

5th Circuit Newsletter

ABA Law Student Division

Issue #5

February 2009

Fifth Circuit Governor

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Exec. Lt. Governor:

Daniel Espinosa, *St. Thomas University SOL*

Region Representatives

Kamephis Perez, *Florida International University*
Bolanle Akinrimisi, *Florida Coastal SOL*
Lisa Gomes, *John Marshall Atlanta SOL*
Kimberly Goins, *University of Alabama*

Lt. Governor of SBA's

Laura Valdastrì, *Barry University COL*

Lt. Governors of Communication

Amy Hudock, *Nova Southeastern University*
Artis 'Jarrod' Jenkins, *University of Georgia SOL*

Lt. Governor of Membership

Christina Workman, *Barry University COL*

Lt. Governors of Legislative & Govt. Affairs

Erik Washington, *Florida A&M University COL*
Brandy Dowdy, *Emory University SOL*

Lt. Governor of Programming

Michele Nihiser, *Nova Southeastern University*

Lt. Governor of Diversity

Lisa Only, *Stetson University COL*

Lt. Governor for Mental Health Initiative

Serena Gober, *Nova Southeastern University*

Lt. Governor for Veterans Initiative

Terri Bossard, *University of Alabama*

Lt. Governor of Public Interest

Kara Franker, *Florida International University*

Lt. Governors of Career Development

Evan Raymond, *Stetson University COL*
Jennifer N. Johnson, *John Marshall Atlanta SOL*

Lt. Governors of VITA

Chanel Mosley, *Barry University COL*
Julie Robinson, *Barry University COL*

THE NEW SEMESTER IS UNDER WAY



The semester has begun...

FUN FORUM

ATTENTION ALL 5TH CIRCUIT LAW STUDENTS: This is your chance to shine! Do you have a gift you would like to share with us? Please send your law related poems, cartoons, challenges (ones you are facing or those you would like to propose), or recognitions (of fellow students, staff, or anyone worthy) for inclusion in this section.

The 5th Circuit wants to stand out with more than just a newsletter. We want to showcase all talent in our Fun Forum!

Please send your entries to Jarrod Jenkins at artis.jenkins@gmail.com or Amy Hudock at hudocka@nsu.law.nova.edu by the 15th of each month.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

February 7

Client Counseling Competition - Regionals

Various Locations

February 11-17

ABA Midyear Meeting

Boston, MA

February 14

Client Counseling Competition - Regionals

Various Locations

Mid-February to the first week of March

Circuit Meetings and Elections

Details to be announced

February 13-14

Negotiation Competition Finals

Boston, MA

February 15

Nomination Deadline

Division Liaisons to ABA Entities

National Student Directors

February 26-28

National Appellate Advocacy Competition - Regionals

Locations to be announced

** Please visit <http://www.abanet.org/lcd/elections/#bog> to learn more about the 2009-2010 leadership positions.

HAPPENINGS & REFLECTIONS

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

5th Circuit Spring Meeting and Governor Election

Saturday, February 28, 2009

Emory University School of Law

1301 Clifton Road

Atlanta, GA 30322

The 5th Circuit Spring Meeting and Governor Election is quickly approaching. The Host Committee and Emory promise a fantastic Spring Meeting experience.

In the weeks to come, we will provide you with details about the meeting. In the meantime, please be sure to begin making your travel arrangements for the meeting. The goal is one hundred percent participation from all schools in our circuit.

The Spring Meeting provides a wonderful opportunity to begin voluntary association with the American Bar Association and the Law Student Division. If you are an outgoing circuit member who will be graduating soon, this weekend will provide you with an opportunity to share your ideas with law students new to the law school experience. For those of you who are in the midst of your first or second year of law school, you will find that the Spring Meeting will provide you with a tremendous amount of information for beginning or adjusting your legal education strategy.

We urge you to take advantage of this opportunity to begin building your bridge to the legal profession through learning, leading, connecting and networking. The key to the success of the Spring Meeting is your participation.

And don't forget ... we'll be electing the 2009-2010 5th Circuit Governor at this meeting. If you are interested in being nominated for this position, or another ABA Law Student Division leadership position, please visit the websites below:

- **2009-2010 Governor Nomination Form:**
<http://www.abanet.org/lsd/elections/home.html#govs>
- **Other 2009-2010 leadership opportunities:**
<http://www.abanet.org/lsd/elections/>
- **5th circuit home page:** <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/5thcircuit/home.html>

Barry School of Law SBA Combats Illiteracy with Book Drive

Law students have way too much to read and way too many books.

So rather than trashing old books or leaving them on the shelves to collect dust, the Student Bar Association at Barry University School of Law is giving its students another option for pre-owned books by conducting a book drive that directs proceeds to literacy programs right here in the United States. Students are encouraged to donate old textbooks, fiction paperbacks and more by dropping them in bins located around the campus.

The books will then be shipped to the charity known as Better World Books. Started years ago as a single book drive by motivated students, Better World has grown into a major charity aimed at promoting literacy by donating books and money to libraries and educational programs around the world. Barry Law and its SBA is honored to work with Better World and looks forward to giving the gift of knowledge to communities in need across the country.

Florida International University College of Law Second Annual Public Interest Auction

WHAT: The Florida International University (FIU) College of Law announces its Second Annual Summer Public Interest Fellowships Action to be held at the College of Law on February 27th at 7pm.

FIU has joined the hundreds of law schools across the country that sponsor auctions to fund and generate support for students working in full-time public interest positions during the summer. This annual auction will help generate aid for our student body with net proceeds going directly toward our in-house summer intern fellowship program.

Last year's first annual auction was immensely successful and raised over \$10,000 dollars, allowing two exceptional FIU students the opportunity to intern at public service organizations and learn the importance of helping those in need. Auction participants will enjoy a wide range of exceptional items thanks to the generous donations from FIU faculty, administration, local business owners, vendors and the College of Law Community.

WHO: The Public Service Auction is open to FIU students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members.

WHEN: Friday, February 27th at 7pm.

WHERE: FIU College of Law, 11200 SW 8th Street, Rafael Diaz-Balart Hall Courtyard, Miami, FL 33199

FOR MORE INFORMATION: If you are interested in donating an item to the Auction or making a financial contribution, please contact Maria Madriz, Office Manager for Student Services, maria.madriz@fiu.edu, 305.348.2444.

2009 Levit Essay Contest - \$5,000

Sponsor: ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability and Long & Levit LLP encourages innovative and original research and writing on issues in lawyers' professional liability. Award: \$5,000 cash prize and a expenses-paid trip to the April 22-24, 2009 Spring National Legal Malpractice Conference in Miami.

Deadline: **February 20th**

News Alert!!!

Great Leadership Opportunities in the ABA

The ABA Law Student Division has numerous leadership positions available either by election or appointment. As a national officer of the Division, I have had the privilege of working with law student leaders across the country, including ABA student leaders, SBA Presidents, and leaders of other national law student organizations, as well as lawyers and judges. Through my leadership experience, I have traveled to and participated in various roundtables, debates and discussions on issues and concerns of law students. I can attest to the professional, educational, and personal rewards you will gain from your experience as an ABA Law Student Division leader. Among the many opportunities and benefits, ABA Law Student Division leadership will provide:

- The opportunity to network with law students and legal professionals from across the country;
- The ability to cultivate and demonstrate your leadership skills to the legal community on a regional and national level;
- The opportunity to work with other law student leaders and law professionals on legal advocacy, ethics, professionalism and general practice issues;

- The ability to foster your hands-on problem solving, diplomacy and project management skills – all of which are valuable assets that will follow you throughout your career and in your daily life; and
- The opportunity to refine your ability to debate issues, create policy, and present legal education issues that affects law students regionally and nationally.

If you like a good challenge and are ready to roll up your sleeves and work toward improving the legal education experience of your fellow classmates, not just on your campus, but throughout your circuit, then I strongly encourage you to submit your nomination or application for one of the leadership positions. Nominations must be signed by your dean and must be postmarked by the deadline date indicated. Please visit www.abanet.org/lsd/elections/ for deadlines, eligibility requirements, the nomination/application forms, and delivery instructions.

If you have any questions or would like more information about any leadership position, please do not hesitate to contact one of the ABA Law Student Division leaders listed at www.abanet.org/lsd/leadership/directory.html.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Each month we will be issuing a 5th Circuit Newsletter to inform law students of all the great things going on in our circuit. We would like to thank all of you that contributed to the October addition of the 5th Circuit Newsletter

Our goal is to keep you informed and give you a platform on which you can share their ideas, creativity, and school functions with others. We need your help! If you have something to contribute to any section, please send it to Jarrod Jenkins at artis.jenkins@gmail.com or Amy Hudock at hudocka@nsu.law.nova.edu.