



# Federal Bar Association

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

### DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2024, 3:00 PM EST

- Zoom –

#### Roll Call

Arturo Thompson (Chair) - **Present**  
Vice Chair Vacant – Not Available  
Caleb Morris (Student Chair) - **Present**  
De’Naesha Mitchell (Secretary) - Absent  
Shane Hursh (Treasurer) - **Present**  
Jen Tomchak (Immediate Past Chair) - **Present**  
Brendan Mohan (Immediate Past Student Chair) - **Present**  
Zeno Temple (1<sup>st</sup> Cir.) - **Present**  
Mary Johnson (2<sup>nd</sup> Cir.) - Absent  
Pacika Guerra (2<sup>nd</sup> Cir.) - Absent  
Charlotte Thompson (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir.) - Absent  
Emily Norris (4<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - Absent  
Trevor Reynolds (4<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - Absent  
Patricia (Pati) Limon deRodriguez (5<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - **Present**  
Rachel Williamson Brecker (6<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - **Present**  
Derrick Foster Ransom (6<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - Absent  
Malcolm Deisz (7<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - Absent  
Patience McHenry (8<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - Absent  
Taylor Brown (8<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - Absent  
Elle Peterson (9<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - **Present**  
Andrew Fender (10<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - **Present**  
Maddie Bacon (10<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - Absent  
Kijana Mitchell (11<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - **Present**  
Anthony Phan (DC Cir.) - **Present**  
Makena Rauch (DC Cir.) - Absent

Christina Hough (At Large/ Ex Officio Student Member) - **Present**  
Kevin Maxim (At Large/ Ex Officio Professional Member) - **Present**  
Anna Howard (At Large/ Ex Officio Professional Member) - Absent  
Dina Miller (At Large/ Ex Officio Professional Member) - **Present**  
Hon. Beth Bloom (At Large/ Ex Officio Professional Member) - **Present**  
Hon. Robin Feder (At Large/ Ex Officio Professional Member) - Absent  
Daniel Hamilton (Staff Liaison) - **Present**

## **DECEMBER MEETING**

### **Welcome**

#### **Opening Remarks:**

Arturo Thompson (Chair)

- Addressed the communication issues some members had with their section liaisons
- Encouraged members to CC him for better response rates with liaisons and suggested escalating unresolved issues to him if the problem persists.

#### **Committee Reports**

##### **Programming Committee Report**

Kijana Mitchell (11<sup>th</sup> Cir.) - **Present**

Christina Hough (At Large/ Ex Officio Student Member)

- Upcoming Panels:
  - "When I Grow Up" Panel in February to feature diverse legal career paths, including federal judges and district attorneys.
    - Looking for attorneys or judges in a wide area of different law paths from criminal to civil and everything in between.
  - "Neurodivergent's in Law" Panel in April to highlight successful attorneys with neurodivergent conditions.
    - Looking for attorneys with neurodivergent conditions to be on the panel

Arturo Thompson (Chair) encouraged the program committee to get with other members regarding attorneys to suggest as speakers.

##### **Law School to Practice Committee Report**

- No new updates at this time

##### **Law Student Engagement Committee Report**

- Looking for a subcommittee chairperson at this time

##### **Membership Committee Report**

Daniel Hamilton (Staff Liaison)

- Currently working through the numbers

##### **Publications/ Publicity Committee Report**

Patricia (Pati) Limon deRodriguez (5th Cir.)

- In the process of creating an email for a centralized place where individuals can start sending in pictures of things they want to be posted.

##### **Judicial Intern Academy Committee Report**

Andrew Fender (10th Cir.)

- Currently speaking with Genevive Dar regarding the Judicial Intern Academy for the national side and coming up with a pitch deck for the school to get the JIA up and off the ground.

Hon. Beth Bloom (At Large/ Ex Officio Professional Member)

- Discussions on the creation of a JIA summer program to support students every Friday in the summer of 2025 from June 2 to July 25, with the JIA applications due March 28, 2025.
- Suggested developing webinars addressing leadership opportunities and career development.

### **Leadership Planning Committee Report**

- Currently running through all of the other committees.

### **Circuit Representatives Report**

- Several circuit representatives reported strong engagement with their regions.
- Congratulations to the newly licensed attorney Elle Peterson, Esq. (9th Cir.)!!!!

### **Liaison Updates**

Brendan Mohan (Immediate Past Student Chair)

- Working with the Civics Division for their yearly Civics Day, helping expand the day into the law schools to spread on the national level!

Kijana Mitchell (11<sup>th</sup> Cir.)

- The ADR section requested journal submissions and announced an AI & ADR webinar for February 25, 2025.
- Committee liaisons were urged to share opportunities and foster collaborations.

### **Event Reflections:**

Arturo Thompson (Chair)

- The wine-tasting and networking event was successful and considered non-alcoholic options for inclusivity.

Jen Tomchak (Immediate Past Chair)

- The event was successful, and advised that we do earlier advertising/

### **Miscellaneous:**

Caleb Morris (Student Chair)

- Proposed creating a casual virtual student gathering with all the circuit representatives to enhance collaboration and camaraderie.
  - Planned surveys to find better meeting times and gauge interest in initiatives.

**- MEETING ADJOURNED-**