

5th Circuit Newsletter

ABA Law Student Division

Issue #1

September 2009

Fifth Circuit Governor

Tiffany Colbert, Stetson University College of Law
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Exec. Lt. Governor

Bolanle Akinrimisi, Florida Coastal SOL

Lt. Governors of Communication

Internal – Victoria Myers, Stetson University College of Law

External – Kyle Bedran, Florida Coastal SOL

Lt. Governor of ABA Representatives

Samantha Kargbo, Stetson University College of Law

Lt. Governor of Membership

Nathaniel Flinchbaugh, Nova SE University SOL

Lt. Governor of Non-Traditional Law Student Relations

Richard Bruner, Florida Coastal SOL

Lt. Governors of Regional Affairs and Relations

Alabama

– Kenneth Cantrell, University of Alabama SOL

Florida

– Paul Min Chung, St. Thomas University SOL

Georgia

– Tammy Holcomb, Atlanta's John Marshall Law School

Mississippi

– Ron Morris Jr., Mississippi College SOL

Puerto Rico

– Jessica Medina, Florida International University SOL

Tennessee

– Dan Kuninsky, Vanderbilt University Law School

Lt. Governor of Career Development

Abigail Webb, University of Miami SOL

Lt. Governor of Diversity

Casandra Spring, University of Miami SOL

Lt. Governor of Spring & Fall Meetings

Kamephis Perez, Florida International University SOL

Lt. Governor of Law Student Mental Health

Brittany Pribbenow, Stetson University College of Law

Lt. Governor of VITA

Michelle Reeves, Barry University SOL

Lt. Governor of Public Interest/Comm. Service

Faisal Akhter, Emory University SOL

Lt. Governor of SBAs

Brittany Pugh, University of Alabama SOL



How do you cope with stress?

The 5th Circuit wants to know how you cope with the stress of law school. What stress relieving techniques have you tried and how well did it work for you? Please submit your ideas and experiences for a chance to be featured in the next newsletter.

This is an opportunity to help out your fellow 5th Circuit members!

Submit all entries to Kyle Bedran at kyle.bedran@law.fcsl.edu.

Fall Leader Summit

Hosted by Florida Coastal School of Law

(www.fcsl.edu)

Come join Students from the 4th, 5th & 6th District and connect with other law students in Jacksonville, FL for a weekend of networking, learning and brainstorming ideas for enhancing your legal education experience

Registration

Registration in person will open at 8:00 AM on Saturday, October 3rd at Florida Coastal School of Law. Stop by the registration table to sign-in and pickup their badge and a final program.

AGENDA

Tentative

Friday, October 2, 2009

8:00pm - 10:00pm

Welcome Reception

Dave and Buster's – 7025 Salisbury Rd. Jacksonville, FL 32256 □

Business casual attire

Join your fellow law students from the 4th, 5th and 6th Circuits for mingling and casual conversation.

Saturday, October 3, 2009

8:30am - 9:00am

Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00am - 9:30am

Introductions and Welcome Address

- **Dean C. Peter Goplerud III**, Florida Coastal School of Law
- **Thomas Taggart**, Florida Coastal School of Law
- **Jessica Russ**, ABA Representative, Florida Coastal School of Law
- **Tiffany Colbert**, 5th Circuit Governor, Stetson University College of Law
- **MaryEllen Farrell**, 6th Circuit Governor, Thomas M. Cooley Law School
- **Brice Strickland**, 4th Circuit Governor, Charleston School of Law

9:30am - 10:30am

Coffee with Experience

Discuss your legal career with local law professionals who will share insights about adjusting and thriving in the profession. Learn what is really relevant from the law school experience and how to refine your career expectations while you're still in law school. Remember to bring your business cards, just in case an opportunity arises during these informal discussions.

- **Judge Waddell Wallace**, Duval County Circuit Court
- **Tiffany Safi**, Cooper, Ridge and Safi, P.A.
- **Professor David Pimentel**, Florida Coastal School of Law
- **Professor Rod Sullivan**, Florida Coastal School of Law
- **Claude Moulton**, Claude A. Moulton, P.A.

- **Doug Clifton, McConnaughay**, Duffy, Coonrod, Pope & Weaver
- **Howard L. Dale**, Dale Bald Showalter Mercier & Green, P.A.
- **Dulce B. Fazel**, Dulce B. Fazel, P.A.
- **Diana Martin**, Leopold~Kuin
- **Carrington M. Mead**, Carrington Madison Mead, Esquire
- **Robert Calvin Rivers**, Robert Calvin Rivers, P.A.
- **Nicole Vinson**, Tyler & Hamilton, PA

10:30am - 10:45am

Break

10:45am - 12:00 Noon

Panel Discussion

Give yourself a competitive edge. Join this panel of legal professionals as they lead a discussion designed to help put the economic impact on legal education and the overall practice of law into perspective. Get the real story about the scope of the profession and meet some amazing law professionals who have used their law degrees to pursue unique and often surprising legal career paths. Take home insider tips to landing an associate position and excelling during that all-important first year.

- **Dulce B. Fazel**, Dulce B. Fazel, P.A.
- **Tim Gillis**, Akerman Senterfitt
- **Carrington M. Mead**, Carrington Madison Mead
- **Annette J. Ritter**, Florida Coastal School of Law
- **Robert Calvin Rivers**, Robert Calvin Rivers, P.A.
- **Stacy Scaldo**, Florida Coastal School of Law

12:00 Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Working Lunch

As a law student leader, you learn to negotiate, listen, organize, advocate, and manage your time. This invaluable experience teaches you how to work with others to resolve conflicts between parties, to prioritize responsibilities and cultivate your public speaking skills. Join us for a discussion designed to help you discover your hidden leadership potential and provide you with proven strategies for nurturing your talents as a leader while in law school and beyond.

- **Howard L. Dale**, Dale Bald Showalter Mercier & Green, P.A.
- **Dulce B. Fazel**, Dulce B. Fazel, P.A.
- **Diana Martin**, Leopold~Kuin
- **Carrington M. Mead**, Carrington Madison Mead, Esquire
- **Karen Millard**, Florida Coastal School of Law

1:30pm - 3:00pm

Roundtables and Idea Raisers

Use this session as a forum for raising issues and presenting your ideas for enhancing the law school experience both inside and outside the classroom. Share your law school's strategies for successful programs or seek advice on how to make a mediocre idea into a grand standing event. Whatever the issue, bring your ideas with you, be prepared to think outside the box, and join your fellow law students for what promises to be a lively and thought provoking discussion.

3:00pm - 3:15pm

Break

3:15pm - 4:30pm

Public Debate

What are the issues involving your legal education that are of particular concern to the students at your law school? Join other leaders and law students for a insightful and lively debate about bar passage, tuition or your legal education in general. If there is an issue or topic you would like to bring to the floor during this open forum, contact your Circuit Governor to discuss your recommendations.

4:30pm - 5:00pm

Turning Initiatives into Action

Discover how to get the most from your ABA membership, how to plan a successful Work-A-Day Community Service event, and strategies for making your law school's Diversity Day and Mental Health Day successful. Learn how to motivate your student body into action, and how to gain the support of your administration for your initiatives. Take home tips for organizing a successful ABA event at your law school while avoiding the pitfalls and mistakes that can damper its success.

5:00pm - 5:15pm

Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks

5:15pm

Adjournment

6:30pm

Farewell Networking and Social Event

If you are interested in a Dutch-Treat dinner on Saturday evening, please indicate so on the registration form. Based upon interest by attendees, the Planning Committee will make arrangements to meet at a local establishment for one last group function. Details will be communicated as arrangements are finalized.

Letter From the Governor

Greetings 5th Circuit and welcome to another great year of law school!! I'd like to take a quick moment to introduce myself, I am Tiffany V. Colbert, your 5th Circuit Governor, and this is the first of many editions of our monthly news letter.

It was fantastic to see the participation of the schools and students who were able to attend the Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, this year. The ABA staff and other circuits took note at our presence and our dedication to the American Bar Association. Further, it ensured that we, as a body, made our voices heard, representing Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and Puerto Rico. For those of you who were unable to attend, those students representing you did an excellent job. They thoroughly convinced the other students and the visiting lawyers that we here in the Fifth always lead by example and are the model for the rest of the Division. If your school didn't send your SBA President and ABA Representative, make sure you let your administration know that you want to be represented in the organization controlling your accreditation and your future profession. I'd like to highlight some of the key issues discussed and voted on by your representatives:

1) The governing body voted to support the bill sponsored by Daniel Thies, Student Liaison to the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, to encourage the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, including the Section Council and the Standards Review Committee, to repeal Standard 304(f) of the Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools - a student may not be employed more than 20 hours per week in any week in which the student is enrolled in more than twelve class hours.

2) The governing body voted to support the bill sponsored by Daniel Thies, Student Liaison to the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar to encourage the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, including the Section Council and the Standards Review Committee, to repeal Standard 305-3 of the Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools – a law school may not grant credit to a student for participation in a field placement program for which the student receives compensation. This Interpretation does not preclude reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses related to the field placement.

Additionally, I'd like to congratulate **Florida State University College of Law** for winning the Law Student Division's National **Student Bar Association Award** and **Barry University-Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law** for winning the Law Student Division's National **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Award**. I'm also pleased to congratulate **Kerven Montfort**, from Florida State University College of Law. Kerven was elected to serve as a **Division Delegate** to the ABA House of Delegates.

This upcoming year, the ABA is focusing on Membership. I'm pleased to report that the 5th Circuit added 980 new members in the August Membership Drive!! I was able to participate at sign-ups at the 1L Orientation at both the University of Miami School of Law and St. Thomas University School of Law. It was great to get out there and meet the new students and new ABA members. I encourage all of you to continue supporting membership this year. There are so many wonderful benefits and opportunities provided to law student members of the ABA, including Scholarships, Discounts, and Networking opportunities.

Coming up this weekend is the Fall Leadership Summit, taking place October 2-3d in Jacksonville, FL at Florida Coastal School of Law. The 5th Circuit Page has information on the Summit including the recommended hotels and the registration form. If you are in a leadership position, you want to be in a leadership position, or even if you just want to know what your student-leaders are suppose to be doing, I encourage you to attend and I hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the 5th Circuit Lt. Governors.

Yours truly,

Tiffany V. Colbert

5th Circuit Governor, ABA – Law Student Division

Stetson University College of Law

tcolbert@law.stetson.edu or tcolbert@gmail.com

<http://twitter.com/tiffanycolbert>

5th Circuit Lt. Governors

Exec. Lt. Governor

Bolanle Akinrimisi

Bolanle is a 3L at Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville Florida. She currently holds the position of Executive Lt. Governor for the 5th Circuit. She makes sure that she serves as the liaison between the Circuit Governor and Lt. Governors. She works closely with the Lt. Governor of Communications to coordinate inter-circuit communications (including conference calls). She also helps in providing project coordination support to the Governor including, coaching assistance and oversees the progress and completion of Lt. Governor projects and assignments. She hopes that all of you come out to the 5th Circuit Fall and Spring Leadership Summits.

Lt. Governors of Communication

Internal – Victoria Myers

Victoria is a 3L at Stetson University College of Law. She serves as this Circuit's communication hub. She will be making sure that communication within our circuit runs smoothly. Since our circuit is very active, she will be working to ensure that the publication of our newsletter and submissions to the *Student Lawyer* magazine are timely and interesting. Moreover, she will make sure that our circuit law students receive beneficial information of opportunities, CLEs, competitions, etc. Outside of serving at Lt. Governor of Internal Communications, she is also the national ABA Entertainment and Sports Law Forum student liaison. She is honored to have this position. This is one of the first times a student in the South was appointed to this position. Our region has a few student liaisons that are working together to really bring opportunities to the 5th circuit as well as let the rest of the nation know that the 5th Circuit is really taking on leadership roles within our Circuit and nation-wide.

External – Kyle Bedran

Kyle is a 2L at Florida Coastal School of Law. He serves as the Lt. Governor of External Communication. His responsibilities encompass aiding the Student Editor of the ABA Student Lawyer Magazine with 5th Circuit news, distributing promotional announcements from the 5th circuit, and publishing this 5th Circuit Newsletter.

Lt. Governor of ABA Representatives

Samantha Kargbo

Samantha is a 2L at Stetson University College of Law and serves as the Lt. Governor for the ABA Representatives. This year our local ABA will be hands-on again in the VITA program. Another thing that we are planning on doing is a public interest panel (working in the public interest sector). Both these should be extremely valuable to students.

Lt. Governor of Membership

Nathaniel Flinchbaugh

Nathaniel is a 2L at Nova Southeastern University Shepard-Broad Law Center. He serves as the 5th Circuit Lt. Governor for Member Benefits for the 09-10 school year. He also serves on the board of Nova's Moot Court Society as Justice for Competitions-Logistics and on the Nova Trial Association Board as the Financial Coordinator. His main responsibility is to keep all of our current ABA Student Division Members aware of all the benefits available, which include scholarship opportunities, networking opportunities, and discounts at Hertz, HP, Toshiba, Sprint, Office Depot, Mozy, FTD, Lands' End, and Whirlpool. He is also pleased to announce the addition of Brooks Brothers as a new supporter of the ABA that is offering discounts to our members.

Lt. Governors of Regional Affairs and Relations

Mississippi

– Ron Morris Jr.

Ronald is a 2L at Mississippi College School of Law. He is the Lt. Gov. of Mississippi. He holds several positions on campus, including Miss. Assoc. of Justice-Secretary, VP of Sport and Entertainment Law Society, Representative of Young Republican Lawyers, Secretary of the LSBA, and Phil. Chair of Phi Delta Phi.

Tennessee

– Dan Kuninsky, Vanderbilt University Law School

Dan is a 3L at Vanderbilt University Law School and holds the position of Lt. Governor of Regional Affairs in Tennessee. This role allows him to serve as a liaison to all of Tennessee's law schools and support their participation in ABA events and activities. Most recently, the Vanderbilt ABA representative provided information and materials about ABA membership during the lunch-hour to our classmates.

Lt. Governor of Career Development

Abbigail Webb

Abbigail is a 3L at the University of Miami School of Law. She attended Indiana University, earning a B.A. in Philosophy and English. She currently holds the position of Lt. Governor for Career Development for the 5th Circuit. She has worked to establish a formal connection between her law school and the local voluntary bar association. This has helped students become aware of local bar activities, such as seminars or happy hours, where students have the opportunity to meet and network with local attorneys. She is currently working with other law schools to assist them in doing the same.

She is also instrumental in allowing students to attend CLE seminars at little to no cost. Please contact her if you need career or networking advice or would like to share tips.

Lt. Governor of Diversity

Cassandra Spring

Cassandra Spring is a 3L at the University of Miami. She is originally from (small town) Arkansas. This year as Lt. Governor of Diversity she plans to bring to you all more information on diversity. That includes bringing attention to over looked programs as well as information to help us all understand the concept more completely. She has been appointed as vice chair of the Law Student, LLM, & New Lawyer Outreach Committee in the ABA Section of International Law. Currently, she is helping to plan the Fall Meeting in Miami Beach.

Lt. Governor of Law Student Mental Health

Brittany Pribbenow

Brittany is a 3L at Stetson University College of Law. She holds the Mental Health Initiative Lt. Governor position for the 5th Circuit. This year she will be taking on the role of informing and educating the student body about depression, anxiety, and stress and the many ways to reduce these problems. In addition to organizing an event for the National Mental Health Day (March 27), she plans on hosting a weeklong mental health fair.

Lt. Governor of VITA

Michelle Reeves

Michelle is the Lt. Governor for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for the 5th Circuit. She has extensive background and training in Income Tax dating back to undergraduate school. Her undergraduate degree was Business Administration, specializing in Operations Management with a secondary focus in Accounting. Last year she was a Site Coordinator, a Site Manager for a smaller off campus VITA Site in coordination with the University of Central Florida,

the Treasurer and the Publicity Chair for the Barry University School of Law's award winning VITA program. This year, she hopes to use her past skills and experience to strengthen existing VITA programs and launch new VITA programs throughout the Circuit.

Lt. Governor of Public Interest/Comm. Service

Faisal Akhter

Faisal is a 2L at Emory University School of Law. He is a graduate of The College of New Jersey with a double major in Philosophy and Criminal Justice. His role this year will be to disseminate information about public interest jobs, opportunities, volunteer work, and loan repayment information for those hoping to work in the public sector field.

Lt. Governor of SBAs

Brittany Pugh

Brittany is a 2L at the University of Alabama School of Law. This year she plans to take a dynamic role in promoting and supporting active involvement between SBA organizations and the ABA. By maintaining regular communication with each of the Circuit's SBA Presidents, she hopes to stay abreast with each organizations involvement in their school in order to provide publicity and support for more participation and recognition within the Circuit. She looks forward to a great year working with the 5th Circuit of the ABA Law Student Division.

Lt. Governor of Spring & Fall Meetings

Kamephis Perez

Kamephis is a 3L at Florida International University's College of Law in Miami, Florida. He is the 5th Circuit Lt. Governor for the Spring and Fall Meetings. His primary responsibility is to ensure that Circuit meetings are academically, professionally, and personally rewarding by scheduling events and securing speakers according to the suggestions of circuit members. He is also charged with securing a host school and coordinating the logistics for the Circuit meetings

Lt. Governors of Regional Affairs and Relations

Alabama

– Kenneth Cantrell

Florida

– Paul Min Chung

Georgia

– Tammy Holcomb

Puerto Rico

– Jessica Medina

Lt. Governor of Non-Traditional Law Student Relations

Richard Bruner

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Writing Contests

The Student Division currently has several writing contests that are currently ongoing and a few that will end at the end of November/December. The first is the **Women in the Profession** video/essay contest where the first place winner will receive \$500 and the deadline for submission is Dec. 31st. The second is **Health Law Section Law Students** where the winner will receive \$500 honorarium, publication in an issue of *The Health Lawyer*, airfare, hotel for two nights and a \$50 per diem for two days to attend the Emerging Issues conference. The Health Law submission deadline is Dec. 4th. Please take a look at the other writing competition opportunities that are being offered online at <http://www.abanet.org/lsd/competitions/writing-contests/home.html>

International Law Students News

The deadline for submissions to the **2nd Edition of the International Law Students News** is approaching! Submissions should be sent to me at pejohnson2@gmail.com by Tuesday, October 20, 2009. Publication of the issue will then coincide with the Section's Fall Meeting at the Eden Roc in Miami Beach, FL, October 27-31. Writing submissions should conform to the same guidelines as submissions for the **International Law News**, which are available here: <http://www.abanet.org/intlaw/pubs/iln.html>. I have also attached the Spring issue of the ILSN as an example of the excellent student work that comprised our inaugural effort. As a general theme, submissions should simply focus on timely international law issues. Please keep articles relatively short (500-2000 words), without in-text citations (nor footnotes, just like the ILN). Also, please do not submit previously published articles or full versions of paper submitted for course credit. Section of International Law members will receive this publication electronically - which means THOUSANDS of Section members can access your article!

Congratulations/Accolades

Jessica Chiappone was appointed ABA Law Student Division Liaison to the Criminal Justice Section-Juvenile Justice Committee.

Yuri Mantilla won third place in the ABA Mendes Hershman Student Writing Contest.

Susan Mazuchowski, Kayla Mudge, Michelle Reeves and Ashley Spizzuco were awarded the National Law Student Division Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program Award by the ABA. This marks the 4th consecutive year Barry University School of Law has received this award.

Jennifer Levine while tabling for the ABA at FIU, has put forth an outstanding effort to show students the great health insurance options that many need but are unfamiliar with.

Erica Hickey featured below:

Mercer law student wins national labor law writing competition

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 20, 2009) – Mercer Law School student **Erica L. Hickey** has been named winner of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers' Second Annual Writing Competition for Law Students.

Hickey, whose paper was titled Gomez-Perez V. Potter - Yet Another Step Away From Textualist Interpretation Of Employment Discrimination Statutes, received a \$1,500 first-place prize. In addition to being posted on the CLEL's Web site, Hickey's article will be distributed with the CLEL's newsletter, which is seen by over 1,000 fellows practicing in the United States and Canada. The second- and third-place winners are Joseph Balestrino of Duquesne University School of Law and Alvir Sadhwani of Washington College of Law at American University.

The CLEL was the vision of a number of the fellows. Established in 1995 through an initiative of the Council of The Section of Labor and Employment Law of The American Bar Association, the idea was to further establish this profession in all its aspects as one uniquely important to the world of labor and employment law, individual rights, collective bargaining and dispute resolution. The CLEL operates by its officers and a Board of Governors. The Board of Governors is a body of 16 fellows composing an equal number of fellows from four constituencies. The four are those whose primary professional activities are or have been representing labor unions, employers, plaintiffs and those serving the role of neutral whether in government, in academia, or as mediators and arbitrators. This structure is designed to bring every part of the profession together to further excellence and integrity in the profession. Fellows, nominated exclusively by other fellows and elected by the Board of Governors, are selected for membership after appropriate diligence has determined that they have obtained the highest level of character, integrity, professional expertise and experience through sustained performance. The CLEL operates as a freestanding organization recognizing those who, by long and outstanding service, have distinguished themselves as leaders in the field.

