

fcba NEWS

JANUARY 2024

The FCBA's Young Lawyers Committee

The Madison Hotel,
Washington, DC



October 26, 2023
6:30PM

presents the

34th Annual Charity Auction

benefitting



GENERATION
HOPE



A Night to Remember: The 34th Annual FCBA Charity Auction

By Kasey McGee and Courtney Tolerico

On October 26th, FCBA members came together at The Madison Hotel in downtown Washington, DC to raise **over \$78,000** for Generation Hope and the FCBA Foundation. We would like to thank everyone who attended, participated, volunteered, and donated to this year's Charity Auction. None of this would be possible without you!

Generation Hope plans to use this year's proceeds to continue providing direct support to teen parents in college through



its holistic two-generational programming that ensures everyone has the opportunity to succeed and achieve economic mobility, no matter the circumstance. To date, Generation Hope has supported over 450 teen parents in college, provided more than \$1 million in tuition support, celebrated over 170 college

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Fifth Annual Women's Summit Series – Session I on February 13; Session II on March 6

The FCBA Women's Leadership Committee is pleased to present the Fifth Annual Women's Summit Series!

Session I of the two-part series will be an in-person event on **Tuesday, February 13 from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. ET** at the Washington, DC office of Google. The event will feature a

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Nominations for the 2024 FCBA Election

Pursuant to Article V, Section 21 of the Association's Bylaws, the FCBA Nominations Committee is beginning the process of preparing the ballot for the 2024 annual election. Positions to be filled are: President-Elect; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Assistant Treasurer; Chapter Representative to the Executive Committee; three (3) members of the Executive Committee; three (3) members of the Nominations Committee; and four (4) FCBA Foundation Trustees.

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Upcoming Key Events

Consumer Protection Committee CLE

Seminar

Date/Time: Monday, January 22, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

Topic: Federal and State Efforts to Throw Out 'Junk' Fees

► SEE PAGE 4

Space and Global Communications Committee Lunch and Learn

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 23, 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. ET

Topic: Come meet the leadership of the Space Bureau and discuss hot topics from the future of satellite licensing, current rulemakings, to orbital debris and everything in between

► SEE PAGE 7

Wireless Telecommunications Committee CLE

Seminar

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 24, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET

Topic: Breaking Down the National Spectrum Strategy

► SEE PAGE 4

Wireline Committee Lunch and Learn

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 30, 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. ET

Topic: Meet the 10th Floor Wireline Advisors

► SEE PAGE 7

State and Local Practice Committee CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 6, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

Topic: Billions for Broadband: An Update on the BEAD Grant Process and What's Next for State Broadband Offices in 2024

► SEE PAGE 5

Cybersecurity Committee Lunch and Learn

Date/Time: Friday, February 23, 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. ET

Topic: Tips and Tricks for Mitigating Third-Party Vendor Security Risks

► SEE PAGE 7

PRESIDENT'S Message

DEAR FCBA MEMBERS,

Happy New Year! I have no scientific proof, but I am certain the last six months have been the fastest six months in recorded history. At least it felt that way to me. I hope everyone had a chance over the holiday break to relax, reenergize, and reflect on the year that just ended, with an eye toward making 2024 even better. Maybe not possible in an election year, but let's all resolve to try anyway.



I am still basking in the memory of last month's Annual Dinner featuring Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel. It was such a memorable night, made possible by the generosity of our FCBA sponsors and members, who always turn out in full force for this annual celebration. This year the weather held up, the mood was festive, the jokes were funny, and the food was delicious. If you missed it, there are only 11 months or so until the next one. Totally worth the wait.

It is both a little exciting and a little sad that I'm already halfway through my term as FCBA President. There is still so much more to do. At the same time, we have already accomplished a lot this year. In addition to the dinner, we've held 7 CLEs, 5 Lunch and Learns, 4 YLC-sponsored events, 5 Diversity Pipeline Program events, 2 Chapter events, and a charity auction. Brace yourself; we got a busy six months ahead of us.

January brings programming that includes two CLEs – one on January 22 addressing junk fee regulation and the second on January 24 breaking down the National Spectrum Strategy – and two Lunch and Learns featuring the Space and Global Communications and Wireline Committees. Also, the Diversity Pipeline Program has been full steam ahead, and we will soon begin interviewing first-year law students for our 4th program year. We are so grateful to our sponsors and 23 employers, including law firms, companies, and trade associations, that will host DPP student interns this summer.

Coming up next is our Annual Women's Summit Series, which this year will feature two events, one in February and one in March. And keep an eye out in upcoming weeks for room reservation and registration information for the Annual Seminar coming up April 26-28 at the Homestead. The planning committee is hard at work to make this year's Annual Seminar one you won't soon forget! Be sure to check out our [events page](#) for details on all on our great upcoming events.

A final note—since we are the DC Bar Voluntary Bar of the year—please consider adding to your list of 2024 resolutions a commitment to volunteer in support of something (or someone) that is meaningful to you. This month, I'm spending a few hours at the DC Bar Pro Bono clinic, and visiting a college to talk to students about careers in telecom, media, and tech. If you don't know where to start, consider sharing your expertise with an FCBA Committee or signing up for an FCBA mentoring opportunity later this year.

Thanks for reading, and I'll see you around the bar!

Diane Holland, FCBA President 2023-2024



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Thank you to our **DIVERSITY PIPELINE PROGRAM SUPPORTERS!**

The FCBA is grateful to the firms, companies, and associations listed below who have financially sponsored the Diversity Pipeline Program for the upcoming 2023-2024 year. If you are interested in sponsoring the Diversity Pipeline Program, please [click here](#).

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Altice USA

Hogan Lovells

CUM LAUDE

Diane Holland

Monday, January 22, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET Federal and State Efforts to Throw Out 'Junk' Fees

The **FCBA Consumer Protection Committee** will sponsor a CLE on **Monday, January 22 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET** entitled **Federal and State Efforts to Throw Out 'Junk' Fees**. This program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

President Biden has pledged to end “junk fees” and similar pricing practices that may be hidden from or unexpected by consumers during the purchase process, and he has called on agencies to reduce or eliminate hidden fees, charges, and add-ons. The Federal Communications Commission, Federal Trade Commission, Department of Transportation, and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and some states have taken actions to reduce or eliminate so-called junk fees and promote transparency. In this program, representatives from government will discuss agency efforts to address these fees, and industry and public interest stakeholders will examine the potential impacts of these actions on businesses and consumers.

The FCBA will apply for 2.0 hours of MCLE credit from the VA Bar. This program has not yet been approved.

FCBA no longer offers CA MCLE credit to attendees. If you wish to obtain CA credit, you must apply for it on your own. FCBA will, however, provide a generic certificate of attendance that may be used. Please click here for more information on the CA Bar [Standards for MCLE Activity Approval](#) and [Requirements](#).

[Click here to register.](#)

If you have any issues, please contact Elina Gross at elina@fcba.org.

Agenda

1:00 – 1:05 p.m.
**WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTIONS**

1:05 – 2:00 p.m.
GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

Speakers:
Stacy Cammarano, Attorney, Division of Advertising Practices, Bureau of Consumer Protection, FTC
Brendan Murray, Deputy Division Chief, Policy Division, Media Bureau, FCC
Colin Reardon, Senior Counsel, Legal Division, CFPB

Moderator:

Stephen Conley, Attorney, Wiley Rein LLP

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
**INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC
INTEREST PERSPECTIVES**

Speakers:

Sam Sadighi, VP of Legal, DIRECTV
Avonne Bell, Director, Connected Life, CTIA
Jonathan Schwantes, Senior Policy Counsel, Consumer Reports
Leah C. Dempsey, Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck
Vicki Morwitz, Professor of Business and Marketing, Columbia University Graduate School of Business

Moderator:

Aaron Burstein, Partner, Kelley Drye & Warren LLP

Wednesday, January 24, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET Breaking Down the National Spectrum Strategy

The **FCBA Wireless Telecommunications Committee** will sponsor a CLE on **Wednesday, January 24 from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET** entitled **Breaking Down the National Spectrum Strategy**. This program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

On November 13, 2023, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) released its National Spectrum Strategy (NSS)—a “high-level blueprint” articulating the Biden-Harris Administration’s national objectives for spectrum policy. The NSS is a culmination of NTIA’s recent efforts to identify ways to support U.S. leadership in wireless technologies and services through improved spectrum management and access. In this program, representatives from government and industry will examine the NSS and its potential future impacts on spectrum policy.

Do one thing for your career today – join the FCBA Speakers Bureau!

A **key part** of building your personal brand is driving up your visibility within your industry and personal network. By joining the FCBA Speakers Bureau, you can raise your professional profile while sharing your insights and knowledge with your colleagues.



With the Speakers Bureau, the FCBA maintains a broad list of potential speakers at all stages of their careers and with diverse backgrounds. The FCBA will use the list to offer opportunities for speakers to contribute their knowledge to CLEs, brown bags, and other events.

Complete this easy [form](#) to join the FCBA Speakers Bureau today!

JANUARY 24 CLE

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The first panel will cover the bands that the NSS identified for further study for potential repurposing: the 3.1-3.45, 5.03-5.091, 7.125-8.4, 18.1-18.6 and 37.0-37.6 GHz bands. Speakers will discuss each of the bands and potential issues that may arise as each one is studied. The second panel will focus on NTIA's plans to establish test beds and promote innovative spectrum management technologies. On this panel, participants will discuss ongoing testbed efforts and the ways in which the NSS could help support/improve spectrum research.

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[Click here to register.](#)

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Agenda

12:00 – 12:05 p.m.
WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTIONS

12:05 – 12:15 p.m.
OPENING REMARKS BY SCOTT
BLAKE HARRIS, SENIOR
SPECTRUM ADVISOR, NTIA

12:15 – 1:05 p.m.
EXAMINING BANDS
IDENTIFIED FOR FURTHER
STUDY

Speakers:
Derek Khlopin, Deputy Associate Administrator, Spectrum Planning & Policy, NTIA

Nickolas LaSorte, Electrical Engineer, Spectrum Engineering & Analysis Division, NTIA
Additional Speakers TBD

Moderator:
Becky Tangren, Vice President & Associate General Counsel, NCTA – The Internet & Television Association

1:05 – 2:00 p.m.
TEST BEDS & SPECTRUM
MANAGEMENT
TECHNOLOGIES

Speakers:
Umair Javed, Senior Vice President, Spectrum, CTIA
Monisha Ghosh, Professor, Electrical Engineering, University of Notre Dame
Jeff Stewart, Assistant Vice President, Global Public Policy, AT&T
Mark Walker, Vice President, Technology Policy, CableLabs
Additional Speakers TBD

Moderator:
Meredith Singer, Partner, Wiley Rein LLP

Tuesday, February 6, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET Billions for Broadband: An Update on the BEAD Grant Process and What's Next for State Broadband Offices in 2024

The FCBA State and Local Practice Committee will sponsor a CLE on Tuesday, February 6 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET entitled Billions for Broadband: An Update on the BEAD Grant Process and What's Next for 2024. This program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

This CLE will consist of two panels, one featuring a perspective from state and federal regulators and the other featuring communications and broadband industry

panelists. The experts will discuss the current status of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program at the start of 2024, including lessons learned from the recently-concluded Initial Proposal process where every state and territory filed proposals for funding with the NTIA. The panelists will also discuss next steps for state broadband offices in 2024 as the program continues along its timeline.

The FCBA will apply for 2.0 hours of MCLE credit from the VA Bar. This program has not yet been approved.

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[Click here to register.](#)

If you have any issues, please contact Elina Gross at elina@fcba.org.

Join the FCBA and FCBA Foundation on Social Media!

The FCBA and the FCBA Foundation invites you to “Like” and “Follow” our pages today to be in the loop for upcoming events, share fun pictures of your FCBA friends and colleagues, and grow your social media network! Come join the conversation!

FCBA: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) (@FCBALaw) and [Instagram](#) (@fcba_law)

FCBA Foundation: [Foundation LinkedIn](#) (FCBA Foundation) and [Twitter](#) (@FcbaFoundation)

WOMEN'S SUMMIT

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keynote address from a special guest and a panel discussion with Black women law school deans exploring recent law and policy challenges affecting the pipeline from law school to the legal profession, and related issues at the intersection of technology and equity. The event will conclude with a reception from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Look for registration information in the next few weeks.

Session II, Investing in Innovative and Inclusive Leaders, will be an in-person, half-day event on **Wednesday, March 6 from 11:30 a.m. – 6:45 p.m. ET** at the AT&T Forum in Washington, DC. Session II will feature a luncheon, remarks from and conversations with established and emerging and leaders who have played pivotal roles in the development of communications, media, and technology law and policy, break-out sessions, and

an end-of-day reception to celebrate our achievements and connect with old friends and new. Look for registration information in the next few weeks.

All are welcome – please join us!

SPONSORSHIP OF THE WOMEN'S SUMMIT SERIES

To honor just a few of the many women who have made historic and indelible contributions in technology, media, and telecommunications, sponsorship of the Fifth Annual Women's Summit Series is available at four levels:

- Frieda Barkin Hennock (first woman FCC Commissioner): \$5,000 (includes 3 registrations for both events in the series)
- Katherine Johnson (NASA mathematician): \$2,500 (includes 2 registrations for both events in the series)

- Ada Lovelace (visionary computer programmer): \$1,250 (includes 1 registration for both events in the series)
- Emma Nutt (first woman telephone operator): \$500

Sponsors will receive recognition for their support in promotional emails, the FCBA newsletter, on the FCBA website, and via social media. In addition, the top three sponsorship tiers will receive complimentary registrations for this series of events, as well as logo recognition in the FCBA newsletter and during each session of the series.

[Click here to sponsor the Fifth Annual Women's Summit Series.](#)

Please contact Women's Summit Co-Chair Mia Hayes at mhayes@willkie.com if you would like to serve on the planning committee, have speaker ideas, or would otherwise like to help with this Series or the Women's Leadership Committee.

2024 FCBA Annual Seminar to be held at the Omni Homestead Resort April 26-28 ~ SAVE THE DATES!

Mark your calendars now and make plans to join your colleagues at The Omni Homestead Resort for the 2024 FCBA Annual Seminar on April 26-28. Watch for program details, and room reservation and registration information in the coming weeks.

Sponsorship opportunities are now available. [Click here to learn more about the sponsorship levels.](#) [Click here to sponsor today!](#)

The Omni Homestead Resort has been delighting vacationers—including 23 U.S. presidents—for over 250 years. A \$140 million renovation aims to restore



historic character to this Allegheny Mountain destination, from the Great Hall to the **guest rooms** and the bathhouses at the iconic **Warm Springs Pools**.

Located across more than 2,000 acres of scenic Virginia landscape, the resort is accessible by both train and car from DC and provides timeless comforts and access to an exciting array of activities for families, couples, individuals, and colleagues. The resort also has been designated a National Historic Landmark.

The one-of-a-kind resort in Hot Springs, VA features a two-acre **water park** and top-ranked **golf courses**, including the nation's oldest first tee in continuous use. Deepen the experience with a soothing massage at **The Spa at Omni Homestead**. To learn more about The Omni Homestead and its many amenities and activities, go to: <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/homestead-virginia>.

We hope you'll join us at the 2024 FCBA Annual Seminar!

COMMITTEE AND CHAPTER *Events*

Consumer Protection Committee

Event: CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Monday, January 22, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform

Topic: Federal and State Efforts to Throw Out 'Junk' Fees

Cost: \$135.00 for Private Sector Members; \$95.00 for Non-Profit 501c3 Members; \$50.00 for Government/Academic/Transitional/Retired Members; No charge for Law Student Members; \$205.00 for Non-Members

For more information: See [page 4](#).

[Click here to register.](#)

If you have any issues, please contact Elina Gross at elina@fcba.org.

Cybersecurity Committee

Event: Lunch and Learn

Date/Time: Friday, February 23, 12:30 – 1:45 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via Zoom platform

Topic: Tips and Tricks for Mitigating Third-Party Vendor Security Risks

[Click here to register.](#)

Space and Global Communications Committee

Event: Lunch and Learn

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 23, 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. ET

Location: In-Person: Hogan Lovells US LLP, Columbia Square, 555 Thirteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20004, Virtual: Link to follow

Topic: Come meet the leadership of the Space Bureau and discuss hot topics from the future of satellite licensing, current rulemakings, to orbital debris and everything in between. Lunch will not be provided for in-person attendees.

[Click here to attend in-person.](#)

[Click here to attend virtually.](#)

State and Local Practice Committee

Event: CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 6, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform

Topic: Billions for Broadband: An Update on the BEAD Grant Process and What's Next for State Broadband Offices in 2024

Cost: \$135.00 for Private Sector Members; \$95.00 for Non-Profit 501c3 Members; \$50.00 for Government/Academic/Transitional/

Retired Members; No charge for Law Student Members; \$205.00 for Non-Members

For more information: See [page 5](#).

[Click here to register.](#)

If you have any issues, please contact Elina Gross at elina@fcba.org.

Wireless Telecommunications Committee

Event: CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Wednesday, January 24, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform

Topic: Breaking Down the National Spectrum Strategy

Cost: \$135.00 for Private Sector Members; \$95.00 for Non-Profit 501c3 Members; \$50.00 for Government/Academic/Transitional/Retired Members; No charge for Law Student Members; \$205.00 for Non-Members

For more information: See [page 4](#).

[Click here to register.](#)

If you have any issues, please contact Elina Gross at elina@fcba.org.

Wireline Committee

Event: Lunch and Learn

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 30, 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. ET

Location: In-Person: Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP, 1800 M Street, NW, 800N, Washington, DC; Virtual: Link to follow

Topic: Meet the 10th Floor Wireline Advisors

Speakers: Rashann Duvall (OCH), Lauren Garry (Commissioner Carr), Justin Faulb

(Commissioner Starks), Marco Peraza

(Commissioner Simington), and Hayley Steffen (Commissioner Gomez)

Lunch will not be provided for in-person attendees.

[Click here to attend in person.](#)

[Click here to attend virtually.](#)

FCBA Unplugged

FCBA UNPLUGGED is a podcast series for and about our beloved FCBA community. FCBA Unplugged features a series of fun, informal conversations between host Kelly Donohue, a Public Policy Manager at Facebook and co-chair of the FCBA's Membership and Marketing Committee, and you, our FCBA members! While it's certainly no proxy for in-person events, it's a fun opportunity to collectively check in with our FCBA friends and family while we are all working from home in our pajama bottoms, and maybe discover a few hidden talents along the way.

HOW CAN I LISTEN AND SUPPORT THE SHOW? We're available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, on the FCBA website - <https://www.fcba.org/products-services/podcast>, and at <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1458427>. Please tune in, leave a review, and tell the world about the show on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter!

CAN I BE ON THE SHOW? If you have ideas for topics or guests, or would like to be on the show yourself, send Kelly an email at kellydonohue@fb.com. The suggestion box is open! suggestion box is open!



To Update Your Membership Contact Information

We'd like to remind everyone that if you have any changes to your membership contact information, please contact Elina Gross at elina@fcba.org. In order to keep a cohesive look to our directory, we do not allow members to make any changes to their information themselves.

The FCBA is gearing up for its 2024 scholarship and stipend programs, which will award hundreds of thousands of dollars to outstanding high school and law school students, thanks to the generous contributions of FCBA members, industry sponsors, and others. Below are the details of the programs, including information on applications.

If you have any questions about these programs, please contact Janeen Wynn at janeen@fcba.org.

FCBA Foundation 2024 College Scholarship Program

The FCBA Foundation College Scholarship Program provides financial assistance and laptop computers to DC public high school students to assist them in attending college. For over 28 years, the Foundation has helped almost 390 local high school students attend college with scholarship awards ranging from several thousand dollars up to \$28,000, payable over four years.

The Foundation committed nearly \$276,000 to its 2023 scholarship class via scholarships between \$8,000 and \$20,000 to graduating seniors selected because of their academic achievements and service to school and community.

The Foundation's web-based application lets interested high school seniors, who are matriculating to college next fall, apply for a scholarship online. The College Scholarship application is available at <https://webportalapp.com/sp/fcbacollegescholarship2024>.

The deadline for submission of applications is Thursday, February 29, 2024. The Foundation plans to conduct interviews of promising applicants in early April 2024. We will notify successful applicants regarding their scholarship awards before May 2024.

FCBA Foundation 2024 Law School Summer Stipend Program

The FCBA Foundation will award stipends to law students employed as unpaid summer interns through its Law School Summer Stipend Program. The program provides stipends to students from around the country who want to dedicate their time and talent over the summer to government service in areas that relate to telecommunications, media, and technology (TMT) law, including broadcasting, cable, information technology, television, telephony, satellite, and wireless. It also can include work at government/public sector entities

addressing other communications-related areas, including internet law and policy, privacy, cybersecurity, copyright, emerging technologies, and related policy and legal issues.

The Law School Summer Stipend Program awards stipends of up to \$7,000 and last year provided support to 10 outstanding law students. The Foundation considers funding from other sources in making award decisions and generally will adjust its stipend awards based on total funding received.

Details on the Law School Summer Stipend Program application dates and process will be released in the coming weeks.

FCBA Foundation 2024 Law School Scholarship Program

The FCBA Foundation Law School Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to rising second- or third-year students currently enrolled in accredited law schools in the United States who have a demonstrated interest in pursuing a career in TMT law. In 2023, the Foundation awarded \$4,000 scholarships to five outstanding law students. The scholarships are payable to the applicable law school in one lump sum to help the student with tuition or other education-related expenses.

Details on the Law School Scholarship application dates and process will be released in the coming weeks.

FCBA Foundation Scholarship and Internship Programs – Call for Volunteers!

FCBA members, we need your help! The FCBA Foundation is seeking volunteers to review applications for all three of

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The FCLJ is Looking for Articles

The *Federal Communications Law Journal* (FCLJ), the official academic journal of the FCBA, is hosted by The George Washington University Law School. It has long been an important source of legal scholarship on communications issues, and the FCBA is proud to offer the journal as a benefit to our members.

The *Federal Communications Law Journal* (FCLJ) editorial board at The George Washington University Law School is seeking article submissions for potential publication in the upcoming issues of the FCLJ. Interested members may submit articles to the Senior Articles Editor, Sarah Lambert (fcljarticles@law.gwu.edu). Articles may also be submitted through ExpressO or Scholastica. For general inquiries about the FCLJ, please contact the Editor-in-Chief, Catherine Ryan (fclj@law.gwu.edu).

SCHOLARSHIP AND INTERNSHIPS

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its programs, including the College Scholarship, Law School Scholarship, and Law School Summer Internship Stipend.

Volunteers will review students' written applications and/or conduct interviews with the most promising applicants as part of the selection process. Your help is more important than ever — ***we expect the number of scholarship applications to be higher than last year's record.***

Please see below for additional information on each program and how to volunteer.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

For over 28 years, the FCBA Foundation has provided scholarships to hundreds of DC high school and charter school graduates seeking to attend college.

Last year, we awarded local students nearly \$276,000 in scholarships and laptops. Scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who demonstrate through their applications and personal interviews that their academic achievements, service to school and community, and commitment to learning show their potential to succeed in college and make positive contributions to their communities.

The first week of March we will send to each volunteer reviewer a group of applications, plus detailed reviewing and grading instructions. Reviews will be due by Monday, March 18. We then will invite the most promising candidates back for personal interviews to be held in early April. Volunteers will be contacted with interview dates once they are confirmed.

****If you would like to volunteer, please email Rachel Wolkowitz at rwolkowitz@wbklaw.com by Friday, February 23, 2024. Please indicate whether you**

are interested in reviewing written applications, participating in interviews of the candidates, or both!

LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AND SUMMER INTERNSHIP STIPEND PROGRAMS

The Law School Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to rising second- or third-year students currently enrolled in accredited law schools in the United States who have a demonstrated interest in pursuing a career in TMT law.

The Law School Summer Internship Stipend Program provides stipends to students from around the country who want to dedicate their time and talent over the summer to government service in areas that relate to TMT law.

****If you would like to review applications, please email Rachel Wolkowitz at rwolkowitz@wbklaw.com by Friday, February 23, 2024.**

NOMINATIONS

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The first step of this process is for members to notify the Nominations Committee of their interest in being nominated, or to recommend other members for consideration for nomination. Nominations should be sent to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Barry Ohlson, via email to barry.ohlson@coxinc.com, with a copy sent to kerry@fcba.org. Please give the name of the member to be considered for nomination, a brief statement about why the individual is being nominated, and the position they are being recommended for by **Friday, January 19, 2024.**

The Nominations Committee will present a slate of nominations to the membership via email and the in newsletter. At that point, members will have the option of making additional nominations as outlined in the Bylaws.

2024 National Telecommunications and Technology Moot Court Seeks Practitioners to Serve as Judges

The Law & Technology Institute and the Moot Court Association of the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, together with the Federal Communications Bar Association are pleased to announce that the 30th(!) Annual National Telecommunications and Technology Moot Court Competition will be held at CUA Law on **Friday, February 9** and **Saturday, February 10, 2024.**

This year's competition seeks attorneys to serve as Briefs Judges and Oral Arguments Judges. Briefs Judges will receive submitted briefs on or around Wednesday, January 29th, and they will be due back on Wednesday, February 7th. A score sheet provided by the Committee will guide Briefs Judges in grading the briefs and allocating points. Oral Arguments Judges are needed for the competition rounds on both the evening of Friday, February 9th and the morning/afternoon of Saturday, February 10th. Oral Argument Judges will be provided with a Bench Brief before the competition to assist them prepare for the event.

If you would like to volunteer as a Briefs or Oral Arguments Judge, please contact Lee G. Petro at Lee.Petro@PillsburyLaw.com by **Monday, January 22, 2024.** No expertise is necessary!

Edward “Smitty” Smith

By: Laura Phillips

I was delighted to have the chance to connect with Edward “Smitty” Smith, who recently became Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, at T-Mobile US. Smitty has had a number of substantive positions in government, in prominent law firms and now with a national wireless carrier that has a mission driven culture that Smitty enjoys. Smitty has also sought elected office, which is a bit of a new twist for FCBA column interviewees! With all of Smitty’s time in telecom, his various leadership roles in government and the private sector and other experiences, I knew he would have some great perspectives to share with FCBA members.



Q: What attracted you to the field of communications?

A: I found telecommunications by accident. Before joining the Obama Administration, I was an M&A attorney. At the beginning of the Administration, two giants of the telecommunications regulatory space, Larry Strickling and Anna Gomez, gave me an opportunity to work for them at NTIA and from there on out I was hooked on telecom. From my time at NTIA, then working for Chairman Wheeler at the FCC and, finally, in private practice, I had the chance to work with and learn from many other industry legends and luminaries. In different ways, each of them helped me grow, become a better lawyer, and discover my place in telecom.

What I love about telecom is that change is the only constant. Our industry sits at the always busy intersection of technology and government and innovation is king. This means that there are always opportunities for creative, energetic, and imaginative people of all ages.

Q: Talk a bit about what you did along the way to get where you are today.

A: I always sought out opportunities to learn and was always eager to try something new and novel, whatever my role. I was never too proud to start at the bottom, nor was I afraid to push my limits by taking on a role that was a stretch. When I started at NTIA, I was completely new to telecom, but I was

immediately put in charge of building a \$350M broadband data grant program that became the first National Broadband Map. That was a stretch for me, but to do it I built a team and relied on the top experts in and outside of government. When I later joined the FCC, I passed up management and leadership opportunities to work as a line attorney, so that I could better understand the workings of the agency from the ground up. I often advise my mentees to always have the courage to lead and take on any challenge but also the humility to follow and learn.

Q: How have things unfolded in your career, was it more or less the way you planned?

A: Nothing in my career unfolded as I planned. When I went to law school, I thought I was destined to be a litigator. But it turned out that I did not like litigation and instead I became a corporate M&A lawyer. Back then, I did not even know that telecom regulatory law existed. When, as a young associate at Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells), one of our deans of the FCBA, Ari Fitzgerald, asked me to consider telecom as a career. I laughed and told him that I was an M&A lawyer and had no interest in regulatory work. Now, almost twenty years later, here I am and he laughs about it every time I see him.

Even after entering telecom, nothing went as planned. I left the FCC to run for DC Attorney General and lost. Then I served in DC government helping survivors of

violent crime and figured that my telecom career was behind me. I was wrong again and I later returned to the FCC to work for Chairman Wheeler. After that I was a partner in private practice and a significant aspect of my work there was being part of a team shepherding the T-Mobile/Sprint merger, a project with plenty of twists and turns.

Just as I thought that I was comfortable in my legal practice and law firm leadership, as a senior partner and practice group chair at DLA Piper, the opportunity to join T-Mobile turned my plans on their head again. So, it is fair to say looking back on my career thus far that I sometimes took risks or seized unexpected opportunities.

To be clear, I have certainly lost many times, but each loss taught me valuable lessons and created new opportunities that over time proved to be better than the opportunity I was seeking originally. My career has never followed a straight line but that is what has kept it interesting.

I have always been most excited about being a part of mission-driven organizations, whether in local or federal government, or now at T-Mobile. I am happiest when I can find creative ways to do good for people. As a company, T-Mobile has a very distinct, positive culture; one that drives to innovate and to up the game on serving our customers and being a global leader in technology. All of that, in my book, counts as doing good for people.

Q: What's the most interesting or challenging thing that you've done in your current position?

A: Well, I just started at T-Mobile, so circle back to me on the “most interesting” question in a few years. But the most challenging thing is succeeding Kathleen Ham, who has been an institution at T-Mobile and in Washington. As the new guy, I have big shoes to fill. But I am also fortunate to have great leaders above me and an incredible team supporting me, so I feel good so far. What also makes it

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

Get to Know an **FCBA MEMBER**

EDWARD "SMITTY" SMITH

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

challenging in a good way is that my team and I have to be and are well-versed in the fundamentals of the business and are able to pursue the company's interests in a number of areas, including innovating and introducing new products and services to our customers. This means weaving in business goals with policymaking in DC and elsewhere and living at that intersection of business leadership and government policymaking. Finding ways to thread it all together is frankly a lot of fun.

Q: What do you enjoy reading?

A: I love good poetry; and Pablo Neruda is a particular favorite. I love histories and also fantasy and science fiction, because the issues of our world are heavy enough that sometimes it is nice to escape into a good book.

Q: Can you share perspective on the pitfalls to avoid or other career advice for those who are just getting started in the communications field?

A: First, I would congratulate them on having found a great field of specialization. Communications can provide incredible opportunities for young, energetic, ambitious, and creative people. Because the technology in our field is always evolving and the issues are

always changing, even someone relatively new to the space can quickly become an expert because many of the major issues and technologies of today did not exist 20 years ago. This creates a relatively unique field where the thirty-year veteran may not have an advantage over the newbie on the hot topics of the moment.

However, the constantly changing nature of telecommunications means that all of us must be able to constantly learn and adapt with the technology or it will pass us by. Also, I would encourage those just getting started to always remember, while we work with technology, our real business is creating connections. In the macro sense, we connect people all over the globe, but also important are our connections with each other in the communications bar. When I first joined the bar, one of my mentors from my time at NTIA, Tom Power, gave me some of the best advice I ever received. He said to remember that our community is a small and tightknit one. The person who is your most junior team member today could be your boss or client a few years from now, so always put the relationships first and treat others with kindness and respect. I try to live by that rule both at work and more broadly in my life.

Q: Has anything changed in your life as a result of the pandemic?

A: Everything changed. But I am not alone there; we all had to make massive adjustments in how we worked

and interacted when COVID hit. One thing many of us learned was that we have the ability to work more flexibly and, in some cases, more productively than we had previously thought. For many of us, the power of virtual collaboration was demonstrable. But I have to say, coming out of all this, I do value more than ever the ability to interact in person with my friends and colleagues.

Q: What is something interesting about you that people are not generally aware of that you're willing to share?

A: I'm a BIG nerd. I still watch cartoons and read comics.

Q: How long have you been an FCBA member and what is the value of FCBA membership?

A: I have been a member of the FCBA for twelve years. The FCBA has been an invaluable part of my professional and personal life, providing me with opportunities to expand my knowledge, network, engage in philanthropy and, perhaps most importantly, build community and friendships. I recommend it to anyone starting or building a career in this space.

Interested in learning more about another FCBA member? If there is a member you'd like to know better, contact Laura Phillips at laura@phillipscommmlaw.com.

Membership Contact Information

If you have any changes to your membership contact information, please contact Elina Gross (elina@fcba.org). In order to keep a cohesive look, we do not allow members to make any changes to their information themselves.

RANDOMCOFFEE



- The next RandomCoffee round will be activated on January 16. A sign-up email will be sent from RandomCoffee at 2:30 pm EDT. Matches will be announced on January 19 at 5:30 pm EDT. Please sign up at any time during that window.

- If you don't see the email in your inbox, it may be caught in your spam filter. Please check for an email from "RandomCoffee @ FCBA" or fcba@my.random-coffee.com and allowlist the email going forward so you won't miss future RandomCoffee invitations!

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34th Annual FCBA CHARITY AUCTION

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

degrees, and touched the lives of nearly 100,000 student parents through their partnerships with higher education institutions. In addition to the success of the auction, we would also like to extend our congratulations to Generation Hope's Founder and CEO, Nicole Lynn Lewis, who was just named a 2023 Washingtonian of the Year!

The FCBA Foundation will use proceeds from this year's auction to aid in its scholarship program, which provides financial assistance to local DC public high school students. Each year, the Foundation reviews dozens of applications from local high school students of diverse backgrounds and selects scholarship recipients based on their financial need, academic achievements, and service to school and community. Applications for the 2024 scholarships are available now – for more information [click here](#). Please reach out to Avonne Bell, Karen Sprung, Rachel Wolkowitz, Danielle Thumann, Van Bloys, and Rizwan Chowdhry with any questions or if you are interested in volunteering to assist with reviewing scholarship applications.

We would like to thank this year's celebrity emcees, **Diane Holland** and **Anisa Green**, who dazzled the stage and attendees during the live auction, which featured prizes like an Annual Seminar Package (courtesy of **Diane Holland**), Drinks at Dappervan's (courtesy of **Van Bloys**), and a dinner hosted by the Meatless Maestros Dinner Club (courtesy of **Megan Stull**, **Mia Hayes**, and **Monica Desai**).

We would also like to thank the FCBA members and local business partners that donated prizes to the event— this year we had over 100 prizes in the online auction!

Lastly, we would like to mention our special appreciation to FCBA Staff, **Kerry Loughney** and **Janeen Wynn**, the 2023 Auction Committee, and the countless volunteers that assisted with planning the event. Without you, there would not be an Annual Charity Auction, and we cannot thank you enough!

That's a wrap on the 2023 Annual Charity Auction, we can't wait to see you next year! If you're interested in volunteering on the 2024 Auction Committee, please reach out to **Courtney Tolerico** at cftolerico@gmail.com.



34th Annual **FCBA CHARITY AUCTION**



34th Annual **FCBA CHARITY AUCTION**



The Young Lawyer's Committee would like to thank all of the sponsor's that made the 24th Annual Charity Auction possible!

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34th Annual **FCBA CHARITY AUCTION**



Thank you to Auction Chairs Kasey McGee and Courtney Tolerico, the 34th Annual Charity Auction Committee, and the sponsors and members who gave prizes, volunteered their time, and bid on the various items up for auction. It was an amazing event and a marvelous success. You have made all of us very proud.

-The FCBA Executive Committee and the FCBA Foundation Board of Directors

34th Annual FCBA CHARITY AUCTION



34th Annual **FCBA CHARITY AUCTION**



34th Annual **FCBA CHARITY AUCTION**



34th Annual FCBA CHARITY AUCTION



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TO LIST A JOB

Submit a Job Bank Form (found by [clicking here](#) or going to the FCBA website under the Member Resources - Job Board) and email the form, the text of the ad, and the appropriate payment to Kerry Loughney at kerry@fcba.org. Listings and payment received by the 22nd day of each month will appear in the next month's newsletter. If possible, ads should not exceed 400 words. No headhunters please.

PRIVATE SECTOR

1.24.1

Deputy General Counsel – The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) seeks a qualified attorney to fill a position in the Legal & Regulatory Affairs department. The Deputy General Counsel is responsible for developing and advancing NAB's policy goals with federal

agencies, the Executive branch and federal and state courts. While the role spans the wide variety of policy issues that concern radio and television broadcasters, the Deputy General Counsel will focus on leading industry efforts on NextGen TV as well as on the wide array of spectrum matters implicating broadcasters. The position involves significant interaction with attorneys, engineers, government relations advocates and other staff at NAB, radio and television members and personnel at the FCC and other government agencies.

Essential Functions

- Work with engineering and business teams to develop regulatory and policy positions
- Draft memoranda, comments in regulatory proceedings and briefs
- Interact with policymakers
- Prepare and review advocacy materials
- Analyze legislation
- Plan and participate in industry events and

programs

- Address NAB member inquiries about legal issues
- Other duties as assigned

Required Education and Experience

- Juris Doctorate and 8-10 years of related experience
- Demonstrated legal writing and research skills
- Excellent written and verbal oral communication skills

Preferred Experience

- Experience in broadcast, wireless, satellite, cable, emerging technologies and/or appellate litigation.

The National Association of Broadcasters is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

To apply, [click here](#).

The Federal Communications Law Journal

The *Federal Communications Law Journal* has long been an important source of legal scholarship on communications issues, and the FCBA is proud to offer the journal as a benefit to our members.

FCBA members may now decide how they would like to receive the journal. The *FCLJ* itself will continue to be published in hard copy, however, rather than receiving hard copies as a default, we'll be distributing electronic links to the content.

For those of you who would like to receive the *FCLJ* electronically, you don't have to do anything. We will email you a link when a new issue is published. You may also visit <http://www.fclj.org/volumes/> to view archived volumes.

For those of you who would like to receive the *FCLJ* in hard copy format, you should sign up for this option by following the instructions below. You must log in to your membership account and select the *FCLJ* subscription. Note that the hard copy journal is free, but it must be ordered through our website.

- To log in to your account, [click here](#) or go to www.fcba.org and click the Log In button.
- Click on the link to the "Online Store" on the left side of the page.
- Click on the link to the "Federal Communications Law Journal Annual Subscription". You may also type the word Journal into the Search Bar, if needed.
- Click on "Add to Cart".
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- Click on "Purchase Now", and you're done!

Note that we will also send out an email reminder to members about the opt-in process before each issue is published.

If you have any questions, please send an email to Wendy Parish (wendy@fcba.org).

35th Annual **FCBA DINNER**



35th Annual **FCBA DINNER**



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April 26-28, 2024 at the Omni Homestead, Hot Springs, VA

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FCBA Extends a Warm Welcome to Its Newest Members!

(*as of 12/31/23)

Grace Abuhamad, National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Karaz Axam

Kaili Ayers

Alicea Cragwell

Luis Felipe Garcia Rubio

Ethan Lamb, Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

Philip Murphy, National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Raza Panjwani, New America's Open Technology Institute

Karmen Rajamani, Wireless Infrastructure Association

Philip Reisen, Office of Administrative Hearings

Joshua Ruby, Granite Telecommunications, LLC

Gwyn Whittaker, Stop Scams Alliance, Inc.

And huge thanks to those that recruited them: Scott Harris, Kenya Parker, and Michael Saperstein

Calendar

January 19	Deadline for Nominations for the 2024 FCBA Election
January 22	CLE Seminar: Federal and State Efforts to Throw Out 'Junk' Fees presented by the Consumer Protection Committee
January 23	Space and Global Communications Committee Lunch and Learn
January 24	CLE Seminar: Breaking Down the National Spectrum Strategy presented by the Wireless Telecommunications Committee
January 30	Wireline Committee Lunch and Learn
February 6	CLE Seminar: Billions for Broadband: An Update on the BEAD Grant Process and What's Next for State Broadband Offices in 2024 presented by the State and Local Practice Committee
February 9-10	30th Annual National Telecommunications and Technology Moot Court Competition
February 13	SESSION I Women's Summit
February 23	Cybersecurity Committee Lunch and Learn
March 6	SESSION II Women's Summit
April 26-28	FCBA Annual Seminar at the Omni Homestead in Hot Springs, VA



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