

American Bar Association

Fifth Circuit

“Pleading the Fifth”



Circuit Handbook

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Circuit website: <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/5thcircuit/home.html>

What Can You Do within the ABA?

Engage the Broader ABA! (See page 3-4[Structure, Sections])

Network, network, network! (See pages 4, 5-10 [Sections, Leadership])

Talk to your Local Leadership! Have questions? Want to get more involved? They are here to help you. (See pages 7-10 [Circuit Leadership, Leadership by School])

Serve as a Leader in the ABA! (See page 11 [Div/Cir leadership, Application])

Find a Job! (See page 12-13 [Job Bank])

Attend the Fall and Spring Circuit Meetings! (See page 14[Meetings Page])

Apply for ABA First-Time-Event Grants! (See pages 15-16 [Grant pages])

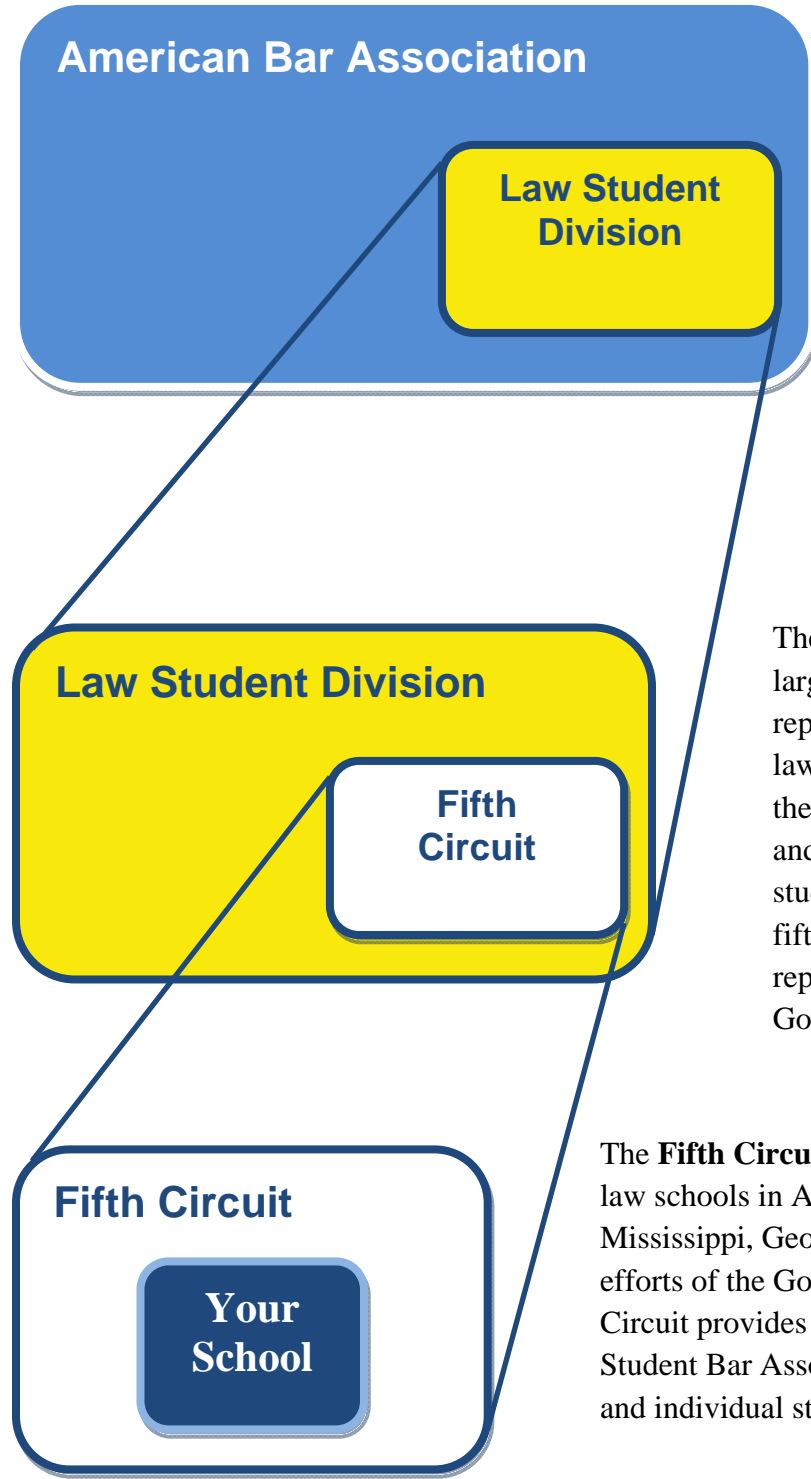
Submit your Local Program for an ABA Award! (See page 17 [Award page])

Write for an ABA Publication! (See page 18 [Publication page])

Learn about Your Area of Law! (See pages 4, 14, 18 [Section page, Meetings page, publications page])

Participate in a Division Competition! (See page 19 [Competition])

The ABA Structure and You



With over 400,000 members, the **American Bar Association** is *the largest professional organization on the face of the planet!* It is comprised of students, judges, professors, attorneys, and other legal professionals from across the nation. State and local bar associations are heavily involved with the ABA, using its breadth to strengthen their own organizations.

The **Law Student Division** is the largest division of the ABA, representing the interests of all 46,000 law students nationwide. Additionally, the Division provides programming and opportunities for member law students. The Division is divided into fifteen Circuits, each of which is represented on the Division Board of Governors by the Circuit's Governor.

The **Fifth Circuit** is comprised the twenty-seven law schools in Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, and Puerto Rico. Through the efforts of the Governor and Lt. Governors, the Circuit provides a wide variety of support to local Student Bar Associations, law school organizations, and individual students.

The ABA Connection:

The National Network

Join one the following entities of the legal field that interests you. Receive information about developments in that field of law. Attend meetings of attorneys who practice in that field of law. Better yet, apply to be a Division Liaison for the entity! (See page 11 [Become leader])

Divisions

- General Practice, Solo and Small Firm
- Government and Public Sector Lawyers
- Judicial
- Senior Lawyers

Sections

- Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice
- Antitrust Law
- Business Law
- Criminal Justice
- Dispute Resolution
- Environment, Energy and Resources Law
- Family Law
- Health Law
- Individual Rights and Responsibilities
- Intellectual Property Law
- International Law
- Labor and Employment Law
- Law Practice Management
- Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
- Litigation
- Public Contract Law
- Public Utility, Communications and Transportation Law
- Real Property, Trust and Estate Law
- Science and Technology Law
- State and Local Government
- Taxation
- Tort, Trial and Insurance Practice Section (TIPS)

Go Local with the ABA

Even if you only intend on practicing on a local or state-wide level, the ABA serves as a critical hub for state and local bar associations.

You can trust that the ABA will be there, at all stages of your career, to make your legal leadership more effective. For you as a student, this is a *great networking opportunity*.

Indeed, the ABA Annual Meeting includes representatives from all state bars, along with all of the local bars from each state. These local and state representatives are so numerous that each state bar hosts a meeting as a part of the ABA Annual Meeting.

Additionally, practice-area leaders within each state are highly involved with the ABA Sections pertaining to that area of practice. By joining the Section of law you are interested in, you will be able to develop relationships with members of your state and local bars, as well as others from across the nation.

Division Leadership

Chair

- **Kevin Johnson – University of Alabama School of Law**
- The National Chair of the Division serves as the voice of the Division. During the times when the Assembly is not in session, the Chair and the Board of Governors provide overall leadership for the Division. Additionally, the Chair oversees the day-to-day operations of the Division and works with the executive team and the ABA-LSD support staff to ensure the goals and objectives of the Division are met.

Vice-Chair of Membership and ABA Representatives

- **Stephanie McCoy Loquvam – Arizona State University (Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law)**
- This Vice-Chair of the Division primarily serves to give greater effect to the efforts of ABA Representatives at each school. This involves providing each Representative with helpful information on opportunities available to student, developing marketing materials and stratagems, and directing the Division in its student outreach efforts generally.

Secretary-Treasurer

- **Ann Michelle Hart – University of the Pacific (McGeorge School of Law)**
- The National Secretary - Treasurer serves a dual role: first, recording National meetings to provide a permanent record of the Division so that all Division members can see the work of their National Officers; and second, distributing Division funds for membership drives and assisting local efforts to establish a foundation of programming at law schools.

Division Representative to the ABA Board of Governors

- **Tommy Preston, Jr. – University of South Carolina School of Law**
- The Student Representative serves as the official liaison between the ABA Law Student Division and the ABA Board of Governors. The “Big Board” consists of up to 40 individuals from around the United States who oversee the general operation of the Association and develop specific plans of action. The Student Representative is responsible for voicing the concerns of law students and the LSD before the Board, and working with ABA leaders, such as the ABA President, on implementing their goals and finding ways to include law students in the process.

Vice-Chair of Student Bar Associations

- **Carter Alleman – Valparaiso University**
- This position serves as a liaison between SBA Presidents and the Division, responsible for making sure SBA concerns are voiced in the Division. The Vice-Chair of SBAs connects SBA Presidents to one another, collectively developing resources that are then shared with all SBA Presidents.

Division Delegates

- **J. Eric Cavanaugh – University of South Carolina School of Law**
- **Tiffany V. Colbert – Stetson University School of Law**
- **Richard Manhattan – University of Nevada Las Vegas (Boyd School of Law)**
- Division delegates are the Division's face within the broader ABA, serving as our three delegates to the over 400-member ABA House of Delegates. The House of Delegates votes on matters affecting the entire legal community, including you as a law student.

Student Editor of the *Student Lawyer Magazine*

- **Tonnya Kennedy Kohn**
- The Student Editor is heavily involved in the design and content of the Student Lawyer magazine, ensuring that your concerns are addressed. Additionally, this position involves publicizing event and efforts at individual law schools, simultaneously recognizing achievements and allowing all law students to build on successful ideas.

Division Liaisons

- Division Liaisons are the Division's connection to the myriad other entities within the ABA. They interact with attorneys in the various entities to make sure that your voice is heard in their decisions, and that the Division is aware of their activities. Because these individuals are the face of the Division within the ABA, appointments to these positions are highly competitive.

Your Circuit Leadership Team

Circuit Governor

- **Ronald Morris- Mississippi College School of Law**
- The Circuit Governor serves as one of the fifteen members of the Division Board of Governors, representing the Fifth Circuit as the Board determines the overall direction of the Division. Additionally, the Governor is tasked with making sure that the opportunities from the Division are fully realized by all students within the Circuit. Don't hesitate to contact your Governor, who is at your service.

Lieutenant Governors

- Lieutenant Governors are involved in effectively translating the opportunities provided by the ABA to you, the students. Given the wide range of both opportunities and student interests, these positions are held by individuals with an interest in particular areas and an ability to organize efforts broadly to be create better local benefit. They work hard for you, and are available to serve you. This year, your Circuit Lieutenant Governors are as follows:
- **Executive Lt. Governor** - Kyle Bedran– Florida Coastal School of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of Internal Communications** – Sara Budstick– Mississippi College School of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of External Communications** – Emily VanOosting– Stetson University College of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of Membership Benefits**– Paul Rosenblatt– Mississippi College School of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of ABA Representatives** – Samatha Fatima– Stetson University College of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of Technology** – Bryan Baysinger– Florida Costal School of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of Alabama Regional Coordination** – Tina Lam--Cumberland School of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of Georgia Regional Coordination** – Jeffery Anderson– John Marshall School of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of Student Bar Associations** – Brent Lowman– Florida State.
- **Lt. Gov. of Non-traditional Students** – Amy Bulter-Zapatka– John Marshall School of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of Diversity** – Torri Nichelle– Univeristy of Mississippi.
- **Lt. Gov. of Mental Health Initiative** – Blake Terry– Mississippi College School of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of Public Interest** – Hunter Felknor– Ave Maria School of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of Veterans Affairs** – Jim Myers– Mississippi 'College School of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of Career Development**– Lynsay Peardon – Mississippi College School of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of Fall and Spring Meeting**--Sara Lathrop--Georgia State.
- **Lt. Gov. of Pre-Release Program**--Jessica Chiappone--Nova Southeastern University.
- **Lt. Gov. of Technology**--Bryan Baysinger--Florida Coastal School of Law.
- **Lt. Gov. of VITA**--Christine Barry--Barry University.
- **Lt. Gov. of Mississippi Regional Coordination**--Kitty Wood--University of Mississippi.
- **Lt. Gov. of Northern Florida Regional Coordination**--Sopi Mital--Florida A&M University
- **Lt. Gov. of Southern Florida Regional Coordination**--Jonathan Groth--Nova University.
- **Lt. Gov. of Tennessee Regional Coordination**--Mandy Strickland Floyd--University of Memphis
- **Lt. Govs. of Puer to Rico Regional Coordination**--Osvaldo Miguel Medina Hernandez and Christina Caraballo--Interamerican University School of Law

Division Liaisons from the Fifth Circuit

- **Liaison to the Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs**--Sandy Al Fordham--John Marshall School of Law.
- **Liaison to the Section of International Law**--Jeffrey Anderson--John Marshall School of Law.
- **Liaison to the General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Division**--Grant A. Beardsley--Stetson University College of Law.
- **Project Director of the Veteran's Advocacy Initiative**--Javier Centonzio--Stetson University College of Law.
- **Liaison to the Section of Criminal Justice-Juvenile Justice Committee**--Jessica Chiappone--Nova Southeastern University.
- **Liaison to the Section of Criminal Justice-Defense Functions and Services Committee**--Sonia Monika Wilson--University of Alabama School of Law.
- **Liaison to the Section of State and Local Government**--Margaret R. Good--University of Florida, Levin College of Law.
- **Liaison to the Commission on Domestic Violence**--Mary Allison Iglehart--Stetson University College of Law.
- **Liaison to the Forum on the Construction Industry**--Nathan Jaye--Nova Southeastern University.
- **Liaison to the Section of Environment, Energy and Resources Law**--Brian David Kenyon--Florida State University.
- **Liaison to the Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities**--AIDS Coordinating Group--Christine Markham--Florida A&M University College of Law.
- **Liaison to the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants**--Sopi Mitil--Florida A&M University College of Law.
- **Liaison to the Section of Antitrust Law-Equal Opportunity Committee**--Jeri Ostuw--Stetson University College of Law.
- **Liaison to the Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division**--Jessica M. Simmons--Florida Coastal School of Law.
- **Liaison to the Judicial Division**--Tony Thomas--Stetson University School of Law.

Your Local Leadership

Every ABA leader in the Circuit is here to respond to your needs. Don't hesitate to reach out to these individuals at your school to find out more about what the ABA can do for you, and how you can get involved!

How Can You Become an ABA Leader? Just Apply and Seek the Votes of Your Fellow Students!

Application Deadline: January 15, 2011	Application Deadline: February 1, 2011	Application Deadline: February 15, 2011
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Division Representative to the ABA Board of Governors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair• Vice-Chair• Secretary-Treasurer• Vice-Chair of Student Bar Associations• Student Editor• Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Liaison

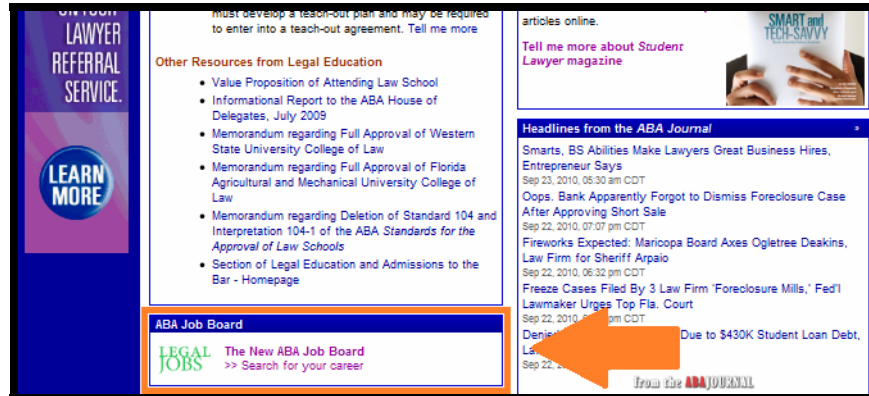
To submit your application and for more information, go to: <http://www.abanet.org/lcd/elections/>

ABA Jobs Bank

The ABA Jobs Bank provides you with another valuable resource to help your professional outreach. Capitalizing on the *national* scope of the ABA, your professional profile will be available to employers across the country.

Here's how you can take advantage of it, step-by-step:

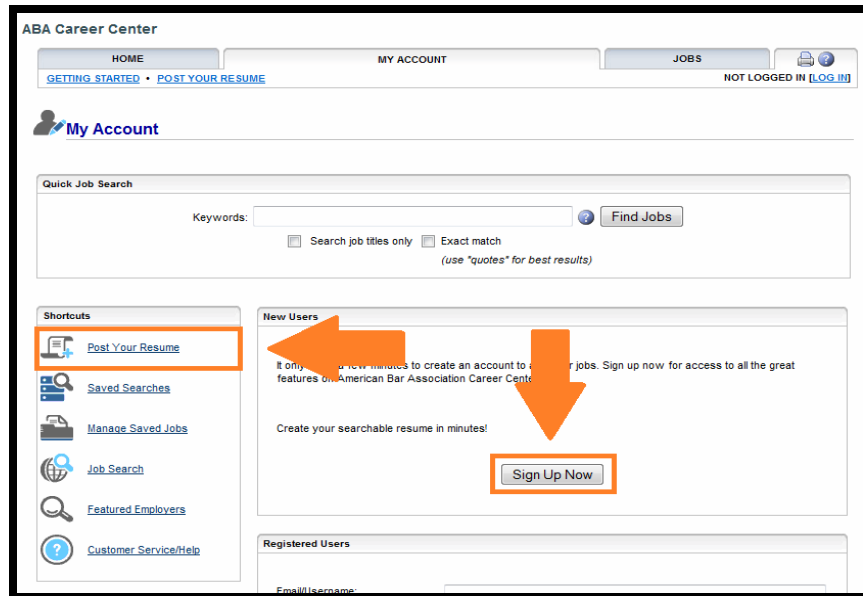
Step 1: Click on the “ABA Job Board” link at www.abanet.org/ljd



Step 2: Click on the “Job Board” link on the next page.



Step 3: Click on the “Sign Up Now” button, post your resume, and search through the job opportunities that just became available to you!



Circuit Meetings

Fall Roundtable Meeting

Our Annual Fall Roundtable Meeting took place on October 22nd and 23rd in Miami, FL at the University of Miami School of Law. This meeting includes students from four Circuits, the 4th, 6th, and our own 5th, and we are lucky to be hosting it within our circuit. As a result, it is a great and unique opportunity (particularly for students in our Circuit) to learn, network, and get to know your future colleagues from across the nation. I look forward to meeting you there, especially the SBA Presidents and ABA Representatives whose attendance so important for their students. The programming promises to make it a valuable experience for attendees!

Spring Circuit Meeting

This meeting will be held in late February or early March, exact date to be determined. However, we do know that it will be held in either Atlanta or Puerto Rico. This location will mean that students from all of schools will have an easier opportunity to participate. Again, attendees will benefit from some great programming and networking opportunities, with a dash of local culture and nightlife.

Additionally, it is at this meeting that elections for future leadership will take place; candidates will be voted on by the SBA Presidents and ABA Representatives from each school. In light of that, it is especially important for you, your SBA President, and ABA Representative to attend and support the hopefully-numerous candidates from your school!

ABA Annual Meeting

This is a networking and learning experience that is simply incredible. Lawyers from all over the country and the world attend this meeting, and you can join them as a fellow member of the ABA. You'll be able to:

- Attend meetings of Sections of law and meet lawyers who are practicing the type of law you want to practice
- Attend CLE presentations about engaging legal issues
- Meet your fellow law students from across the country
- Attend meetings of your state bar association and meet your state's leaders

ABA Law Student Division Grant Program

There is money waiting to support your efforts! Send in your applications!

Student Bar Associations, free up funds for other activities by helping your organizations take advantage of this opportunity!

Student organizations, use these funds to take your organization's activity to a new level!

For more information, go to <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/grant/>

Public Interest, Diversity and Professionalism Grants

The ABA Law Student Division, through its Grant Program, provides financial and program support to student organizations of ABA-approved law schools to establish first-time programs and other activities that emphasize diversity, ethics, professionalism training, law student mental health and wellness, veterans advocacy and public interest/service activities.

The Grant Program is designed to assist law student organizations that implement new programs. By helping student groups achieve a successful first-time event, the Grant Program anticipates that a law school dean, student bar association, or other organization will thereafter find financial support for the event in successive years. The Grant Fund is not intended to support fundraisers, to be used as a source for donating to charitable organizations or to be a source for funding student travel. ABA Law Student Division sponsored events should benefit a significant number of students. Requests for incidental costs such as travel, lodging, or other personal expenses generally do not fall within the program criteria.

Any entity or individual at an ABA-approved law school is eligible to submit a grant application. A school may submit more than one application a year. Awards will be based on the submission of well-developed proposals in accordance with the application instructions, with preference given to those that display a benefit to the community, law students, and the profession. Because the Grant Program has a limited amount of resources, all proposals will be closely examined so funds can be disbursed to as many programs and schools as possible. The maximum possible award allowed is \$500 per application and project.

Law schools may apply for funding to conduct programs and activities taking place between September and May of each year. Applications should be submitted a minimum of four weeks prior to the date of the project. Applications must be submitted via email to the Chicago office and the Secretary-Treasurer and must contain all requisite information and accompanying materials. The Division expects that an application will have all available background detailed in the application, specific budgetary figures and detailed information to aid the committee in its

review. Appropriate information to include would be the origin of the program, the purpose it seeks to fulfill, the means by which it will be accomplished, and all alternate funding that is being sought and that has been secured.

All completed applications, including budgets, will be reviewed by the Division upon submission. Preference will be given to first time programs or projects that display a benefit to the community, law students, and the profession. In addition to the application, the following factors may be considered:

- Detailed description of the event/activity, including origin of program, purpose of program, targeted audience, list of all planned participants/speakers (including their titles and affiliations).
- Budget – request must include a detailed budget of all anticipated expenses and projected revenue/funding. Expenses for food (please specify) and beverage (please specify) should be detailed by per person costs.
- List all sources of funding and the amounts. Please explain if the law school/administration will provide funding and how much. If no funding from the school/administration has been allocated, please explain.
- Explain the necessity of funding for this program/activity. What, if any, expenses can you eliminate if ABA Law Student Division funding is not secured?
- Have you requested or received Division funding for another activity this year or any other year?
- How will this program benefit law students, the legal profession and community?
- What is the likelihood that this program/activity will continue next year? Please explain.
- What level of involvement does your law school/student organizations currently have in the ABA Law Student Division?
- Are your law school's ABA Representative and SBA President ABA Law Student Division members? If yes, to what degree are they active in the organization?
- How many ABA Law Student Division members are currently in your law school?

The application is available [electronically](#) and in [pdf](#) format.

All complete applications, including budgets, will be reviewed by the Division upon submission. Generally, notification is sent via email to the appropriate contact within two weeks of receiving the grant provided no additional information is requested by the committee.

Questions?

Please contact Division Director, [Patricia Brennan](#) and/or the Secretary/Treasurer, [AnnMichelle Hart](#)

Division Awards

Submit the noteworthy program or publication at your school for recognition by the Law Student Division.

For more information, go to: <http://www.abanet.org/lzd/awards/home.html>

Division Awards:

Henry J. Ramsey, Jr. Diversity Award

The Diversity Award serves to recognize excellence in activities that have contributed toward the achievement and advancement of women, minorities, persons with disabilities and persons of differing sexual orientation and gender identities.

Judy M. Weightman Memorial Public Interest Award

This award recognizes law students and law schools who have made outstanding contributions to underrepresented groups or public interest causes outside the law school and/or in public service at the law school.

Student Bar Association Award

The Student Bar Association Award recognizes the efforts of an SBA organization to create a better environment for law students and a more positive image of the legal profession.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Award

This award recognizes outstanding rookie VITA programs and continuing VITA programs for undertaking the cause of assisting individuals in need with their income tax returns.

Membership and Activity Award

The Membership and Activity Award recognizes outstanding ABA membership efforts, involvement and activity of ABA-approved law schools in the ABA Law Student Division.

Law School Newspaper Award

The Law School Newspaper Awards recognize outstanding law school newspapers. Open to all law school newspapers sponsored or published by student-run organizations at ABA-approved law schools.

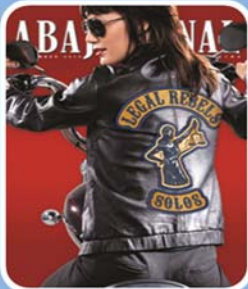
ABA Publications

Every member of the ABA Law Student Division is able to enjoy and learn from these ABA and Division publications:



Student Lawyer Magazine:

The *Student Lawyer* magazine is designed for law students by a fellow law student, Tonnya Kohn, the Student Editor of the magazine. It contains information that pertinent to you, both as a student attending school and as an aspiring lawyer seeking employment.



ABA Journal Magazine:

The *ABA Journal* is the premiere publication of the American legal community, containing information and articles that span the spectrum. No matter the field of law in which you intend to practice, the *Journal* has material that will be helpful as you embark on your career.



ABA Journal App:

Yes, there's an app for that, too!

The ABA stays current, making its primary publication available for you to read on your mobile device. Keep up with the latest news and information on the fly with this handy (and free!) application.

Are you an ABA member who's not receiving your magazines? Talk to your local ABA Representative!

Want to write an article? Contact the following people before you write to ask about your idea. Email Tonnya Kohn for *Student Lawyer* articles (kohntm@email.sc.edu). If you'd like to write for the *Journal* or the publication of a particular Section, inquire of the Editor of that publication.

Law Student Division Competitions

Do you want to gain experience, with a chance of glory and victory?

The Law Student Division annually sponsors four national competitions, where you can develop the very skills you will use as practitioners, and a chance to meet and network with fellow law students—future colleagues—from around the nation. Competitions also provide an excellent opportunity for law students to gain important resume-building experience and recognition.

For more information, go to: <http://www.abanet.org/lzd/competitions/>

Arbitration Competition

- Deadline for entry forms and fees: **September 17, 2010**
- Deadline for team member names and ABA ID numbers: **October 25, 2010**

Negotiation Competition

- Deadline for entry forms and fees: **September 17, 2010**
- Deadline for team member names and ABA ID numbers: **October 15, 2010**

Client Counseling Competition

- Deadline for entry forms and fees: **October 22, 2010**
- Deadline for team member names and ABA ID numbers: **January 25, 2010**

National Appellate Advocacy Competition

- Deadline for entry forms and fees: **November 5, 2010**
- Deadline for team member names and ABA ID numbers: **December 1, 2010**