demand that a chapter hosts an event. If we think that an event would be better in person we'll do a program in a box and use that to give a timeline to other chapters. Then we send it out to all of the chapters. Give the benefit of our knowledge. In person events have to be handled like this.
- Christina Hough (9th Cir.): I noticed that when I was looking at 9th circuit chapters, there are some courts that don't have local chapters so a national wide zoom event may get people located in more rural areas. You could do something really informational like trivia night, breakout groups, etc. There should be a main liaison that communicated with local chapter leaders and a google form that can string things together.

- Jen Tomchak (Chair): I love the idea of having a zoom event for areas that do not have a local chapter. I think the question there that Brandy Johnson and Eyal Schwartz were talking about what a sheet to respond with contact information.

Membership Committee:

- Janell Thompson (5th Cir.): We will let Brandy Johnson and Eyal Schwartz about the annual renewal letter but since membership is now free, we would still like to do a reminder. We would like to team up to address this. I had one question – maybe for Mike McCarthy – it seems very rickety what is chosen to share with for all the emails and I noticed that I did not sign up and notate St, Mary’s because when I signed up we did not have a chapter. Best practice is if there is a way to message the student (be as specific as possible and choose your local and camps process.) So what we are really focus on is a member tool kit. Basically, for the fall looking at trying to get three different membership told kits for student. (1) haves – how to keep on campus the awesome connections (2) have nots – no chapter but it’s being stating on own. If anyone has tips on what works and what doesn’t please let us know. Maybe word doc is not the best wat to do it – but we need the tricks to great practice. (3) no chapter at all. Last thing let’s see – joint events. It doesn’t matter if your local chapter does not have a high attendance because we are trying to be as helpful, welcoming and assisting as possible. So basically were the onboarding spring to people’s connection with the federal judiciary. We have held a joint event with the local BLSA to encourage students to join. You mentioned that we have a limited budget and were looking at diversifying.. and it looks like we skew male and people who have been in practice for a while. In this event FBA brought recourses and the local chapter provider and it showed that they had an investment in the future. If we could tie joint events in the future to bring .. .give teeth to DEI.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): I love the Toolbox and the promotion with DEI. We can apply for grants and if you come up with great ideas than let’s keep talking a bit and we will find ways to fund things.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): The next thing we have is liaison reports. We will skip that because were running low on time. Specifically, were looking for big events coming up.
- Christina Hough (9th Cir.): My update it in my memo. Some are coming next week.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): Thank you. I know that health law and judiciary and employment was reached out to. If there are any events happening between now and the next meeting, please speak now or send an email. Christina Hough, I will try to add the events in your memo into communications. I do want to make everyone aware that there is the screening in the hate crime panel as well as the national moot court competition in DC. They need bailiffs. Mike McCarthy can you put volunteering for bailiffs in the chat.

- Brandy Johnson (8th Cir.): I am participating in the moot court competition – it would be great to see you all there!
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): I've been to a ton since it helped me in the young lawyer's division and it's always great! I think that we've addressed everything. Is there anything else?
- Meg Glassman (10th Cir.): One really quick comment – I just wanted to ask the 3LS when do you want us to transition to another student? I want to continue to carry the strong momentum so that we can recommend a student and have them here for a while before a transition.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): What I'm thinking about doing is proposing an amendment to the bylaws so we could have two circuit reps so that you would stay on for one year after to finding as a law student. This would allow 3LS to stay on to the next cycle of the board. I spoke to the President and I'm working on it. I'll have a better answer for you before the next meeting.
- Jen Tomchak (Chair): Have a great weekend. I'm so inspired by you and excited. I want to invite the national board and show them how great you are. Going through my notices today.