

The Foundation Launches 2019 With a Flurry

by Henry Quillian



A member of the FBA for all 26 years of his complex litigation practice, Henry Quillian has litigated construction, insurance, intellectual property, and commercial cases in 18 states, often in conjunction with fellow FBA members. Quillian has been the Atlanta Chapter's president, chair of the Younger Lawyer's Division, and FBA's general counsel.

The Foundation has been busy since ringing in 2019. We've awarded Diversity and Chapter Community Outreach Grants as well as the highly competitive Robert A. McNew Law Student Scholarship. But we're just getting started. The application window is now open for the Kintner Public Service Scholarship, and we continue to sponsor the Annual Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition, the Civics Essay Contest, and the National Community Outreach Project.

Robert A. McNew Law Student Scholarship

The 2019 Robert A. McNew Law Student Scholarship was awarded to Kiera Murphy, a third-year law student at University of St. Thomas School of Law in Minneapolis, Minn.

Kiera spearheaded the creation of the FBA student chapter at the University of St. Thomas School of Law. While serving as chapter president she has created presentations and experiences to educate fellow classmates on criminal justice issues, including covering culpability in sentencing human trafficking convicts and arranging for a group of first-year law students to observe a federal judge's reentry court proceedings.

"The school really needed a chapter for the networking and real-life experiences that the FBA offers," she says. "The chapter observed [U.S. District of Minnesota] Judge Donovan Frank's reentry court proceedings, learning about the criminal justice system and what it's like to come out of prison. Seeing things firsthand actually makes law come alive."

Kiera served with the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota as judicial extern for Senior Judge Paul Magnuson, and most recently she completed a legal externship with the U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Minnesota. Kiera was a first- and second-year summer associate with Faegre Baker Daniels LLP in Minneapolis and also interned with the legal departments of Target, Inc., and Hormel Foods Corp.

Kiera's excellent academic record includes four semesters on the Dean's List and two Dean's Awards. She is active with the Minnesota Asian Pacific Amer-



ican Bar Association and volunteered to work on a pro bono case with the Tubman Safety Project in Minneapolis.

In her personal essay, Kiera described an assignment that showed her the importance of practicing criminal law. During her externship with Judge Magnuson's chambers, she reviewed a habeas corpus petition and drafted a judicial order about a case involving a convicted child molester. "On one hand, it was difficult to read about a man who had been convicted of molesting a child. On the other hand, he deserved the same due process as any other person. This assignment motivated me to learn more about criminal law.

"As an extern with the U.S. Attorney's Office, I have the privilege of working with some of the smartest and most talented lawyers in the Minnesota legal community. This experience further highlights the human impact of criminal law. As a prosecutor, every decision has direct consequences for a human being."

In his McNew Scholarship recommendation, Minnesota Chapter member Andrew Luger wrote: "Kiera is extremely bright, dedicated, and mature far beyond her years. She is destined to be a leader in the legal and broader community."

Another Minnesota Chapter member, Caroline Heicklen, also praised Kiera as a leader in the Minneapolis legal community. “I met Kiera when we were seated together at the FBA’s Annual Federal Judges’ Dinner Dance. In a room full of judges and the bar that practices before them, Kiera shines. ... I was struck by her confidence, but even more by her sincere passion for the study and craft of lawyering.”

Heicklen further noted that, as president of the St. Thomas student FBA chapter, Kiera has single-handedly recruited the board members, drafted the bylaws, and secured student government sponsorship. She has organized several events and “contributed to our legal community and stood out among her peers.”

Kiera hopes to one day become a federal prosecutor. In the meantime, after her May graduation she is planning to join the team at Paegre Baker Daniels which, she says, offers young associates hands-on, real-life trial experience that is important for working in the federal sector. “I want to learn as much as possible and develop quickly enough to get the litigation experience needed for federal law.

“There’s a lot of creativity behind criminal law – evidence and procedure, interpreting the constitution, so many issues. It has a big impact on people’s lives. Federal law affects everyone.”

Foundation Grants

The Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Committee of the South Florida Chapter of the Federal Bar Association received a Diversity Grant for “Black Precinct Courthouse and Museum Program and Subsidized Dues for Affinity Bar Association Members.” The chapter will offer a guided tour with a catered reception at the historical Black Precinct Courthouse and Museum in Miami, Fla., and will also work to increase diversity, equality, and inclusiveness amongst its membership by offering introductory/limited-time subsidized FBA membership dues for members of affinity bar associations.

The Vermont Chapter received a Chapter Community outreach Grant to support “Vermont Trial Competition for Underserved High Schools,” which allows several, traditionally underserved schools to create a trial team, work on a real-life trial program, and compete

against other schools in a competition. The chapter works with the U.S. District Court to create this learning opportunity for rural Vermont high school students who typically have little interaction with courts and trial processes.

The next round of grant applications will be due June 15.

Kintner Public Service Scholarship

The \$5,000 Public Service Scholarship is awarded to one high school senior each spring. A notice and application was prepared and sent in February to all public sector members and to the general counsels of government agencies. Notices will be included in several FBA e-news editions. At least one of the parents (or guardians) of the student must be a current federal government attorney or federal judge and member in good standing of the FBA. If a nonmember joins the FBA prior to the application deadline of April 30, his or her child will be eligible for the scholarship.

Moot Court, Essay Contest, and National Community Outreach Project Sponsorships

The Foundation is pleased to once again sponsor these important FBA outreach projects.

The 24th Annual Thurgood Marshall Memorial Moot Court Competition will culminate with a final round and reception at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces on March 21 during Leadership Summit week. The Foundation’s sponsorship plays a vital role in ensuring the competition’s success and stellar reputation.

For the second year, the winners of the FBA Civics Essay Contest are invited to receive their awards at a special Supreme Court Reception with Justice Neil Gorsuch. The event is March 22 in the Court’s Lower Great Hall. The Foundation provides funding for scholarship prizes in Middle School and High School divisions.

Chapters, sections, and divisions will work with their local courts to make an impact within communities during the April National Community Outreach Project. We offer funding for “schoolhouse to courthouse” events which allow middle and high school students to observe courtroom proceedings, participate in mock trials, and tour various agencies. ☺

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