

fcba NEWS

Newsletter of the Federal Communications Bar Association

JANUARY 2025

FCBA Offers New Platinum Sponsorship Package

The FCBA is pleased to offer a new sponsorship opportunity! We know that our sponsors — law firms, telecom, media, and tech companies, trade associations, and other generous organizations — are critical to the FCBA's success. In the first half of 2025, with your support, we'll be holding an exciting array of events. While your organization is free to sponsor one or more on an *a la carte* basis (as in the past), in response to sponsor input we now are offering a package sponsorship opportunity.

The package sponsorship qualifies you as Platinum Sponsor for the following FCBA events to be held between January and June 2025:

- Sixth Annual Women's Summit Series;
- Congressional Reception;
- Spring Reception, featuring Excellence in Government Service Award;
- Annual Seminar in Hershey, PA.

Among other things, Platinum Sponsorship offers the following benefits:

- A discounted price as compared to cost of sponsoring each of the four events separately at a gold-equivalent level;
- Ability to pre-pay for sponsorships;
- Recognition as a Platinum Sponsor in the FCBA newsletter each month from January-June 2025, in addition to recognition as top-level sponsor at each package event.

Please note that the FCBA Annual Luncheon in June is not included in the package.

Organizations also are free (but certainly not obligated) to add discrete sponsorships to individual sessions at the Annual Seminar (e.g., of hospitality breaks) separate and apart from their Platinum Sponsorship.

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Nominations for the 2025 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 2025 annual election. Positions to be filled are: President-Elect; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Assistant Treasurer; Chapter Representative to the Executive Committee; Delegate to the American Bar Association; four (4) members of the Executive Committee; three (3) members of the Nominations Committee; and four (4) FCBA Foundation Trustees.

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, Diane Holland, via email to dgholland@wiley.law, 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 17, 2025**.

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.

Upcoming Key Events

Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Robotics / Consumer Protection Committees CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

Topic: AI Enters the Calling and Texting Space: Government and Private Sector Approaches to Combatting Deepfakes and Misinformation

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Atlanta Chapter Breakfast and Panel

Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. ET

Location: Gray Media, 4370 Peachtree Rd NE (Brookhaven)

Topic: *Loper Bright and Jarkesy*

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Midwest Chapter Lunch and Learn

Date/Time: Monday, January 27, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Central Time (1:00 – 2:00 Eastern)

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform

Topic: Planning for Network Maintenance & Repair

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Diversity Committee CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 28, 12:30 – 2:30 pm ET

Topic: Diversity in the Telecom Sector: Where Do We Go From Here?

► SEE PAGE 4

Judicial Practice Committee CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 5, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

Topic: Cutting Edge Issues in FCC Litigation

► SEE PAGE 5

Wireless Telecommunications Committee CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Thursday, February 13, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

Topic: The National Spectrum Strategy: Where Do Things Stand, and What Comes Next?

► SEE PAGE 5

PRESIDENT'S Message

Perhaps because I am of a certain age, the same type of paper calendar/planner I adopted when I first started practicing law still looms large among the various tools I rely upon to keep my busy life on track. At the beginning of January, the pages before me are blank—full of promise and possibility. Looking at their pristine state, I experience an excitement and yes, a bit of trepidation, about what the New Year will bring. As I fill that calendar with the material that gives meaning to my days, I eagerly anticipate events that are new, and derive some comfort from repeat entries that provide structure (and often joy—like birthdays!). More and more these days, I marvel at how time flies.



Calendars inevitably make you wish you could be in two places at once and that just happened to me when I realized I'd be in Texas hosting an FCBA Chapter Event and speaking at the ABA Forum on Communications Law Annual Conference the same weekend as the **2025 National Telecommunications and Technology Moot Court** on February 7/8. It's the 31st Year(!) of the annual moot court competition (which FCBA runs along with Catholic Law's Law & Technology Institute), and I am sorely disappointed not to be participating as a judge (just my luck, this year the question is broadcast related—Judge Kirby might have had a thing or two to say about that). So please do me a favor—our former FCBA President and my friend Lee Petro has been at the helm of the moot court competition for as long as I can remember—please volunteer right now to serve as a briefs judge or an oral argument judge and help Lee make this another outstanding year for our participating students. You'll be glad you did.

Texas members, please bring a friend or two and come join us for breakfast at Austin's Omni Hotel on February 6—I look forward to keeping it weird together.

Your FCBA team is of course busy filling out the calendar for 2025. Our committee and chapter co-chairs are fully engaged—January kicked off with a CLE planned by the International Committee discussing **Supplementing Terrestrial Coverage from Space**; on January 16 our Atlanta Chapter will host a Breakfast and Panel on *Loper Bright* and *Jarkesy* at Gray Media; that same day, our Artificial Intelligence and Consumer Protection Committees will sponsor a CLE entitled **AI Enters the Calling and Texting Space: Government and Private Sector Approaches to Combatting Deepfakes and Misinformation**; our Midwest Chapter hosts a virtual Lunch and Learn on January 27 addressing **Planning for Network Maintenance and Repair**; and, on January 28, we'll host a CLE on **Diversity in the Telecom Sector: Where Do We Go From Here?** Please check the newsletter/website/social media for our many offerings and take advantage of them.

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Diane Griffin Holland

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 2024-2025 year. If you are interested in sponsoring the Diversity Pipeline Program, please [click here](#).

ORDER OF THE COIF
(\$5,000)



SUMMA
(\$2,500)



MAGNA
(\$1000)

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(\$500)

Diane Holland

Thursday, January 16, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET AI Enters the Calling and Texting Space: Government and Private Sector Approaches to Combatting Deepfakes and Misinformation

The FCBA Artificial Intelligence and Consumer Protection Committees will co-sponsor a CLE on Thursday, January 16, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET entitled **AI Enters the Calling and Texting Space: Government and Private Sector Approaches to Combatting Deepfakes and Misinformation**. The program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

The advent of artificial intelligence (“AI”) for robocalling and robotexting comes with both promises and risks for consumers and companies alike. AI technologies in the calling and texting space allow companies and organizations large and small to reach consumers, and even detect harmful calls and texts. However, AI technologies can also be used by bad actors to mislead and defraud.

Policymakers and enforcement agencies have been engaged on this issue, proposing new laws and regulations to address the use of AI, including the Federal Communications Commission’s AI Robocalls NPRM and NOI. At the same time, the telecommunications and technology industry has been active in this space, including by exploring

technological solutions to detect the use of AI in calls and text messages.

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

[Click here to register.](#)

Make sure to log into your account to receive the member rates! If you are signing up on behalf of a member, please sign in using their credentials (username and password). By doing this, the information will be linked to their account.

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

Agenda

2:00 – 2:05 p.m.
**WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTIONS**

2:05 – 3:00 p.m.
**FEDERAL EFFORTS TO
REGULATE AI IN THE
CALLING/TEXTING SPACE**

Moderator:

Stephen Conley, Associate, Wiley Rein LLP

Panelists:

Edyael Casaperalta, Legal Advisor for Wireless, Public Safety and Consumer Protection, Office of FCC Commissioner Anna M. Gomez
Benjamin Davidson, Attorney, Division of Marketing Practices, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission
Ben Winters, Director of AI and Privacy, Consumer Federation of America

3:05 – 4:00 p.m.
**EXPLORING AI DETECTION
TECHNOLOGIES**

Moderator:

Kevin Rupy, Partner, Wiley Rein LLP

Panelists:

Vijay Balasubramanian, Co-Founder & CEO, Pindrop
Sarah Leggin, Assistant Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, CTIA
Mike Rudolph, Chief Technology Officer, YouMail

Tuesday, January 28, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. ET Diversity in the Telecom Sector: Where Do We Go From Here?

The FCBA Diversity Committee will sponsor a CLE on Tuesday, January 28, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. ET entitled **Diversity in the Telecom Sector: Where Do We Go From Here?** The program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

Join the Diversity Committee for engaging panel discussions among experts about the status of diversity in the telecom sector, including how court decisions and calls for companies to cease diversity efforts impact the telecom sector, how we can ensure that everyone has access to telecom opportunities despite these challenges, and the role of artificial intelligence.

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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To Update Your Membership Contact Information

To update your contact information, log in to your [member account](#) and click the About or My Profile sections. **If you are changing your membership type/category** (e.g. Private Sector to Government; Law Student to Private Sector, etc.), you must email Elina Gross (elina@fcba.org) so she can update it.

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JANUARY 28 CLE

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

Agenda

12:30 – 12:35 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Diane Holland, Partner, Wiley Rein LLP and immediate Past President, FCBA

12:35 – 1:30 p.m.

DIVERSITY IN THE TELECOM SECTOR – WHERE ARE WE AND WHAT'S THE ROAD AHEAD?

This panel will examine where diversity stands in the telecom sector, how court challenges and calls for organizations to end diversity efforts have impacted those efforts, and where we go from here.

Moderator:

Maurita Coley Flippin, Principal, MCF Global, LLC and former President and CEO of the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council

Panelists:

Deborah Lathen, President, Lathen Consulting LLC

Brent Wilkes, Senior Vice President for Institutional Development, Hispanic Federation

Clint Odom, Vice President of Strategic Alliances and External Affairs, T-Mobile

Nicolaine M. Lazarre, Vice President, Policy and External Affairs, Charter Communications

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: ITS IMPACT ON DIVERSITY...A BOON OR A BUST?

This panel will discuss artificial intelligence's role in diversity efforts, the targeting of information to underrepresented groups, and how artificial intelligence can help organizations ensure that everyone can compete for telecom career opportunities.

Moderator:

Traci Biswese, Vice President and Associate General Counsel, NCTA – The Internet and Television Association

Panelists:

Nicol Turner-Lee, Senior Fellow, Center for Technology Innovation, The Brookings Institution

John C. Yang, President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

Danielle Davis, Director of Technology Policy, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

Kenley Joseph, Policy Counsel, Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council

Wednesday, February 5, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET Cutting Edge Issues in FCC Litigation

The FCBA **Judicial Practice Committee** will sponsor a CLE on **Wednesday, February 5, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET** entitled **Cutting Edge Issues in FCC Litigation**. The program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

Changes are afoot with litigation related to the FCC—even beyond *Loper-Bright* and the deference questions we've all heard so much about. In this CLE, the Judicial Practice Committee is presenting panels on two of the most timely issues.

The first panel will discuss how the change in Administration will affect challenges to FCC rulemakings. We will discuss what the new Administration can do if it doesn't agree with earlier-enacted rules, including refusing to defend those rules; invoking the Congressional Review Act, and promulgating new rules.

The second panel will focus on how the Hobbs Act applies in collateral challenges to FCC rules. The Supreme Court is hearing oral argument on this question on January 21, 2025, in *McLaughlin v.*

McKesson, No. 23-1226, and we have put together an all-star panel to discuss why this issue matters; the arguments on both sides of the issue; and the oral argument in the Court.

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

[Click here to register.](#)

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

Thursday, February 13, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET The National Spectrum Strategy: Where Do Things Stand, and What Comes Next?

The FCBA **Wireless Committee** will sponsor a CLE on **Thursday, February 13, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET** entitled **The National Spectrum Strategy: Where Do Things Stand, and What Comes Next?** The program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

Over the past two years, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration has sought comment on, drafted, and carried out the implementation of a National Spectrum Strategy. Work across all the pillars of the Strategy is ongoing. The beginning of a new Presidential administration could bring a new direction. This CLE will discuss what has been achieved in the policy and technical issues involved in the National Spectrum Strategy, as well as what remains to be done.

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FEBRUARY 13 CLE

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

2025 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 31st Annual National Telecommunications and Technology Moot Court Competition will be held at CUA Law on **Friday, February 7**, and **Saturday, February 8, 2025**.

This year's competition seeks attorneys to serve as Briefs Judges and Oral Arguments Judges. Brief Judges will receive submitted briefs on or around Wednesday, January 22nd, and they will be due back on Wednesday, February 5th. 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 7th and the morning/afternoon of Saturday, February 8th. Oral Argument Judges will be provided with a Bench Memo 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 LPetro@Dickinson-Wright.com by **Monday, January 20, 2025**. No expertise is necessary!

COMMITTEE AND CHAPTER News

Diversity Pipeline Program Summer Intern Program & TMT Law and Policy Certification

Year 5 of the FCBA Diversity Pipeline Program saw 125 first-year law students from over 100 prominent U.S. law schools apply to participate in the Diversity Pipeline Program – the only legal internship and curriculum-support program in the nation that focuses exclusively on law and policy in the technology, media, and telecommunications (TMT) sector.

50 highly motivated first-year law students were selected to participate in panel interviews with **25 employers** from law firms, companies, and trade associations. These interviews provide invaluable access to **coveted Summer 2025 internships**, allowing students to showcase their talents, gain critical experience, and build meaningful professional networks. This event exemplifies our commitment to connecting students with influential leaders in the legal community and empowering them to launch successful legal careers.

In addition to securing competitive internships, our students are also demonstrating a strong interest in specialized legal training. We are proud to report that **57 first-year law students**

have enrolled in the **Technology, Media, and Telecommunications (TMT) Law and Policy Certification Program**. This program, running from **February through April 2025**, will immerse students in the dynamic world of TMT law, equipping them with the expertise and skills necessary to navigate the evolving legal landscape of technology and communications. Participants will benefit from expert-led seminars, practical exercises, and networking opportunities designed to enhance their proficiency in this vital sector.

Our students' enthusiasm for professional growth and specialized learning continues to inspire us. We look forward to sharing more updates on their achievements in the coming months.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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Response to our new Platinum Sponsorship opportunity has been favorable, and I am grateful to those organizations that already have committed. If you have not yet signed up, now is the time to consider our one stop sponsorship shop for a bundle of events through June 2025, including the **Women's Summit** and **Congressional Reception** (stay tuned for dates coming in April), the **Annual Seminar** (May 16-18 at the *Sweetest Place on Earth*, Hershey, PA), and the **Spring Reception**. Our Platinum Package sponsors receive a discount and other perks, and our goal is to make event sponsorship more streamlined for FCBA supporters. Of course, we remain grateful to those who choose to help underwrite our events on an *a la carte* basis.

In the category of time flying, the FCBA Nominations Committee, ably chaired by Past President Diane Holland, has started the process of preparing the ballot for our 2025 Election. If you are interested in being nominated or would like to recommend someone to serve in an FCBA or FCBA Foundation leadership capacity,

time is of the essence. Please email Diane with a copy to Kerry (more detailed info follows in this newsletter). And if you'd like to chat about the commitment and why FCBA leadership will inevitably make your life richer, please reach out to me!

The membership survey I've been promising is coming soon, so be on the lookout and take a few minutes to help us identify ways to improve the organization's overall value. In that vein, I've been talking to some of our more junior members in recent weeks and am so very pleased that they already find incredible value in their FCBA memberships. They are eager for in-person networking, for opportunities to mingle with and learn from more senior members of our bar, to learn substantive fundamentals and expand the TMT subjects we cover, to hear the perspectives of regulators and lawmakers, and to have opportunities to hone their presentation skills. Not necessarily new themes for FCBA, but there may be new ways of facilitating these opportunities and aligning them with what our membership writ large suggests should be our areas of focus and growth.

As I am putting the finishing touches on this month's column, my attention has turned to those who, when doing their own planning for 2025, could not have imagined that the advent of the new year would be so frightening and devastating given the fires burning in the Greater Los Angeles area. I've just spent some time checking in with friends and clients there, some of whom fear they have lost their homes and about everything they own. And we know others have lost their lives. Particularly as a media lawyer, I have for decades marveled at the dedication of broadcast newsrooms and those who put themselves in harm's way or otherwise sacrifice to keep their communities informed during times of crisis. This apocalyptic event has been no exception. My thoughts are with them, with those fighting the fires, with the members of our Southern California chapter, and with all those suffering. I know each of us will find a way to help.

Kathy Kirby
FCBA President 2024-2025

PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP

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We are grateful to our supporters at each and every sponsorship level. I hope some of you will find this streamlined package/discount suits your organization's needs.

[Click here for detailed information on benefits and pricing \(pdf\).](#)

[CLICK HERE TO BECOME A PLATINUM SPONSOR!](#)

[PLEASE SIGN IN WITH YOUR MEMBER CREDENTIALS \(username and password\) in order to link it to your account!](#)

Please contact Elina at elina@fcba.org with any questions.

Thank You to Our 2024-2025 FCBA Platinum Sponsors!

(as of 1/14/25)



COVINGTON

wiley

COMMITTEE AND CHAPTER *Events*

Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Robotics Committee

Event: CLE Seminar co-sponsored by the Consumer Protection Committee

Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform
Topic: AI Enters the Calling and Texting Space: Government and Private Sector Approaches to Combatting Deepfakes and Misinformation

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.](#)

Atlanta Chapter

Event: Breakfast and Panel

Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. ET

Location: Gray Media, 4370 Peachtree Rd NE (Brookhaven)

Topic: *Loper Bright and Jarkesy* – Join us to discuss the near and far future for regulatees under recent Supreme Court precedent.

Speakers: Barry Ohlson, Cox Enterprises; Anne Kamosso, Ohmium; Brian Lea, Jones Day
Thanks to Jones Day for Sponsoring the Breakfast!

[Click here to register.](#)

Consumer Protection Committee

Event: CLE Seminar co-sponsored by the Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Robotics Committee

Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform
Topic: AI Enters the Calling and Texting Space: Government and Private Sector Approaches to Combatting Deepfakes and Misinformation

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.](#)

Diversity Committee

Event: CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 28, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform
Topic: Diversity in the Telecom Sector: Where Do We Go From Here?

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.](#)

Judicial Practice Committee

Event: CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 5, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform
Topic: Cutting Edge Issues in FCC Litigation
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.](#)

Midwest Chapter

Event: Lunch and Learn

Date/Time: Monday, January 27, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Central Time (1:00 – 2:00 Eastern)

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform
Topic: Planning for Network Maintenance & Repair. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is helping to Topic: Planning for Network Maintenance & Repair. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is helping to pay for a \$65 billion investment in broadband networks. Once the networks are built, how do you fund and plan for their continued operation? This lunch and learn will feature engaging discussions with telecom leaders about how to plan for and finance repair and maintenance of fiber networks.
Speakers: Kyle Hildebrand, Chief Revenue Officer, Vivacity Infrastructure Group, LLC, and Brian Ford, Vice President – Federal Regulatory, NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association
[Click here to register.](#)

Texas Chapter

Event: Breakfast Meet-and-Greet during the ABA Forum on Communications Law Conference

Date/Time: Thursday, February 6, 7:45 a.m. CST

Location: Omni Hotel, Bridge Ballroom, 700 San Jacinto (at E 8th St), Austin, TX 78701

Details: Join us for a bite to eat and meet some of your fellow FCBA members and Texas communications law colleagues!

Note: FCBA participants are not required to register for the Forum conference.

[Click here to register.](#)

Wireless Telecommunications Committee

Event: CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Thursday, February 13, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform

Topic: The National Spectrum Strategy: Where Do Things Stand, and What Comes Next?

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.](#)

Young Lawyers Committee

Event: Happy Hour

Date/Time: Thursday, February 6, 6:00 p.m. ET

Location: Calico, 50 Blagden Aly NW,

Washington, DC 20001

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

RANDOMCOFFEE



randomcoffee

■ RandomCoffee has made 1250 FCBA connections since first launched in February 2023!

■ The second RandomCoffee round of 2025 will be activated on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. Don't miss this chance to participate and join 620 FCBA members who already have enjoyed a RandomCoffee.

■ A sign-up email will be sent from RandomCoffee around 2:30 pm EST on the 4th. Matches will be announced on Friday, February 7 at 5:30 pm EST. 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!

The FCBA is gearing up for its 2025 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 Stephanie Budaker at stephanie@fcba.org.

FCBA FOUNDATION 2025 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 29 years, the Foundation has helped almost 415 local high school students attend college with generous scholarship awards. In 2024, the Foundation committed \$294,000 to graduating seniors selected because of their academic achievements and service to school and community, with individual scholarships ranging from \$8,000 to \$20,000.

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/login/fcba_collegescholarship.

The deadline for submission of applications is Friday, February 14, 2025. The Foundation plans to conduct interviews of promising applicants in early April 2025. We will notify successful applicants of their scholarship awards before May 2025.

FCBA FOUNDATION 2025 LAW SCHOOL SUMMER INTERNSHIP STIPEND PROGRAM

The FCBA Foundation will award stipends to law students employed as unpaid summer interns through its Law School

Summer Internship 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,

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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 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

Last year, with the help of volunteer reviewers, the Foundation awarded \$294,000 in college scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Students 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. That's where you come in—we need help reviewing these promising students' applications.

The last week of February, each volunteer reviewer will receive a group of applications to review, plus detailed reviewing and grading instructions, to review by Monday, March 10. 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 review college scholarship applications, please email the FCBA Foundation at foundation@fcba.org by Friday, February 14, 2025.** 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 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 tech and telecom related fields.

****If you would like to review law school scholarship or summer internship stipend applications, please email the FCBA Foundation at foundation@fcba.org by Friday, February 14, 2025.**

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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 \$10,000 and last year provided support to 12 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 2025 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 2024, the Foundation awarded \$20,000 in scholarships to six 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.



2025 FCBA Annual Seminar to be held at The Hotel Hershey May 16-18 ~ SAVE THE DATES!

Mark your calendars now and make plans to join your colleagues at the **FCBA Annual Seminar** on **May 16-18, 2025** at the Hotel Hershey in Hershey, PA. Watch for program details in the coming months.

Known for its refined elegance, signature service, and abundant amenities, The Hotel Hershey, one of the finest Historic Hotels of America, is a must-visit destination in Chocolate Town® U.S.A.

The Hotel Hershey offers a variety of **activities** for the whole family. Make a splash in the indoor pool, set up a friendly game of basketball, volleyball, or tennis at the sports complex, and experience the great outdoors with miles of hiking trails and the falconry program. Deepen the experience with a soothing massage at **The Spa at Hershey**. To learn more about The Hotel Hershey and its many amenities and activities, go to: <https://www.thehotelhershey.com/>.

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, Spencer Banwart (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, Addison Spencer (fclj@law.gwu.edu).

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** (@fcbalaw)

FCBA Foundation: **Foundation LinkedIn** (FCBA Foundation) and **Twitter** (@Fcbafoundation)

Jennifer Richter

By: Laura Phillips

Jennifer Richter leads the Telecom, Media & Technology Practice at Akin resident in the DC office. In addition to her own very active practice, Jennifer sits on the firm's Regulatory Steering Committee, and she recently rotated off the firm's Partnership Admissions Committee. Akin has a deep and storied lobbying practice and very strong Restructuring, Funds and Trade practices, Jennifer enjoys collaborating across the firm with these practices and others that intersect with TMT companies. I was delighted to have a chance to connect with Jennifer as we are all digging out from our recent scrape with winter snowstorms.



Q: What attracted you to the field of communications?

A: Under the heading of “there are no mistakes,” I signed up for a survey course my freshman year of college called Introduction to Broadcasting. I found the professor and the subject matter totally fascinating and decided to major in broadcasting and journalism. After undergrad, I chose a law school where I could work on both my law degree and a masters in mass communications. At the time there were only three law schools in the country that offered this specialty – Drake, Pepperdine and Catholic. I'm from the Midwest, Drake was relatively close and offered me a scholarship, so I chose Drake. If anyone wants to know more about Drake, I sit on the Board of Counselors for Drake Law School today.

Q: Tell us about the various places you've worked through the years.

A: My first job in communications law was at Pepper & Corazzini on K Street – a wonderful and supportive group of people. It was 1992 and I was hired into a “new” practice that focused on wireless networks. Can you imagine? Our nation's commercial wireless networks were in their infancy – the second round of cellular licenses were assigned by lottery by the FCC in 1988 in reaction to the cost and cumbersome nature of the comparative hearing licensing process. I was working with many companies that were trying to license and lease EBS and BRS spectrum at 2.5 GHz (the bands were known as ITFS

and MMDS at the time!). In 1994, I was recruited to become General Counsel of a wireless company that was building networks on the 2.5 GHz spectrum across the country. This spectrum has a somewhat tortured history, but it is key spectrum for T-Mobile and used in their 5G deployments. My company was sold to Sprint in 1999. I then joined Morrison & Foerster where I continued to work on deals and regulatory work for Sprint, Clearwire and others. We also worked on deals and regulatory work for T-Mobile related to their PCS wireless networks, fiber optics deals for Qwest, Teleglobe and others, data center deals, etc. I received some great training at MoFo. I moved my practice to Patton Boggs in 2005 when I was pregnant with my first child. I led the Telecom and Technology practice at Patton Boggs, co-led the Public Policy Department for a time, and served on the Executive Committee of the firm. When Patton Boggs merged with Squire Sanders in 2014, I moved my practice to Akin, where I lead the TMT group today. Akin has a super platform for a telecom practice with many complementary practice areas, and I am very happy I landed here.

Q: Have things unfolded in your career more or less the way you planned?

A: I love this question. I don't know that I ever really thought about how my career should or would unfold. I've been incredibly fortunate to work with smart lawyers, great clients and great companies. My main goal has always been to do work I find interesting, and

to keep learning, challenging myself and developing my expertise. This is still true after 33 years of practicing law. One thing that surprised me in my career was the leadership positions I was offered, particularly in my early years. I tried to decline some of these leadership positions at first, particularly in law firms, because I wasn't sure if I was ready. But the law firm leaders who offered me these positions believed in me and supported me, and that gave me confidence. Today, I enjoy all components of what it takes to run a successful practice, but the main thing I enjoy about leadership is helping young lawyers to define their careers. I was given meaningful opportunities to first-chair client representations at a young age, and it's fun to pay it forward and watch young lawyers on our team blossom.

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

A: Beyond working with companies that deployed some of the first commercial wireless and broadband networks in our country, which was super interesting, a few other challenging matters stand out in my mind: the dozens of early E-rate denials based on USAC's “blacklist” that we appealed and won; the successful petition for declaratory ruling we received on a TCPA matter that changed the course of a class action lawsuit; the work to convince the FCC to increase reimbursement rates for the Video Relay Service because functional equivalency has not yet been achieved for deaf and hard of hearing individuals; and the foundational work we started over 10 years ago to help our government and industry find suitable spectrum solutions for uncrewed aircraft systems, advanced air mobility and UAS traffic management. I'm happy to say that I still find the work interesting and challenging!

Q: Is or was there something interesting or someone who surprised or impressed you during your career and why?

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Get to Know an **FCBA MEMBER**

JENNIFER RICHTER

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A: A number of years ago, three people that I worked with, who mentored me and believed in me, passed away during the same year and I spent time reflecting on what I learned from each of them. Bob Corazzini taught me the importance of never assuming anything about the facts or the law – take time to study the problem and think through different angles for resolution. Bill Kingery taught me the importance of focusing on your own game, tending to your knitting and continuing to strive to make progress for your company and shareholders. Tom Boggs taught me the importance of loving and valuing coworkers and colleagues. They were all great leaders and mentors. Perhaps the greatest leader I've worked with, though, is Kim Koopersmith, the Chair of Akin who is remarkable, strategic and inspirational in more respects than I can possibly express here.

Q: What do you enjoy reading?

A: I like to read non-fiction, historical books, particularly about figures in Washington, DC. Right now I'm reading "Kingmaker: Pamela Harriman's Astonishing Life of Power, Seduction and Intrigue" by Sonia Purnell.

Q: Is there something (a hobby or other tidbit) people don't know about you that you are willing to share?

A: A number of people in the bar know that I sing (or I used to!) with my law firm band, Night Work. We won Law Rocks! this past year, which was a BLAST, but I am now retired from singing. Time for some new blood! What most people probably don't know is that I'm in my 12th year of teaching Sunday School with another mom and lawyer, and this work is probably the most satisfying work in my life.

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

A: The main thing I preach to young lawyers is to invest in your career. Don't sit at your desk waiting for great work to come to you. Pursue topics that are interesting to you even if there isn't a paying client yet. Volunteer your time to work as part of industry/government working groups that are working on important regulatory and policy issues. Learn about a topic and write articles. Invest in your education as a lawyer. Get out from behind your desk and go to conferences where you can hear from, and talk with, business people about their plans and challenges. Learn how to walk the walk, and talk the talk, with business people. Invest, invest, invest in yourself.

I also would note that the way to be a successful lawyer in the area of communications has changed significantly over the last 33 years. It's not sufficient to

know the workings of the FCC. If it ever was an isolated agency, it is no longer; it is part of a broader ecosystem of agencies that handle spectrum issues, supply chain and national security issues and more. Take the time to develop an understanding not only of the FCC and its workings, but how Washington, including Congress and other agencies and departments, may interact to create opportunities for your clients. Appreciate that there are many levers in some cases that can be utilized to advance a client's interests.

Q: How has your life changed as a result of COVID-19 and what are you looking forward to doing next?

A: Before COVID I was traveling a lot for work meetings and speeches. I was gone from home A LOT. Work meetings and conferences went online during COVID. Many work meetings and board meetings are still happening remotely, but conferences are largely back in person. I am starting to travel for work conferences again. Our family is traveling more with COVID behind us. We had a great trip last summer to Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Greece and Switzerland. We are looking forward to more international travel in 2025.

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

A: I joined the FCBA in 1992. From the very beginning it was a great place for me to meet colleagues, refer work and receive referrals, and grow in my understanding of the industry. Some of my best friends in DC were met through the FCBA. While it's been some time since I was a young lawyer who attended multiple brown bag lunches and CLEs, even in areas that were not central to my practice, I am still a big fan of these FCBA programs both for learning and for connecting to others in the field.

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.

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!



36th Annual **FCBA ANNUAL DINNER**



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FCBA Extends a Warm Welcome to Its Newest Members!

(*as of 12/31/24)

Zainab Alkebsi, Deaf Equality
Michael Borgia, Davis Wright
Tremaine LLP
Jackson Cherner, Keller and
Heckman LLP
Thanasis Christou
Eileen Cohan, BCM One, Inc.

Hana Khan-Tareen
Max Larson, Covington
Sue McNeil, FCC
Uzoma Onyeije, First Responder
Network Authority
Maira Smith, GCI

And huge thanks to those who
recruited them: **Matt DelNero**, **David**
Rice, and **Shannon Sylvester**

Calendar

January 16	CLE Seminar: AI Enters the Calling and Texting Space: Government and Private Sector Approaches to Combatting Deepfakes and Misinformation
January 16	Atlanta Chapter Breakfast and Panel
January 27	Midwest Chapter Lunch and Learn
January 28	CLE Seminar: Diversity in the Telecom Sector: Where Do We Go From Here?
February 5	CLE Seminar: Cutting Edge Issues in FCC Litigation
February 6	Breakfast Meet-and-Greet during the ABA Forum on Communications Law Conference
February 6	Young Lawyers Committee Happy Hour
February 13	CLE Seminar: The National Spectrum Strategy: Where Do Things Stand, and What Comes Next?
May 16-18	FCBA Annual Seminar at the Hotel Hershey

The Federal Communications Law Journal

The *Federal Communications Law Journal (FCLJ)* 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'll email you 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. The hard copy journal is free, but it must be ordered through our website.

- Log in to your account by [clicking here](#).
- Once logged in, click on "My Profile" and then "My Account" buttons on the top left menu bar.
- Scroll down to the Additional Information section. Select Yes in response to the **FCLJ Subscription - Hard Copy Format** question.
- Click on "Save Changes", and you're done!

If you have any questions, please email Kerry Loughney (kerry@fcba.org).