

FBA VETERANS & MILITARY LAW SECTION
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2026

Attendees:

- David Harding, Andrew McConville, Dylan Perry, Kaitlyn Degnan, Mike McCarthy, and T.J. McGrath, and Kevin Fitch

Welcome

- April 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved.

CLE Offerings / Events

- The following CLE events/opportunities were discussed:
 - o 17 June 2026 – Widener Law School - Army Heritage Foundation – Red Cross Presentation – Law of War. Lieutenant General (R) Charles Pede, 40th Judge Advocate General of the United States Army, to speak. All are encouraged to attend. Will coordinate to have someone distribute or place our membership QR code / flyer on desk at CLE
 - o “After Action & Afternoon Tea”. David and Courtney discussed panelists or individual speakers (possible high level recently retired judge advocates) to provide career advice and guidance on transitioning to civilian practice.
 - o “From the Bench: The Hague and Harrowing Tales of International Justice”. Possible CLE (panel style) with a former military judge. This topic was tabled for future discussion. TJ offered that there are likely several federal employees who would be interested in collaborating on this topic.
 - o Fall Luncheon/Cocktail Hour. We discussed a possible joint student outreach luncheon or happy hour in the northeast and/or New Orleans involving local FBA chapters, DRI, section members, and local law schools for in-person networking with new law students returning after summer break. Dylan in New Orleans will talk with Andrew Wondolowski about possibly hosting an event.

Membership Update

- Andrew W. provided an update on membership totals: Section gained 5 new students and 1 new professional member last month.

Board Composition for Next Year

- The Section board composition for next year (below) was discussed:

Chair – David

Deputy Chair - Andrew M.

Secretary – Dylan

Treasurer - Andrew W.

Membership Chair – Kevin

- FBA encouraged utilizing standing committees (e.g. nominating committee, CLE committee, communications and outreach). The Section will try to utilize standing committees more next year.

Legal Updates

- The favorable SCOTUS decision in Hencely v. Fluor was discussed. Harvey shared the decision and his article.

Key Dates

- 17-19 September 2026 Annual Conference (Richmond, VA) – David (attending), Courtney (possibly), Andrew M. (interested in attending). Mike will confirm if he has 3 spots available for officers.
- Feb 2027 Conference in Tampa. TJ provided an update on possible conference topics (labor and employment, wellness CLE and professional responsibility). Looking for a sponsor.
- Leadership Summit in March 2027 in Arlington, VA. Capitol Hill Day March 17-20. Moot court competition will also take place (looking for judges especially Wednesday night of the competition).

FY 2027

- Budget Requests/Issues. Mike M provided an update on the new budget process. Our section has a surplus fund. Budget is what we are planning to spend (comes from the surplus and FBA allocation). Budget is due on 30 June 26. We discussed various budget items, to include:
 1. Sponsoring awards to deserving Naval Justice School students. Andrew M will find out the monetary commitment to cover the cost of plaques and ongoing costs.
 2. Jobs for JAGS. In the past the Section has given \$500. We discussed allocating \$2500, as long as the space will be filled.

3. \$250 was allocated to the in-person luncheon for Board members last year. We discussed increasing the amount to \$500 total: \$250 per location for two events.

Miscellaneous Items

- FBA goals and how they impact our Section's approach to FY 27 were addressed. Courtney and David have discussed awards, including a Section award for work done in the last 12-18 months involving Federal Lawyer Magazine. FBA criteria for awards were reviewed and provides insight into what the Section should be doing. For example, engaging with our members, activating and staffing committees, circulating a newsletter, presenting professional panels and town halls with section members, training to be better advocate in support of veterans' issues, encouraging attendance at annual meetings, and social media engagement to grow our Section.
- In recognition of his last meeting, we thanked Mike for his tireless efforts in support of the Section.