

5th Circuit Newsletter

ABA Law Student Division

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Fifth Circuit Governor

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Exec. Lt. Governor:

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Lisa Only, *Stetson University COL*

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Lt. Governors of VITA

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

HAPPY ST. PATTY'S DAY!!
HOPEFULLY THE LUCK IS WITH YOU!!



It Has Been a Pleasure!!!!!!

Over the past year, I have thoroughly enjoyed serving each and every one of you in the 5th circuit as Governor. I am also proud to announce your new governor, Tiffany V. Colbert, who was elected during the Spring meeting in Atlanta. I know she will serve the circuit well and I am looking forward to the great things she has planned for next year.

Louis D Brown III

Welcome Our New 2009-2010 Circuit Governor

My name is Tiffany V. Colbert and I am a thrilled to be your American Bar Association - Law Student Division 5th Circuit Governor for the 2009-2010 year. I am currently a 1L at Stetson University College of Law where, in addition to my involvement with the ABA, I am a class representative in the Student Bar Association, a member of the SBA's Alumni Relations Committee, and the Vice President of Speakers & Events for the Intellectual Property Law Society. I earned my B.S. degree from the University of

Central Florida where I held the office of President of the Mock Trial Team and received the *Chief Justice John Marshall Award for Dedicated Service and Leadership*. In my capacity as President, I managed both an Invitational and a Regional Mock Trial Competition under the American Mock Trial Association, which brought together teams from across the country, volunteer judges and attorneys from the district, and a diverse group of vendors and law schools as sponsors for our events. My other duties involved coordinating the team's 27 members and their participation in and travel to other tournaments and national competitions during the year.

Along with my campus involvement, I am proud to be a second-career student, a wife, and a mother. I am familiar with the working world and the unquestionable complexity of balancing work, education, and life. We have all faced those moments where our assignments and schedules are overwhelming; simply beginning the endeavor of law school can be daunting on its own. As legal professionals, we need to find balance and to be a whole person. I am looking forward to working with the members of the region in further developing ideas that can help start the law student on a healthy path, such as coordinating with the respective members' law schools to incorporate the Mental Health Initiative into Orientation and other campus programming.

In the socio-economic climate we are facing as law school students, we also need to focus our awareness and energy on an initiative that prepares law school students for the contemporary marketplace. Career Development offices on law school campuses play a big role in preparing law students for this reality. Students want to know how they can become more marketable, whom they need to meet, how to network themselves most effectively, how to get their first job or internship, and what to do when they decide to brave the frontier as a solo practitioner or choose a career outside the traditional legal fields.

Attorneys and students become members of the ABA because they want to get involved; they want to serve each other, our profession, and the public. At both the Fall 2008 Leadership Summit in Charleston and the Spring 2009 Circuit Meeting in Atlanta, we had the opportunity to sit down and talk with some of those attorneys. It was a fantastic experience to hear about the attorneys' varying backgrounds, the areas of law they practice, and how they balance their work and personal lives. At the spring meeting in Atlanta, the participants engaged in a panel discussion about the job market, interviewing skills, and other valuable tips and tricks. For this upcoming year, I want to bring this experience to more of our members through interscholastic networking events. Following the lead of our current Governor, Louis D. Brown III, I want to continue to increase communication between the law schools in our circuit. There are many incredible, award winning ideas and programming initiatives within our circuit, from Barry University College of Law's VITA program to Stetson University College of Law's membership initiatives. My hope for this upcoming year is that we work together to develop these ideas and programs in more of the schools within our circuit through networking and communication.

Milton Berle, a popular comedian and television host in the 1960s, once said, "If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." While opportunity may sometimes present itself easily, I believe that you also have to be prepared to create opportunities, to take action, and to build doors. As law students, we are in the best position to seek out and create those opportunities both for ourselves and for the profession. In my proposed initiatives, we will not only serve our fellow members, but the profession and the public as well, by giving our law student members the tools they need to succeed. I am prepared to roll up my sleeves as Governor of the 5th Circuit...and I am ready to start building. I look forward to the opportunity to work with you and serve our peers throughout the circuit during the coming year.

5th Circuit Retreat Recap

I must admit that I was skeptical about attending the spring retreat when I first heard about. First, I am not a fan of retreats because they usually are a waste of time. There are always too many icebreakers and not enough work that gets done. Second, the ABA Student Division is not a big deal at my school. I am one of two representatives on campus. Although we are under the SBA, we do not have voting power. Last, because ABA is not a big deal at my school, I did not want to drive to Atlanta, especially because it was projected to snow the next day.

Nevertheless, I attended the retreat and soon found out that my apprehensions were inapplicable to the ABA retreat. First, the ABA retreat was extremely efficient. I do not recall ever going to a retreat or conference and having it stay on schedule. We both started and ended sessions on time. Second, the retreat was well planned out. The retreat advertised a continental breakfast, but attendees were able to choose from much more: fruit, bagels, muffins, and various types of biscuits. Last, and most important, the retreat was very informative. The town hall meeting allowed us to voice concerns and problems to our peers. The town hall style was the ideal setting for this type of discussion because our peers at other schools have been in similar situations. In addition, the Lunch-N-Learn session allowed attendees to ask questions to practicing attorneys in an intimate setting.

Fifth Circuit SBA Presidents and ABA Representatives are our greatest asset. I was empowered by knowing that eleven Stetson members drove over ten hours in a van to attend the retreat. Their dedication has motivated me to help the ABA have a stronger presence at my law school. I was even encouraged by schools, like the University of Alabama, which have struggling ABA delegations because I realized that I was not alone.

In addition to benefitting as an ABA representative, I personally benefitted from this experience. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting people from other schools. Even though it was my first time meeting everyone, including Louis with whom I have worked for a year, I was treated like family by all. Given the stress and competition that accompanies law school, it is refreshing to meet down-to-earth people and not worry about grades or ulterior motives. I had no plans to attend the mixer after the retreat, but I eventually gave in after being prodded by numerous persons, such as Serena Gober. And, in the end, I am glad that I gave in to their wishes. We consumed alcohol, ate appetizers, and played pool; all types of things that you do with true

friends. I even felt so comfortable around the group that I went out with them to a nightclub following the mixer.

I look forward to next year's retreat, even if I am not the senior ABA representative. Hopefully, there will be representative from more schools. And amongst schools that are already represented, I hope that there will be even greater representation. After this year's retreat, I would feel comfortable driving more than an hour to attend an ABA retreat. They say there is strength in numbers and I can only imagine how effective the ABA would be with full representation. I hope that everyone reading this article will help me in making that dream a reality.

-A. Jarrod Jenkins
University of Georgia School of Law
Senior ABA Representative

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March/April

March 2

Diversity Day

Sponsored by law schools throughout the country

March 5-7

National Appellate Advocacy Competition - Regionals

Locations to be announced

March 19-22

Law Student Division Board of Governors Meeting

Tampa, FL

March 27

Law Student Mental Health Day

Sponsored by law schools throughout the country

April

April 1

Nomination Deadline - National Awards

April 2-4

National Appellate Advocacy Competition - Finals

Chicago, IL

April 21-23
[ABA Day in Washington](#)
Washington, DC

HAPPENINGS & REFLECTIONS

University of Miami

Thursday, March 5th was diversity day at UM law. In light of that, we had a minority group food fair on the bricks/common area for all students to enjoy food from the respective groups. Each participating group provided food and students could pay \$5 for a plate of food from "around the world." We then split the proceeds evenly between the groups.

Further, the SBA and dean of students has arranged for our various dean candidates to hold open forums for students to meet and question the respective candidates. This took place this past Tuesday, March 3rd and again on Thursday, March 5th and will continue with the rest of our dean candidates.

The Barrister's Ball will take place in April.

Last month was also had Dean's Cup, which is an annual week long competition between UM Med School and Law school. Events include everything from flag football, competitive eating, darts, tug-of-war, and water polo. Unfortunately, after winning the last two years, the Law School lost by a hair to the med school.

Finally, UM determined SBA elections two weeks ago, having run-off elections for the SBA president and SBA historian.

For upcoming events, we plan on doing either a panel or encouraging students to participate in a suicide prevention program occurring at school for Mental health day.



UM ABA Report

Attached is a picture from our event for Diversity Day at the University of Mississippi School of Law.

In the picture, University Police Department Crime Prevention Coordinator Thelma Curry speaks about hate crimes on campus.

The American Bar Association Law Student Division at the University of Mississippi School of Law recognized Diversity Day a little early on Feb. 24 by co-hosting an event on hate crimes with OUTlaw, Black Law Students Association and the Law School Student Body Association.

Lafayette County's Assistant District Attorney Tom Levidiotis along with University Police Officers Thelma Curry and Jane Tutor defined hate crimes, talked about past experiences, discussed prevention methods, and said what to expect during sentencing if a person were to be found guilty of a hate crime. The speakers talked about and answered audience members' questions by saying that sexual orientation is a protected class under university rules but not under state law, so longer sentences could not be given to people convicted of crimes involving homophobia. Longer sentences could be given to criminals who express racial prejudices, and the speakers spent a majority of their time

discussing these kinds of incidents.



NOVA

Nova Law held its Annual Public Interest Law Society Charitable Auction (PILS) on Friday, February 6th. Items up for auction included dinner with professors, gift cards, reserved faculty parking spots, signed sports memorabilia, discounted bar review courses, artwork, gift baskets and much more. All proceeds from the auction go to support public interest fellowships.

February 24th was Diversity Day! It was held in the Atrium, with plenty to eat...all for free! Students and faculty spent mid-day tasting foods prepared by the various student groups who competed for recognition. Three finalists were announced and the winner will be crowned at the Barrister's Ball.

Florida Coastal



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.

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.