

# fcba NEWS

DECEMBER 2025



## 36th Annual FCBA Charity Auction - An Unforgettable Night of Giving/Auction Night Unplugged: Costumes, Cocktails & Competition

On October 30th, the FCBA community and supporters kicked off Halloween in style as members and supporters packed The Hamilton Live for an unforgettable evening, raising over **\$92,000** in support of **Pathways to Housing DC** and the **FCBA Foundation**. The Auction

Committee sincerely thanks everyone who attended, volunteered, bid, donated, or helped bring this year's Charity Auction to life. Your energy and generosity made the night one to remember.

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## Nominations for the 2026 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 2026 annual election. Positions to be filled are: President-Elect; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Assistant Treasurer; Chapter Representative to the Executive Committee; 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, Kathy Kirby, via email to [kkirby@wiley.law](mailto:kkirby@wiley.law), with a copy sent to [kerry@fcba.org](mailto: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 23, 2026**.

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 Committee CLE Seminar

**Date/Time:** Monday, December 15, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Topic:** AI at Work: Navigating a Shifting Landscape

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### Homeland Security and Emergency Communications CLE Seminar

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, December 17, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Topic:** The FCC's 911 Reliability Rules in an NG911 World

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### Privacy and Data Security/Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Robotics Committees CLE Seminar

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, January 13, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET

**Topic:** Keeping Pace with Privacy and AI Developments

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### New York Chapter Lunch and Learn

**Date/Time:** Thursday, January 29, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET

**Topic:** New York Legislative AI and Technology Agenda for 2026: A Discussion of Legislative Initiatives in New York for the 2026 Legislative Session

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### FCBA's Job Bank

To place a job bank ad with the FCBA, please [click here](#) to purchase and then email the text of the ad to [kerry@fcba.org](mailto:kerry@fcba.org). Listings and payment received by the 25th of each month will appear in the following month's newsletter and on the website. Ads should not exceed 500 words. (No headhunters please).

## PRESIDENT'S Message

### HELLO, FCBA –

December reminds us why the FCBA community thrives—connection, learning, and giving back.

We celebrated our 37th Annual Dinner on December 3. I was filled with joy seeing so many members of the bar and their guests at the Marriott Marquis ballroom. We mingled, caught up, and broke bread at over 135 tables. We saw the faces and heard the words of beneficiaries of scholarships made possible by the FCBA Foundation—showcasing the ways the Foundation makes a tangible difference in the lives of college-bound seniors and law students.

We were especially honored by the attendance of our guests: FCC Chairman Brendan Carr, Commissioner Anna Gomez, Commissioner Olivia Trusty, and NTIA Administrator Arielle Roth. A special thanks to Chairman Carr for delivering the evening's featured remarks.

Earlier that day, the FCBA, in partnership with the Practicing Law Institute (PLI), held the 43rd Annual Institute on Telecommunications Policy & Regulation. Attendees heard from an impressive lineup of leaders from industry and government, including fireside chats with Chairman Carr and NTIA Administrator Roth. I'm especially grateful to the program co-chairs—Michele Farquhar of Hogan Lovells, Diane Griffin Holland of Wiley Rein, and Bryan Tramont of Wilkinson Barker Knauer. They organized a fantastic event.

The FCBA's vibrant December continued, with multiple CLEs and lunch-and-learns. We'll be wrapping up the year with two CLEs: "AI at Work: Navigating a Shifting Landscape" on December 15 and "The FCC's 911 Reliability Rules in an NG911 World" on December 17. See [page 3](#) for more information about this month's programming.

In short, our committees and chapters are delivering on the FCBA's commitment to excellence in programming.

After such a busy lead-up—at work, in your personal lives, and otherwise—I send you all heartfelt greetings for a restful and joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year. Let us also remember family and friends who are no longer with us. They continue to bless us with their memory.

As always, thank you, FCBA. See you all in 2026!

**Matt DelNero**

FCBA President 2025-2026



**fcba** THE  
TECH BAR

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Kathleen Kirby

### Monday, December 15, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET **AI at Work: Navigating a Shifting Landscape**

The FCBA Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Robotics Committee will sponsor a CLE on **Monday, December 15, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET** entitled **AI at Work: Navigating a Shifting Landscape**. The program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

[Click here to register.](#)

**Make sure to sign in to your account to receive the member rates!**

*If you are registering on behalf of a member, please sign in using their credentials. By doing this, the information will be linked to their account.*

*If you have any registration issues, please contact [Elina Gross](#).*

**FCBA will apply for 2.0 hours of MCLE credit from the VA Bar. This program has NOT yet been approved. Attorneys licensed outside Virginia may use the certificate and materials provided to apply for credit in their jurisdictions.**

### Agenda

**1:00 – 1:05 p.m.**

#### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**1:05 – 2:00 p.m.**

#### **AI AND EMPLOYMENT LAW**

This session will explore the rapidly evolving legal landscape for AI in employment. Panelists will provide an overview of recent AI-specific laws as well as longstanding employment state laws, discussing the complex legal landscape for the use of AI in employment. Attendees will receive advice from technical experts and gain practical insights into navigating this complex and shifting regulatory terrain.

#### *Speakers:*

**Carolyn Rashby**, Of Counsel,  
Covington & Burling LLP  
**Savannah Shuntich**, Special Counsel,  
Wiley Rein LLP  
**Nathan Mondragon**, Chief Innovation  
Officer, Hirevu  
**Eric M. Dunleavy**, Vice President,  
Employment and Litigation Services  
(ELS), DCI Consulting

#### *Moderator:*

**Andrew Longhi**, Associate, Covington  
& Burling LLP

**2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

#### **AI IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION**

This panel will also feature leading experts assessing the rapid integration of artificial intelligence into daily legal work. Panelists will analyze the significant benefits, including enhanced efficiency in e-discovery, advanced legal research, and automated document review that saves considerable time and cost. However, the discussion will also confront serious ethical and practical challenges, specifically addressing the risks of “hallucinations,” client confidentiality breaches, and algorithmic bias. The session aims to provide attorneys with a practical framework for ethical compliance, emphasizing the rules of professional competence, candor to the tribunal, and adequate supervision of non-lawyer tools.

#### *Speakers:*

**Scott McKinney**, Partner, Wilson  
Sonsini  
**Professor Chinmayi Sharma**, Associate  
Professor, Fordham University School  
of Law  
**Marc Theriault**, Circuit Executive, U.S.  
Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit  
**Jonathan Mark**, Associate Corporate  
Counsel, Google

#### *Moderator:*

**Helen Marie Berg**, Associate Corporate  
Counsel, Google

### Wednesday, December 17, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET **The FCC’s 911 Reliability Rules in an NG911 World**

The FCBA Homeland Security and Emergency Communications Committee will sponsor a CLE on **Wednesday, December 17, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET** entitled **The FCC’s 911 Reliability Rules in an NG911 World**. The program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

[Click here to register.](#)

**Make sure to sign in to your account to receive the member rates!**

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### Agenda

The FCC’s rules require communications service providers to complete 911 calls, notify 911 call centers of outages, and certify that they are taking certain reliability measures. This CLE will review the FCC’s rules and best practices for covered 911 service providers (“CSPs”) to annually certify to the FCC whether they have implemented specific measures within the last year with respect to 911 circuit diversity, central office backup power, and network monitoring. Panelists will also discuss the technical and legal issues raised in the FCC’s proposal to extend those reliability requirements, along with interoperability requirements,

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## DECEMBER 17 CLE

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to the Next Generation 911 (“NG911”) environment.

**1:00 – 1:05 p.m.**

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**1:05 – 2:00 p.m.**

### **THE FCC’S 911 RELIABILITY RULES AND COMPLIANCE BEST PRACTICES**

*Panelists:*

**Rachel Wehr**, Deputy Chief, Policy & Licensing Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, FCC  
**Chris Fedeli**, Attorney Advisory, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, FCC

**Leah Missildine**, Executive Director, Alabama 9-1-1 Board

*Moderator:*

**Tyler Dillon**, Associate, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

**2:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

### **NG911 RELIABILITY AND INTEROPERABILITY**

*Panelists:*

**April Heinze**, Chief of 9-1-1 Operations, NENA – The 911 Association

**Lauren Kravetz**, Vice President of Government Affairs, Intrado

**Susan Ornstein**, Senior Director, Legal & Regulatory Affairs, Comtech

**Kathleen Slattery Thompson**, Vice President, Policy & Advocacy, USTelecom

**Karen Peltz Strauss**, Legal Consultant, Communication Service for the Deaf

**Alison Venable**, Government Relations Senior Counsel, APCO International

*Moderator:*

**Wes Wright**, Executive Director, NG911 Institute; Partner, Keller & Heckman

## **Tuesday, January 13, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET Keeping Pace with Privacy and AI Developments**

The FCBA’s **Privacy and Data Security** and **Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Robotics Committees** will sponsor a CLE on **Tuesday, January 13, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET** entitled **Keeping Pace with Privacy and AI Developments**. The program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

[Click here to register.](#)

**Make sure to sign in to your account to receive the member rates!**

*If you are registering on behalf of a member, please sign in using their credentials. By doing this, the information will be linked to their account.*

*If you have any registration issues, please contact [Elina Gross](#).*

**FCBA will apply for 2.0 hours of MCLE credit from the VA Bar. This program has NOT yet been approved. Attorneys licensed outside Virginia may use the certificate and materials provided to apply for credit in their jurisdictions.**

## *Agenda*

**12:00 – 12:05 p.m.**

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**12:05 – 1:00 p.m.**

### **AI AND PRIVACY: PERSPECTIVES FROM POLICYMAKERS AND REGULATORS**

The policy landscape for AI and privacy is rapidly developing—with debates at both the federal and state levels over whether and how these spaces should be regulated, and who should take the lead. This panel will discuss developments at the federal level, including recent Administration actions and priorities

articulated in the AI Action Plan, as well as congressional proposals and debates related to preemption, moratoriums, and regulation. The panel will also discuss state actions and developments, from legislation to regulatory enforcement.

*Moderator:*

**Nate Beltran**, Policy Advisor, U.S. House of Representatives

*Panelists:*

**Kaitlyn Karpenko**, Assistant Attorney General, Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office

**Senator James Maroney**, Senate Deputy Majority Leader, 14th District of Connecticut

*Additional Speakers TBD*

**1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

### **AI AND PRIVACY: PERSPECTIVES FROM INDUSTRY**

As AI transforms business operations, how are companies navigating the privacy challenges that come with it? This panel brings together industry leaders to discuss practical use cases for AI, emerging compliance hurdles, and the evolving regulatory landscape. Panelists will share views on federal proposals, the patchwork of state privacy laws, and recent calls for moratoriums on state AI and privacy regulations—highlighting what these developments mean for innovation and consumer trust.

*Moderator:*

**John Eagle Miles**, Associate, Mintz

*Panelists:*

**Rudy Brioché**, Adjunct Professor, Media Law, School of Media & Public Affairs, The George Washington University

**Paul Eisner**, Vice President, Cybersecurity, USTelecom—The Broadband Association

**Tatiana Rice**, Senior Director for U.S. Legislation, Future of Privacy Forum

**David Valdez**, Vice President, Privacy, Cybersecurity & AI, CTIA

**Preston Wise**, Vice President, State Policy, Comcast Corporation

## COMMITTEE AND CHAPTER *Events*

### Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Robotics Committee

**Event:** CLE Seminar

**Date/Time:** Monday, December 15, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Location:** Virtual via the Zoom platform  
**Topic:** AI at Work: Navigating a Shifting Landscape

**Cost:** \$150.00 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 3](#)  
[Click here to register.](#)

### Homeland Security and Emergency Communications Committee

**Event:** CLE Seminar

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, December 17, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

**Location:** Virtual via the Zoom platform

**Topic:** The FCC's 911 Reliability Rules in an NG911 World

**Cost:** \$150.00 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 3](#)  
[Click here to register.](#)

### New York Chapter

**Event:** Lunch and Learn

**Date/Time:** Thursday, January 29, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. ET

**Location:** Virtual via the Zoom platform  
**Topic:** New York Legislative AI and Technology Agenda for 2026: A Discussion of Legislative Initiatives in New York for the 2026 Legislative Session  
With federal efforts to regulate AI remaining uncertain, state legislatures have been moving forward to regulate various aspects of AI and technology. New York has been at the forefront of this effort. This webinar will discuss the latest legislative efforts regarding AI and technology in New York.

**Speakers:** Matt Hennings, Assistant Secretary for Program Police, NY State Assembly, Jean Macaffer, Legislative Counsel to NY State Assemblyman Steve Otis (Chairperson, NY Assembly Science and Technology Committee), Elan Silver, Senior Counsel, Office of NY State Senator Kristen Gonzalez, AI Law & Policy (Chairperson, NY Senate Internet and Technology Committee), and additional speakers to be announced.

[Click here to register.](#)

### Privacy and Data Security Committee

**Event:** CLE Seminar

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, January 13, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET

**Location:** Virtual via the Zoom platform

**Topic:** Keeping Pace with Privacy and AI Developments

**Cost:** \$150.00 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.](#)

## COMMITTEE AND CHAPTER *News*

### TMT Law & Policy Pipeline Program

This year, **51 exceptional first-year law students** earned the opportunity to interview with **22 leading employers** across top law firms, companies, and trade associations. These panel interviews open doors to **highly competitive Summer 2026 internships**, giving students a rare platform to showcase their talent, gain

hands-on experience, and start building the professional networks that will define their legal careers. It's a powerful demonstration of our mission: **connecting rising lawyers with the industry leaders shaping the future of TMT law and policy.**

Students selected for internships will next participate in **eight immersive, full-day sessions** through the **TMT Law & Policy Certificate Program**—a cutting-edge curriculum designed to ensure they're

ready to contribute with confidence on day one. And the best part? **Every student who reached the interview stage is invited to participate in the Certificate Program**, whether they secure an internship through the Pipeline Program.

Organizations interested in learning more about how to support or participate in the program are encouraged to contact the TMT Law & Policy Pipeline Program Committee at [tmtpipeline@fcba.org](mailto:tmtpipeline@fcba.org).

### 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 ([fcjljarticles@law.gwu.edu](mailto:fcjljarticles@law.gwu.edu)). Articles may also be submitted through ExpressO or Scholastica. For general inquiries about the FCLJ, please contact the Editor-in-Chief, Ella Hillier ([fcjlj@law.gwu.edu](mailto:fcjlj@law.gwu.edu)).

### FCBA Foundation Scholarship and Internship Programs – Call for Volunteers!

FCBA members, we need your help! Last year, with the help of our volunteers, the Foundation awarded \$331,000 in College Scholarships, Law School Scholarships, and Law School Summer Internship Stipends. We need reviewers to help students achieve academic success.

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

Graduating high school seniors 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 Friday, March 13. We then will invite the most promising candidates back for personal interviews to be held in late March through 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](mailto:foundation@fcba.org) by Friday, February 6, 2026.** 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.

Application reviews for both the Law School Summer Internship Stipend and Law School Scholarship program will take place in late March. Specific details on the process and timeline will be provided to volunteers closer to the date.

**\*\*If you would like to review law school scholarship or summer internship stipend applications, please email the FCBA Foundation at [foundation@fcba.org](mailto:foundation@fcba.org) by Friday, February 6, 2026.**

**If you don't have time to volunteer this year, please consider making a monetary donation to the FCBA Foundation to support these programs.**

If you are able to donate, please follow the instructions below:

- **SIGN IN** with your member credentials in order to link it to your account.
- Once in your profile, click **Donations** in the top menu bar for a list of funds.

### 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. 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!



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### Ryan Wallach

By: Laura Phillips

Ryan Wallach is currently a Senior Vice President, Legal Regulatory Affairs, and Senior Deputy General Counsel at Comcast Corporation. In that role, he helps lead the team responsible for providing legal counsel to Comcast's Federal and State Government Affairs and Regulatory teams and to the Policy and External Affairs teams, as well as various business groups whose work implicates regulatory matters. The scope of his areas of responsibility extends from the FCC, DOJ, and FTC, to the 40 states, the District, and the various localities where Comcast operates. I've known Ryan for some time and I was delighted to have coffee with him recently to discuss his perspectives on changes in communications law and policy and careers.



**Q: What attracted you to the field of communications?**

**A:** After I graduated college in Colorado, I spent a year in DC doing a bunch of cobbled together jobs before deciding to return to Colorado Springs and there I started working in sales at US West Paging and Cellular. As part of my new employee training, I was given a copy of the 1984 AT&T Modification of Final Judgment (MFJ) that governed the breaking up of the Bell System. Not sure how many of my co-workers read the MFJ from beginning to end, but I did and it sparked a fascination with the communications industry. I worked in sales for three and a half years before going to law school at George Washington University, which at the time was located a mere four blocks from the FCC.

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

**A:** After my sales gig at US West, my next communications related job was interning for the FCC Cable Services Bureau in the summer of 1996, shortly after the Telecommunications Act of 1996 became law and during the numerous rulemaking proceedings that the FCC had to complete within 180 days. After my summer as CSB, I was hired as an intern for Chairman Hundt and I continued in that role in the office of Chairman Kennard through the Spring of 1998, except for when I was a Summer Associate at Cole Raywid & Braverman

and Dickstein Shapiro. Throughout law school, I also was the research assistant for Professor Jerome Barron who taught Constitutional and Media law. After law school, I clerked for Judge Harold Greene – the judge who handled the entire Bell System breakup - on the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, and then went on to clerk for Judge Clyde Hamilton on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. I joined Willkie Farr & Gallagher's communications group in August 2000 and worked there until August 2012 when I moved to Comcast Corporation where I have been ever since.

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

**A:** I don't think I ever had a long-term plan other than being engaged in doing communications law and policy. There were some predefined paths in my career where I had to plan, e.g., applying for internships at the FCC, applying for clerkships, or applying to be in private practice at a law firm. That said, where I ended up may have been more a product of happenstance or being in the right place at the right time combined with a strong work ethic that was the product of my parents and my twin brother's mentorship in law school. I have a deeply instilled belief that my job is to do whatever I need to do in order to get things done.

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

**A:** That is a hard one to answer. I have been blessed with great mentors and bosses who have consistently thrown new challenges my way to help push me to get better and gain experience. Some of the more challenging projects have been working on regulatory approvals for transactions, dealing with investigations of clients by various parts of the government, and lately working on deployment grant policies; yes all things BEAD.

In thinking about what has been the most interesting to me professionally, I'd have to say working to support and achieve regulatory transaction approvals tops the list because it requires coordinating closely with a bunch of business teams and trying to explain to policymakers why what the business wants to do is good for consumers and the country. There are a lot of different aspects to handling all this successfully and that represents a means to stretch yourself professionally.

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

**A:** My bosses, all of whom became mentors, really impressed me. From Professor Barron to the folks at the FCC to the Judges to the partners at Willkie to Lynn Charytan and Frank Buono at Comcast, who are forces of nature at times, all of them have been genuinely caring people. Besides being incredibly talented colleagues, they are truly interested in and care about me and my personal life as much as they care about my work output. After getting to know them, I can't say I am surprised.

What has surprised me in my career is how quickly issues in communications law evolve and arise. I think that is part of what I love about communications law, i.e., new issues keep coming up as technology evolves.

**Q: What do you enjoy reading?**

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# Get to Know an **FCBA MEMBER**

**RYAN WALLACH**

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**A:** For work, orders and decisions that come out my clients' way are always the most enjoyable, especially if they include and address arguments I helped develop. For leisure, I love sci-fi and fantasy books, to escape to other worlds with other people's problems. I was an early George R.R. Martin follower and read much of the Game of Thrones series repeatedly up until they started the HBO series, which got ahead of the books for a bit, so I stopped until they finished the TV series and then finished the books before watching the series. Robert Jordan's Wheel of Time series, now also an Amazon Prime TV series, was another I loved, though some of the books in the middle dragged on. I am now reading Brandon Sanderson's Stormlight Archives series.

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

**A:** My life is sort of an open book, so I think most people know that I love beer (and bringing beer to conferences for after the bars close), working out early in the morning to get my head squared away for the day, watching sports (my girls' sports, rugby, and CAPS hockey are the primary ones), dancing, and food (cooking and eating). As far as hobbies, if sitting in my backyard and grilling while reading and listening to music can be a hobby, then that might well be mine.

**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:** Things you should DO: Work hard, be a sponge and take in as much as you can, try to be nice to everyone, but always be genuine.

Things to AVOID: office politics, being the subject of those politics, missing deadlines, relying on AI too much (it may not be as intelligent as it claims or you think, and it lies and is not flawless).

**Q:** How has your life changed as a result of COVID-19?

**A:** COVID confirmed what I knew before, which is that I can be just as productive working remotely as I can in the office. Employers' willingness to be more flexible about work location was a benefit for us all. That said, I also understand the desire to have a functioning office environment, especially to help educate and mentor younger employees. So, like many things, it's all about finding the right balance while still doing your best possible work always.

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

**A:** I think I was a student member of the FCBA during law school, so my guess is I joined in either 1997 or 1998, and I then became a full-fledged member in 2000 after my clerkships concluded. The initial value was educational and social: educational in that I could go to all manner of luncheons, CLEs, and

conferences and learn a lot about the communications industry; social in that the happy hours, luncheons, and conferences were great, and I got to meet a lot of people who all had many of the same professional interests that I had.

As I got further into my career, the FCBA provided me with ways to experience leadership opportunities outside of my workplace, which unquestionably helped to improve me, and by extension, my career. The long-term value has been getting to know and enjoy an amazing group of colleagues in the same general legal field as me. There is nothing like this group and the access it can provide to a giant pool of knowledge. It has made me a more well-rounded (experientially not physically, despite my love of beer and food) and for sure, a better attorney.

---

Interested in learning more about another FCBA member? If there is a member you'd like to know better, contact Laura Phillips at [laura@phillipscommlaw.com](mailto:laura@phillipscommlaw.com).

## 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](mailto:kerry@fcba.org)).

# TMT LAW & POLICY PIPELINE PROGRAM

The FCBA is grateful to the firms, companies, and associations who financially sponsor the TMT Law & Policy Pipeline Program. If you are interested in sponsoring the Program for the 2025-2026 year, please do so by following these instructions:

- **SIGN IN to your account.** If you are sponsoring on behalf of a member, sign in using their credentials (username and password).
- Once in your profile, click **EVENTS** in the top menu bar. From there click **FCBA TMT Pipeline Program Sponsorship FY26**. Select the level and complete the transaction.

## TMT LAW & POLICY PIPELINE PROGRAM SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

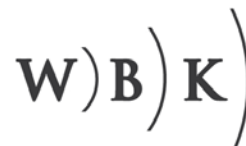
- Order of the Coif (\$5,000)
- Summa (\$2,500)
- Magna (\$1,000)
- Cum Laude (\$500)

Sponsors will receive name recognition for their support in the FCBA newsletter, on the FCBA website, and via social media. In addition, the top two sponsorship tiers will receive logo recognition in the newsletter. This sponsorship is for July 1 through June 30. Note that sponsorship contributions to the FCBA's TMT Law & Policy Pipeline Program are not tax deductible. If you wish to sponsor over at a level over \$5,000, please contact Elina at [elina@fcba.org](mailto:elina@fcba.org).

### ORDER OF THE COIF (\$5,000)



WILKINSON  
BARKER  
KNAUER



### SUMMA (\$2,500)



### CUM LAUDE (\$500)

**The Brioché Family**  
**Matt DelNero**  
**Diane Griffin Holland**  
**Megan Anne Stull**

# 36th Annual FCBA CHARITY AUCTION

► CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The festivities began with a surprise entrance from our celebrity emcees, FCBA President **Matt DelNero** and FCBA Legend **Adam Copeland**, who embraced the Halloween spirit by taking the stage dressed as farm animals, instantly setting a fun and lighthearted tone. From there, the night only got more exciting.

Attendees enjoyed a full slate of activities, from spirited rounds of **telecom trivia** to a crowd-favorite **Finish the Lyrics** challenge, where guests sang their way through classic hits to unlock funds during the personal pledge drive. The musical enthusiasm (and bold performances!) helped bring the room together in support of two meaningful causes. The excitement continued with a standout lineup of **live auction experiences**, including luxurious getaways to Easton, Maryland, and Martha's Vineyard, an intimate afternoon of hand-crafted cocktails with FCBA icon Van Bloys, and coveted VIP tickets to "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver." Guests eagerly dove into the re-introduced **in-person bidding options**, competed live for select items, tested their luck in the **raffle**, and browsed the ever-popular mystery **wine grab-bag**. The energy in the room was electric as paddles went up for some of the night's most coveted prizes.

With proceeds from the FCBA Charity Auction, **Pathways to Housing DC** will expand its targeted programming for Transition Age Youth (18–24) experiencing homelessness, reaching nearly 400 young people during the grant period. Auction proceeds will help bridge critical gaps in academic, vocational, and basic-needs resources by funding GED materials, tutoring, college and vocational application support, and essential school supplies. The funds will also strengthen career pathways through coaching, interview attire, leadership development, and financial literacy education. Additionally, contributions will increase youth access to technology, such as cell phones, chargers, and computers and provide vital necessities including culturally responsive hygiene products, transportation assistance,



food support, and community-building activities. Together, these investments will help Pathways deliver comprehensive support that empowers youth to pursue stability, education, and long-term success.

Participation in the Auction also supports the **FCBA Foundation's** annual scholarship program, which provides financial assistance and laptop computers to DC public high school students, helping them succeed in college and beyond. Each year, the Foundation reviews applications from local high school students and selects scholarship recipients based on financial need, academic achievement, and service to their schools and communities. This year, the FCBA Foundation provided **new laptops and \$295,000 in scholarships** to 22 DC high school students. To make a

direct donation to the Foundation, [click here](#) and log into your account.

The success of the 36th Annual Charity Auction was truly a collective effort. The Auction Committee extends its sincere thanks to the Young Lawyers Committee (YLC) Co-Chairs, **Jaime McCoy** and **Cassie Vangelow**, and to the FCBA staff, including **Kerry Loughney** and **Stephanie Budaker**, for their leadership and dedication. The Co-Chairs also deeply appreciate the Auction Committee members and volunteers who devoted countless hours to planning the event, securing prizes, and coordinating with our beneficiaries. We are equally grateful to the hundreds of generous FCBA members and local business partners who contributed more than 100 prizes to this year's Auction.



# 36th Annual **FCBA CHARITY AUCTION**





## 36th Annual **FCBA CHARITY AUCTION**



### **The event also would not have been possible without support from our generous sponsors:**

**Thank you to our Platinum sponsors:** Covington & Burling LLP; HWG LLP; Somos, Inc.; Wiley Rein LLP; Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP.

**Thank you to our Gold sponsors:** AT&T; Cahill; DLA Piper; Mintz; Paul Hastings; Southern Linc; T-Mobile; Verizon; Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP.

**Thank you to our Silver sponsors:** American Tower Corporation; Cooley LLP; Cox Enterprises; CTIA; EchoStar Corporation; Hogan Lovells; Lerman Senter PLLC; Wilson Sonsini.



## 36th Annual **FCBA CHARITY AUCTION**





# 36th Annual **FCBA CHARITY AUCTION**





## 36th Annual **FCBA CHARITY AUCTION**





## 36th Annual **FCBA CHARITY AUCTION**



### Thanks to the 2025 Auction Committee!

Andrew Longhi  
Anisa Latif Green  
Anthony Patrone  
B'anca Glenn  
Brett Halligan  
Cait Barbas  
Cassie Vangellow

Colleen McCroskey  
Conor O'Donovan  
Graham Stevenson  
Jaime McCoy  
Justin McCuen  
Kiara Ortiz  
Kim Alli

Kimia Nikseresht  
Lauren Lerman  
Matt Diaz  
Matt Uvas  
Negheen Sanjar  
Peter Gregory  
Shannon Sylvester

Sherry Ross  
Sophie Galleher  
Stacey Weber  
Steve Conley  
Warren Kessler

## In MEMORIAM

### Harry F. Cole (1949 – 2025)

Long-time communications attorney and FCBA member Harry F. Cole died on October 25, 2025, as a result of kidney cancer. He was 76. For the last 18 years of his career, before his retirement in 2020, Harry was a partner with Fletcher, Heald, Hildreth PLC, primarily representing clients in broadcast regulatory matters.

Harry was born in Providence, Rhode Island. He grew up around Narragansett Bay, spending summers in Jamestown and the rest of the year in Providence. He taught himself how to play guitar and banjo and was in a band in high school.

Harry attended Amherst College and graduated in 1971, *magnum cum laude*. His senior thesis, which won an award, was “Rock Music and Youth Culture in America 1960–1969.”

After graduating from Amherst, Harry attended Boston University Law School, from which he graduated in 1974.

Harry’s first position after law school was with the FCC as an Attorney-Advisor in

what was then known as the Broadcast Bureau.

After almost two years with the FCC, Harry joined the law firm of Arent, Fox, Kittner, Plotkin & Kahn (now Arent Fox Shiff LLP). In 1981, he left Arent Fox and, with former Arent Fox colleague Gene Bechtel, formed Bechtel & Cole, a partnership that lasted two decades. After Bechtel & Cole, Harry joined Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth in 2001, where he remained until his retirement.

Harry was part of the team that brought the seminal First Amendment case *FCC v. Pacifica Foundation* before the Supreme Court, defending the broadcast of comedian George Carlin’s “Seven Dirty Words” monologue. He represented broadcasters and litigated through the Supreme Court a Fifth Amendment-based affirmative action challenge to certain FCC policies, and he led the Fletcher Heald team which succeeded in relieving many broadcasters of the obligation of providing Social Security Number-based FRNs in their Ownership Reports (FCC Form 323). He also launched Fletcher Heald’s blog and was its ‘blogmeister’ until his retirement.

Harry wrote the *Cole’s Law* column which appeared periodically in *Radio World* magazine, and in 2007 he co-authored an article (“The Myth of the Localism Mandate”) in *Catholic University of America’s CommLaw Conspectus* which challenged the conventional wisdom that broadcasters are under any statutory or regulatory obligation to provide “local” programming. He taught FCC Practice and Procedure at the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University and Civil and Criminal Procedure at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia.

Throughout his career as an attorney, Harry remained active as a musician. He kept playing and composing music, and fronting the DC bar band “The Fabulous Kamadebts” as singer and lead guitarist. Harry’s other interests included baking, crossword puzzles, and rock ‘n’ roll trivia.

Fletcher Heald’s Co-Managing Partner, Frank Montero, described Harry as “a unique combination of intellect, wit and talent and one the best writers I have ever known, in or out of the legal profession.”

Harry is survived by his wife Laurie, their sons, Tucker and William (Wiley), and his brother, Francis Sessions Cole III.

## Save the Dates for the 2026 FCBA Annual Seminar! May 15-17 at The Hotel Hershey

Mark your calendars now and make plans to join your colleagues at the **FCBA Annual Seminar at The Hotel Hershey on May 15-17, 2026!** 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 or volleyball 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 amenities and activities, go to: <https://www.thehotelhershey.com/>.



## FCBA Extends a Warm Welcome to Its Newest Members!

(as of 11/30/25)

**Claudia Alvarez Valencia**  
**Salvatore DeSena**  
**William Fullerton-Meaney**,  
Telecommunications Law  
Professionals PLLC

**Nour Hasan**, Wilkinson Barker  
Knauer, LLP  
**Andrew Hendrickson**, FCC  
**Duffy Knoll**  
**Stephen Raher**, Tabor Law Group

And huge thanks to those who recruited  
them: **Edward Carlson** and **Matt  
DelNero**

## Calendar

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>December 15</b>     | CLE Seminar: AI at Work: Navigating a Shifting Landscape  |
| <b>December 17</b>     | CLE Seminar: The FCC's 911 Reliability Rules in an NG911 World  |
| <b>January 13</b>      | CLE Seminar: Keeping Pace with Privacy and AI Developments  |
| <b>January 29</b>      | Lunch and Learn: New York Legislative AI and Technology Agenda for 2026: A Discussion of Legislative Initiatives in New York for the 2026 Legislative Session |
| <b>May 15-17, 2026</b> | FCBA Annual Seminar at The Hotel Hershey in Hershey, PA   |

## 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:** [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) (@fcba\_law)

**FCBA Foundation:** [Foundation LinkedIn](#) (FCBA Foundation)

## 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](mailto:elina@fcba.org)) so she can update it.**



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