



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
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## 19 ORGANIZATIONS ANCHOR FCBA'S INAUGURAL DIVERSITY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

### ***Tech Bar Pipeline Program Will Pair First-Year Law Students with Leading Law Firms, Companies, and Trade Associations for Critical Internship Experiences and Related Academic Enrichment, Skills Development, and Mentoring***

Today, the Federal Communications Bar Association (FCBA) announced the names of the first 19 employer participant organizations in its inaugural Diversity Pipeline Program. The Pipeline Program marks the first time the FCBA will directly facilitate internship placements for diverse law students with leading law firms, companies, and trade associations in the technology, media, and telecom (TMT) sector.

In announcing the “anchor” employer participants, **FCBA President Natalie Roisman**, Partner and Director of Social Responsibility at Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP, said, “As the Tech Bar, the FCBA has real power to drive meaningful diversity, inclusion, and equity, and it is our responsibility to do so. The Diversity Pipeline Program is one way we are working toward that goal. We are very pleased with the positive response so far from employers and look forward to attracting more employer participants to ensure more placements for eligible students.”

The Program remains open to commitments from interested employers in the Washington, D.C. metro area through January 18, 2021. The student application window will run through January 15, 2021.

**Former FCC Chairman Michael Powell, the CEO of NCTA – The Internet & Television Association**, delivered a keynote at the Program’s virtual launch event. Powell explained that this moment of great societal potential is the right time for such an effort. He said, “The Information Age is the first great epoch that holds genuine promise for Black and brown people to share in its fruits and riches. My ancestors were picking cotton in the Agricultural Age and were left out. And they were legally segregated in the Industrial Age, and again left out. The Information Age provides the first real chance to get in.”

At the same event, **Kathleen Grillo, Senior Vice President Public Policy & Government Affairs, Verizon**, said “Diversity of culture, experience, and perspective in our industry is absolutely imperative to develop sound public policies that will help usher in the fourth industrial revolution. Technology has never played a more integral role in our personal and professional lives. Verizon is excited to be part of this inaugural program to bring even more talented individuals into one of the most dynamic and interesting industries in the U.S.”

The 19 anchor employer participant organizations in the Diversity Pipeline Program are:

**Ten Law Firms:** Davis Wright Tremain LLP; Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis LLP; Hogan Lovells; Kellogg Hansen Todd Figel & Frederick PLLC; Kelley Drye & Warren LLP; Lerman Senter PLLC; Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo, P.C.; Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP; Wiley Rein LLP; and Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

**Five Companies:** AT&T Services, Inc.; Charter Communications; Comcast NBCUniversal; T-Mobile; and Verizon

**Four Trade Associations:** ACA Connects; CTIA; NCTA – the Internet & Television Association; and USTelecom – The Broadband Association

Additional companies, associations, and firms are in discussions with the FCBA and may join the employer participant list in the near future.

Diversity in the American legal profession has been a concern for decades. Minority groups continue to be grossly underrepresented in legal organizations, particularly among the leadership ranks of law firms, legal departments of major U.S. companies, and the federal government. The FCBA believes it is imperative that the legal profession, and specifically the Tech Bar, reflects the full spectrum of talent, perspectives, and experiences represented in the broader population.

*The Pipeline Program launched its application portal on Monday, January 4, 2021 at <https://webportalapp.com/sp/fcba-diversity-pipeline-program>. The portal will remain open through Friday, January 15, 2021, and all interested diverse 1st year law students at ABA-accredited law schools are encouraged to apply.*

*The FCBA is also accepting participating employers through January 18, 2021. To sign up, please visit the FCBA Diversity Pipeline [Employer Participants website](#). For more information, please email [DiversityPipeline@fcba.org](mailto:DiversityPipeline@fcba.org).*

*The FCBA is a volunteer organization of attorneys and other professionals involved in the study, development, interpretation and practice of communications and information technology law and policy. From broadband deployment to broadcast content, from emerging wireless technologies to emergency communications, from spectrum allocations to satellite broadcasting, the FCBA has something to offer nearly everyone involved in the tech, media, and telecom sector. Visit [fcba.org](http://fcba.org) for more information.*