



# Annual Report 2024

# Overview of the TMT Law & Policy Pipeline Program

FCBA-The Tech Bar is committed to promoting meaningful representation and inclusion in the legal profession within the technology, media, and telecom (TMT) sectors. To achieve this, the FCBA TMT Pipeline Committee established two pioneering programs in 2020: the **TMT Pipeline Internship Program** and the **TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program**. It later augmented these programs with the Summer Series and Mentorship Program. Together, these initiatives aim to attract, develop, train, and support first-year law students with unique experiences and perspectives who share our commitment to inclusion, and have an interest in pursuing legal careers in TMT law and policy.

## The TMT Pipeline Internship Program

The TMT Pipeline Internship Program aims to place students into meaningful, demanding, and enriching internship opportunities with our participating employers specializing in TMT law and policy.

**YEAR 4 - 2024**

Received 89 applications from 1<sup>st</sup> year law students and placed 26 interns.

## The TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program

The TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program offers students a substantive academic enrichment curriculum, covering key principles, statutes, and regulations that are the foundation of TMT law and policy.

**YEAR 4 - 2024**

Instructed 42 students.

## Summer Series and Mentorship Program

The Summer Series and Mentorship Program provides students with continued learning and support over the summer by pairing them with mentors and hosting various events.

**YEAR 4 - 2024**

Partnered with 37 participating employers including corporations, law firms, non-profit organizations, and associations.

# The TMT Pipeline Internship Program

**The TMT Pipeline Internship Program** matches first-year law students with law firms, Fortune 100 companies, major industry associations, and prominent non-profit advocacy organizations in the TMT sector that commit to providing paid summer legal internships, offering significant legal work and writing experience, along with meaningful exposure to clients and senior leaders in their organization. The TMT Pipeline Program and has placed 104 students in internships from 2021-2024.

Thank you to our participating Year 4 employers for hiring 26 interns this year, and for contributing and being actively involved in the FCBA TMT Pipeline Internship Program.



# The TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program

**The Telecom, Media, and Technology (TMT) Law & Policy Certificate Program** is the academic enrichment and skills development component of the FCBA TMT Law & Policy Pipeline Program, providing a comprehensive but accessible introduction to TMT law and policy development.

**From 2021 to 2024, 138 diverse first-year law students** participated in the TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program, completing 6 Saturday sessions with 36+ hours of virtual instruction over 12 substantive modules, including written and oral communication skills and an *ex parte* presentation exercise.

Participating students also engaged in a mock comment drafting and *ex parte* meeting exercise, designed to provide a practical, hands-on introduction to both written and oral regulatory policy advocacy at a federal agency. This exercise allows students to practice delivering their presentations to practitioners in a small group meeting and receive valuable feedback.

While completion of the TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program is required for TMT Pipeline Internship Program participants, it is open to all TMT Pipeline Program applicants. Upon satisfactory completion of the TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program requirements, participants receive a Certificate of Achievement from the FCBA.



# The TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program

**Keynote** Ajit V. Pai, President & CEO, CTIA & former FCC Chair

**Instructors** Ari Q. Fitzgerald, Partner, Hogan Lovells US LLP,  
Svetlana Gans, Partner, Gibson Dunn LLP  
Scott H. Angstreich, Partner, Kellogg, Hansen, Todd, Figel & Frederick PLLC

**Keynote** Edith Ramirez, Partner, Hogan Lovells US LLP & former FTC Chair

**Instructors** Adam D. Krinsky, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP  
Karina Bohorquez, Associate, Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP

**Keynote** Amit P. Mehta, Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

**Instructors** Matthew A. Brill, Partner, Latham & Watkins  
Sarang (Sy) Damle, Partner, Latham & Watkins

**Keynote** Sanford S. Williams, Vice President, Somos, former DCS to the Chairwoman, FCC

**Instructors** Daniel Alvarez, Partner, Willkie Farr & Gallagher  
Chandra Marlowe, Senior Associate, Loeb & Loeb  
Adam Copeland, DBC, Wireline Competition Bureau, Fed. Comm. Commission

**Instructors** Loretta Polk, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, NCTA  
Stefan Ducich, Associate, Willkie Farr & Gallagher  
Samuel Adams, Policy Counsel, Future of Privacy Forum  
Amber Ezzell, Policy Counsel, Future of Privacy Forum

**Keynotes** Henry M. Rivera, Partner, Wiley Rein / former FCC Commissioner  
Rahul Rao, Deputy Director, Bureau of Competition, Federal Trade Comm.

**Instructors** Svetlana Gans, Partner, Gibson Dunn LLP  
Raqiyyah Pippins, Partner, Arnold & Porter LLP  
Suzanne Munck, Counsel, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP



# Summer Series & Mentorship Program

The **TMT Pipeline Summer Series and Mentorship Program** provides support, mentoring, and professional development in the form of supplemental summer sessions to TMT Pipeline Program Interns and TMT Law and Policy Certificate recipients.

In addition to the customary mentorships and support, the Program continued professional development efforts through lunch and learn events, virtual fireside chats with key professionals, and in-person networking events:

- **Summer Kick Off Social.** Hosted by TMT Pipeline Program co-chairs at NCTA, this event gave students an opportunity to network with fellow Pipeline interns, and network with mentors, employer representatives, Pipeline alums and Committee Co-Chairs, and others
- **Lunch & Learn: Interview Tips & OCI.** Hosted by Hogan and offered as a hybrid event that allowed students to join in-person or virtually.
- **Lunch & Learn: From Law Student to Lawyer.** Hosted by WBK and offered as a hybrid event that allowed students to join in-person or virtually.
- **Lunch & Learn: A Conversation with David Don, SVP, Public Policy.** Hosted by Comcast and offered as a hybrid event that allowed students to join in-person or virtually.
- **Keynote Webinar with Manish Kumar, DOJ.** Students joined virtually, including student moderators who were given the opportunity to pose questions to our keynote speaker.
- **Fireside Chat with S. Jenell Trigg: Reflections and Lessons Learned in TMT Law.** Students joined virtually.
- **End of Summer Celebration at TopGolf.** Year 4 TMT Pipeline Program students joined the program's co-chairs, employers, and mentors to celebrate their hard work through the TMT Internship Program and the TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program.



# Year 4 Enhancements

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## **Bar Stipend Program**

The **TMT Pipeline Program** offered a new benefit that provided a \$500 stipend to support bar exam preparation for select Year 2 (Summer 2022) program Interns who graduated this past spring from law schools throughout the U.S., including Howard, Georgetown and American, University of Colorado, and UCLA and are taking the bar exams in Alabama, California, Washington state, and Washington, D.C..

## **Non-Profit Pilot Program**

Thanks to the generosity of TMT Pipeline Program sponsors and supporters, the new Non- Profit Pilot Program provided one student a competitive stipend for an 8-10 week legal internships at a TMT non-profit organization during Summer 2024.

Going forward, we expect this Pilot Program will support first-year and second-year law students who are either participating in or have earned a certificate from the TMT Law and Policy Certificate Program and have expressed an interest in working in the TMT non-profit sector, and supporting the mission and work of a non-profit organization.

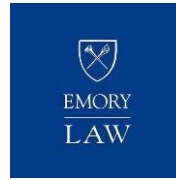
## **Ex-Parte Writing Program**

The importance of strong legal and non-legal writing and oral advocacy in one's legal career cannot be overstated.

In addition to the TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program's six virtual learning sessions that cover substantive areas of TMT law, the program includes a separate module on various styles of oral and written communication, advocacy, and workplace and client interactions.

Participating students engage in a mock comment drafting and ex parte meeting exercise designed to provide a practical, hands-on introduction to both written and oral regulatory policy advocacy at a federal agency. This exercise allows students to practice delivering their presentations to practitioners in a small group meeting where they can receive targeted and valuable feedback.

# Law Schools Represented across the Country





## Year 4 Student Spotlights



### Francesca Burke

Francesca started law school after a gap year working with a nonprofit focused on technology and telecommunications policy advocacy. She joined the FCBA TMT Pipeline Program to continue learning about various tech and telecom topics.

Participating in the program enhanced her first year in law school with interesting substance beyond that of the doctrinal classes. Getting a sense of the important legal questions within the tech and telecom landscape was immensely helpful ahead of her summer at Wiley and has strengthened her desire to be a tech and telecom lawyer.

Reflecting on the Program, Francesca shared: *“Beyond the classes, the Pipeline Program connected me with amazing students beginning their legal careers and gave me a great introduction to the FCBA. The bar has given me helpful mentors and a sense of community in what can feel like a daunting profession.”*



### Briana Humphrey

Briana is a first-generation law student from a low-income background, raised by a single mother. Wanting to find community in New York, Briana joined the Northeast Black Law Student Association (NEBLSA) during the summer before her first year at Brooklyn Law School. At the NEBLSA Annual 2023 Fall Academic Retreat she learned about the Federal Communications Bar Association’s TMT Pipeline Program.

In addition to the substantive knowledge gained through the TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program, Briana received the FCBA’s inaugural Non-Profit Pilot Program internship at the Digital Advertising Alliance (DAA) the summer of 2024.

Briana shares useful advice for future 1L students: *“It is okay to not know what you want to do. It is also natural to second guess what you think you want to do. Listening to your heart can be scary and takes bravery. Do not forget you have people around you that want to see you succeed. Some of those people, you do not even know yet. Welcome all opportunities! As you continue to grow, as best as you can, show up as you “all day err day”!*

## Year 4 Student Spotlights



### Saleshia Ellis

Saleshia Ellis is a dedicated and ambitious first-generation law student passionate about effecting positive change in the world. Growing up in a disadvantaged neighborhood with high crime rates instilled in her the belief that education was her pathway to success. Striving to make a difference in society, Saleshia joined the TMT Pipeline Program and TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program. Participating in the program gave her specialized expertise and hands-on experience in communications law and policy. Her engagement in these prestigious programs has also allowed her to develop valuable connections with industry experts and professionals.

Saleshia appreciates the TMT Pipeline Program's exemplary commitment to fostering inclusivity and diversity within the legal profession. As she enters her second year of law school at the University of California, Davis and takes on the role of Director of Pre-Law Affairs for the National Black Law Students Association, Saleshia remains committed to promoting diversity within the legal realm while furthering her expertise in communications law.



### Cassiopeia Porter

Cassie discovered the TMT Pipeline Program through HUSL alum, Diane Holland, who spoke to her Legislative and Regulatory class last fall. With no previous experience in the tech, media, and telecom industry, through the TMT Pipeline Program she was able to discover a passion for the subject and open the door to what she previously considered an inaccessible industry as someone without a formal tech background.

The TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program was rigorous and rewarding in its exposure to the foundations of tech and telecom law, communicating the importance of staying curious and open to new opportunities.

Joining the Program became a journey of self-discovery, professional development, and opportunity. She found the TMT Comment Drafting & Mock Ex Parte Assignment to be the most helpful in her professional development as it allowed her to engage in a process essential to advocacy in the telecommunications industry. Through the Program, she was able to join AT&T as a Federal Regulatory summer intern in the External and Legislative Affairs Organization.

*"The connections we make through the Pipeline Program and the FCBA are invaluable to our future success, but don't forget that our diverse perspectives in the industry are just as important."*

## Year 4 Student Spotlights



### Tahlieah Sampson

Tahlieah embarked on her journey as a first-generation law student during her 1L year, pondering the field of law she wished to pursue and the path to achieve her goals.

A pivotal networking call introduced Tahlieah to the Federal Communications Bar Association Technology, Media, and Telecom (TMT) Diversity Pipeline Program, igniting her passion for telecommunications and technology law.

As a summer associate at Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP (WBK LLP), Tahlieah had the privilege of collaborating with leading attorneys in the field of telecommunications.

Reflecting on her journey, Tahlieah offers advice to 1L students: *"Building genuine relationships and finding mentors is crucial in your first year of law school. Many attorneys are eager to support young lawyers—all you need to do is ask. Work hard, bet on yourself, and remain kind along the way."*



### Ziad Umar

Growing up in the vibrant technology landscape of the San Francisco Bay Area pushed Zaid Umar, now a 2L at UC Berkeley School of Law, to develop a keen interest in TMT law and policy. Zaid is the son of an engineer from Pakistan who immigrated to the United States to work at an upstart IT consulting firm. While the technical developments of his work fascinated his father and others like him, Zaid became curious about what drove those advancements on a broader societal level.

Through the FCBA's Diversity Pipeline Program, Zaid secured an internship at Hogan Lovells, where he gained hands-on experience working on cutting-edge TMT legal issues. As a summer associate, Zaid dug deep into everything from spectrum policy to outer space resource extraction, solidifying his passion for the field.

Looking ahead, Zaid aspires to build a full-time career as a lawyer in the TMT sector to help bridge the gap between makers and shapers of technology to ultimately push technological innovation in a way that benefits minority communities and amplifies their voices.



# Through the Years





# Year 4 Diversity Pipeline Program Co-Chairs

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**Jahi Beal**

Willkie Farr & Gallagher

**Rudy Brioché**

Comcast

**Jacqui Clary**

Altice USA

**Svetlana Gans**

Gibson Dunn

**Anisa Green**

AT&T

**Diane Holland**

Wiley Rein LLP

**Clete Johnson**

Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

**Jamile Kadre**

Federal Communications Commission

**Chris Laughlin**

Federal Communications Commission

**Jonathan Mark**

Google

**Katie Mellinger**

Federal Communications Commission

**Kimia Nikseresht**

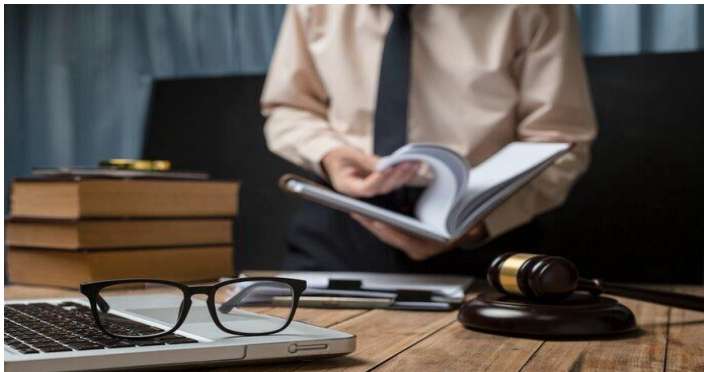
Federal Communications Commission

**Justin Perkins**

CTIA

**Ryan Thompson**

Hogan Lovells US LLP



# Your Support Matters

The FCBA is grateful to the firms, companies, associations, and individuals that have financially sponsored the TMT Law & Policy Pipeline Program. Become a Sponsor Today. Your support and contributions will help us continue enhancing the Pipeline Program and offering students the support they need at every step. We believe in creating a currency of knowledge and skills that students can use throughout their careers. Through collective effort and a commitment to nurturing talent from all backgrounds, the FCBA TMT Law & Policy Pipeline seeks to create a brighter and more inclusive future.

To sponsor, please go to FCBA TMT Law & Policy Pipeline Sponsorship information [here](#).



For more information about the FCBA TMT Law & Policy Pipeline Program, please email [TMTPipeline@fcba.org](mailto:TMTPipeline@fcba.org), visit the TMT Law & Policy Pipeline Program website, or contact the following co-chairs of the TMT Law & Policy Pipeline: Anisa Green ([al7161@att.com](mailto:al7161@att.com)); Rudy Brioché ([rudu\\_brioché@comcast.com](mailto:rudu_brioché@comcast.com)); or Svetlana Gans ([sgans@gibsondunn.com](mailto:sgans@gibsondunn.com)).



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