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Federal Bar Association
Minnesota Chapter

Bar Talk

From Kannapolis to Minneapolis: Meet U.S. District Judge Jerry W. Blackwell

By Gabriel Ramirez-Hernandez

On December 7, 2022, the U.S. Senate confirmed Judge Jerry W. Blackwell's appointment as the District of Minnesota's newest U.S. District Court Judge. Judge Blackwell comes to the bench after a decorated career in private practice, founding Blackwell Burke P.A., and serving as a lead Special Assistant Attorney General on the team that obtained Derek Chauvin's conviction.

Despite his noteworthy accomplishments, anyone who knows Judge Blackwell knows that he tends to avoid recognition and the limelight. This article is the product of persistence and persuasion to obtain his story.

Judge Blackwell was born in Mooresville, North Carolina. He describes his upbringing in the small, rural town of Kannapolis, North Carolina, as "blue-collar," commenting: "White collars where I grew up were only seen on Sundays at church." Kannapolis, when he was growing up, deemed itself the largest unincorporated town in the country. It was a textile mill town that revolved around the three daily shifts of Cannon Mills, the world's largest textile producer. One of six children, Judge Blackwell's parents worked hard to move the family forward. Judge Blackwell had great-grandparents who grew up under the yoke of slavery, never learning to read or write. His father had a tenth-grade education, owing to the family's status as sharecroppers and having to work the fields, and he drove 18-wheelers long-haul for most of his life; his mother worked at the textile mill when she was in good health. It is from

Meet Judge Blackwell, continued on page 12.



Diversity & Inclusion Conference on the Future of the Federal Criminal Justice System Highlights Equity, Leadership, and Community

By Farah Famouri



On a cold morning in Minneapolis on February 21, attendees gathered at the University of St. Thomas School of Law for the 2023 Diversity & Inclusion Conference, titled "A Look at the Future of the Federal Criminal Justice System: Enhancing Public Safety and Eliminating Racial Disparities." Jerri C. Adams Belcher, co-chair of the Minnesota State Bar Association

Diversity & Inclusion Council, and Rob Vischer, President of University of St. Thomas, began the day by giving welcoming remarks.

The conference began with a discussion of racial disparities in federal sentencing decisions. The panel was moderated by Surya Saxena of Greene Espel and featured Mark Osler, Professor at University of St. Thomas School of Law; Amy Fettig, Executive Director of the Sentencing Project; and Rachel E. Barkow, Professor at New York University School of Law and Member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Fettig noted that since the 1970s, the United States has

Federal Criminal Justice Panel, continued on page 10.

Roadways to the Bench

By Joo Hee Park

On April 3, 2023, “Roadways to the Federal Bench: Who Me? A Bankruptcy or Magistrate Judge?” was live-streamed from Washington, D.C., to 37 cities. The national presentation, which featured a panel of four federal judges, was followed by in-person local roundtable discussions among federal judges, law students, and attorneys from surrounding areas. Minnesota’s roundtable took place at the Diana E. Murphy United States Courthouse.

Sponsored by the Judicial Conference Committee, the Roadways event’s key goal is to “broaden the pool of qualified applicants of the federal judgeship” as well as “enhance the selection process to ensure the process is inclusive and well-publicized,” said Chief Judge Laurel M. Isicoff, co-chair of the event. This goal aligns with the *Strategic Plan for the Federal Judiciary*—specifically [Issue 4, Strategy 4.1](#), and the [Core Value of Diversity and Respect](#), which highlight diversity—because it promotes public confidence that the judicial system is fair and objective.



The panelists were Chief Judge Laura Taylor Swain of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, who previously served as a bankruptcy judge for the Eastern District of New York; Judge Stephanie Dawkins Davis of the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, who previously served as a district judge and a magistrate judge; Magistrate Judge Mustafa T. Kasubhai of the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon; and our very own Judge Keshia Lynn Tanabe of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota. Judge Carl E. Stewart of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals moderated. The federal judges shared their experiences regarding their paths to the bench, the skillsets needed to become a judge, their role as bankruptcy or magistrate judges, and opinions on mentorship.

“There is no one pathway to the bench,” said Judge Swain, meaning that everything that law students and attorneys do eventually helps build the skills and knowledge required to be on the bench. Judge Kasubhai reiterated the importance of having diverse experience because “benches around the country are looking for people with background and experiences that can round out the bench.”

Judge Tanabe had a special presence in the panel because she is one of ten participants from the previous Roadways program, held in 2019, who went on to become judges. “I thought I would be the last one to be a judge,” she said, emphasizing that “the Roadways program is important

because it’s an attempt to make the information available to everyone.”

Judge Davis picked “preparation” to be the most transferable skillset from litigation to the bench. Judges should be as prepared as the attorneys who appear before them in order to be able to ascertain the applicability of the law to particular cases. She also picked reputation and leadership to be two complementary traits. Leadership is often overlooked, but it is an important trait because being a judge is like owning a little law firm. “It’s not enough that you are the best lawyer, but you need the leadership skills” to be the head of the law firm called chambers.

When asked about aspects of being a bankruptcy judge that are relatively underappreciated, Judge Swain answered, “Being presented with a situation that is clearly dreadful and unsustainable, and doing the best to support and enable the transformation that gives an individual or business a new start.” Judge Tanabe agreed, noting, “It frequently involves the sense of renewal,” which she finds incredibly rewarding. She also added, “Bankruptcy is never boring” because it’s always changing with new questions, new state laws, and new industries. “I love that dynamic aspect of bankruptcy.”

“Don’t get scared about bankruptcy,” said Judge Swain, explaining she too was not a bankruptcy lawyer before becoming a bankruptcy judge. “When businesses are in bankruptcy, all litigation affecting their economic relationship is presumptively in the bankruptcy forum.” She also pointed out that judges look for skills and intellectual curiosity in their law clerks. Whether or not one ends up being a judge, a clerkship is a wonderful experience for public service and a strong foundation for any legal practice going forward.

Judge Davis found her previous role as a magistrate judge to be satisfying in that she was “able to help people come to a resolution on issues that are so greatly affecting their lives” through settlement conferences. Especially on the criminal side, “magistrate judges are the first face of the court the defendants and their families see.” Thus, “it’s important to have someone on the bench who is sending the message that this is a place for justice and respect, where everyone will be treated with dignity.” Judge Kasubhai found his experience as a litigator helpful as a magistrate judge because it provided additional experience in the civil arena. He also said that although his work before becoming a judge was mostly outside the realm of federal questions, federal court cases often include state law questions. Whether in state court or federal court, “the value of knowing how to analyze and answer questions, weigh different positions, and strive for the best correct legal answer is the same.”

Judge Tanabe emphasized the importance of mentorship. “Nobody gets anywhere in a vacuum,” said Judge Tanabe, showing gratitude towards her mentors. “Everyone has learned from someone and shadowed someone.” She, too, finds great value in forming relationships with law students and young attorneys, helping them launch their careers.

Roadways to the Bench, continued on page 13.

In-House Counsel: Mentorship and Myth-Busting

By *UJ Bhowmik and Adam Mikell*

On February 22, 2023, the Chapter's Mentorship Committee hosted an In-House Panel Discussion for Law Students and Newer Lawyers at the University of Minnesota Law School. Panelists included Nicole James Gilchrist, Vice President and Managing Counsel at Thrivent; Kendel Vomastek, Senior Corporate Counsel at Bracco Medical Technologies; and Mayura Iyer Noordyke, Trademark Counsel, Global IP at Medtronic.

The panel discussion opened with the panelists answering the question that every law student and newer lawyer had: What was your path to in-house counsel? Each panelist had a unique path, whether that was working for a big law firm and following an unexpected opportunity, transitioning from government practice, or finding an amazing mentor passionate enough to show them the ropes of an in-house role after starting in a different practice area out of law school. Law students and newer lawyers were excited (indeed, relieved) to hear about each path because it solidified that each of us has the opportunity and potential to follow in the panelists' footsteps and not worry about whether we are taking the "traditional" route.

Next, the panelists shared what they feel are the biggest myths about in-house lawyers and their practice. A common misconception is the expected 9-5 work week. Vomastek highlighted how the hours completely depend on the role and the broader business objectives on any given day. Especially for attorneys working at a large, international company, you may find yourself on calls at nearly any time of the day. The biggest factor in the variability of hours, according to Noordyke, is that there is always work to do, but not all work is urgent. Noordyke also described the interpersonal differences between private-practice clients and in-house internal clients; you're likely to spend more time working with, and getting to know, your internal clients, so extra emphasis on interpersonal, relationship-

building skills can help someone succeed in an in-house role. Another misconception about in-house counsel is that they do not hire lawyers right out of law school. Despite there being some historical truth to the statement, Gilchrist assured us that hiring and development of law students and younger attorneys is a big priority for many modern in-house departments. Gilchrist also highlighted that it can be difficult for non-lawyers within the company to understand that you are not their personal attorney and that you work for the business, eliciting laughs and nods of agreement from the rest of the panel.

Gilchrist, Vomastek, and Noordyke then discussed what early career experiences they felt contributed to their success in their current roles. Gilchrist talked about how leadership experience and involvement with the FBA was integral to her career development and helped put her in the "important rooms." Vomastek discussed how her experience working full-time while doing night school allowed her to get the hands-on experience required for the practice of law. Noordyke stated that the best thing she did for her career was to not stress about what she was doing: "All experience is good experience," and "all skills are transferable."

The panel ended with another question everyone in the audience had: What is your advice for law students and newer lawyers? The panelists agreed that mentorship and finding opportunities to shadow, intern, or just even get coffee with attorneys that you are inspired by is integral to your career. Networking and attending panel discussions are also ways to boost your opportunities and put yourself in the important rooms. Gilchrist wrapped things up with a very inspiring quote: "Be curious and be free! You never know where you will find a learning experience, and it is always when you least expect it." ■

UJ Bhowmik is a 3L at the University of Minnesota and will be starting her career at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP. Her passions include local restaurants, traveling, and her cat (who will be receiving an honorary J.D.). Adam Mikell is a 3L at the University of Minnesota and will be joining the Corporate Finance group at Stinson LLP in the fall. In his free time, he enjoys checking out local coffee shops and restaurants, watching baseball, and hiking with his brothers in the Pacific Northwest.

Mentorship and Law School Outreach Committees Partner to Introduce Students to Careers in Court Administration and Mediation

By *Emily McAdam*



On Wednesday, March 29, the Mentorship Committee and Law School Outreach Committee teamed up to host a panel discussion at Mitchell Hamline to introduce students to careers in court administration and mediation. Marc Betinsky of Robins Kaplan moderated a wonderful conversation with panelists Steven Donohue, Supervisory *Pro Se* Law Clerk for the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota; Sara Gonsalves, Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District Administrator; Antone Melton-Meaux, qualified neutral and founder of Work Resolve Mediation; and Michael Vicklund, Assistant Operations Manager for the

Court Administration and Mediation, continued on next page.

Court Administration and Mediation, continued from previous page.

U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota. Steve, Sara, Antone, and Michael explained the ins and outs of their jobs as well as the evolution of their careers away from the active practice of law. They provided insight into the factors they considered and qualities they looked for in the various roles they've held as they traveled along their unique career paths. The range of experiences the four panelists shared did a wonderful job demonstrating that a career in law doesn't follow one path and that students shouldn't be afraid to chart their own course and pursue jobs that offer the roles and responsibilities in which they find fulfillment. ■

Emily McAdam is a Co-Chair of the Law School Outreach Committee and an attorney at Greene Espel, where she represents companies in complex civil litigation as well as government and internal investigations. Before entering private practice, Emily had the good fortune of being able to observe first-hand some of the amazing work our court administrators do when she served as a law clerk for the Honorable David S. Doty here in the District of Minnesota.

A Conversation with Governor Tim Walz

By Kelly Fermoye

On March 8, 2023, the Chapter hosted recently re-elected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz at the March Monthly Luncheon. Governor Walz was interviewed by Erin Sindberg Porter, a partner at Jones Day, who asked the governor about his background and childhood, priorities in his second term, and his work appointing judges and on the board of pardons.

Ms. Sindberg Porter began the conversation by asking Governor Walz about his background and how he came to be the governor of Minnesota. Governor Walz reflected on his childhood in western Nebraska, his time teaching in China, and meeting his wife shortly after returning from China. Governor Walz and his wife soon moved to Mankato, Minnesota, where he taught geography and coached the high school football team, leading it to its first state championship. Governor Walz also described his 24 years in the Army National Guard and how it affected his teaching and political careers. The governor was in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2007 until he took his current office in 2019.

Next, Governor Walz was asked about his priorities during his second term in office. He explained the importance of what he described as "skating where the puck is going," or keeping Minnesota ahead of the curve to continue to be a state that encourages development and attracts people to stay and build their lives. Additionally, Governor Walz expressed the importance of working on both sides of the

aisle, even when the same party is in power in each of the branches. Governor Walz said that if his party does not legislate with compromises while in power, it risks setting the stage to have all the work undone when his current term concludes.

The discussion then turned to the governor's work appointing judges and acting on the board of pardons, topics of particular relevance to a crowd of lawyers. Governor Walz described the challenge of appointing judges; as he put it, it is a job for which he lacks any experience and the proper qualifications. Accordingly, Governor Walz said that he relies on the excellent work of the judicial selection committees. He encouraged any and all qualified applicants to consider the judicial process because of the importance of the nature of the work. Governor Walz described his work on the state's board of pardons, which consists of the governor, the attorney general, and the chief justice of the supreme court, as an "emotional rollercoaster" because of the stories of the applicants, the victims, and family and communities. Governor Walz told attendees stories of applicants for a pardon, including a man who returned to Minnesota from Alaska to be pardoned from a 1972 bicycle theft because he didn't want to die with anything on his criminal record.

Governor Walz concluded the luncheon with questions from the audience. The Chapter thanked the governor as he left to attend the Aspen Ideas: Climate conference in Miami, Florida. ■

Kelly Fermoye is a Co-Chair of the Chapter's Digital Communications Committee and an intellectual property litigator with Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP.

Getting to Know Magistrate Judge Dulce Foster

By Erin Emory



On the most beautiful April afternoon in memory, other FBA members and I opted to spend our lunch hour in the Minneapolis Club (rather than frolicking in green pastures under blue skies) so that we could get to know Magistrate Judge Dulce Foster. In return, Judge Foster offered us her characteristic thoughtfulness, candor, and sense of humor.

Judge Foster was interviewed by Nicole Moen, a shareholder at Fredrikson & Byron. Judge Foster opened by reflecting on her long friendship with Nicole, which included a dicey incident involving Judge Foster's dog, an Easter basket of fancy chocolates, and an emergency veterinarian.

Judge Foster, continued on next page.

Judge Foster, continued from previous page.

Nicole invited the Judge to discuss her life and career path, asking questions ranging from the personal to the professional. For example, I learned that Judge Foster was an aspiring academic in the field of behavioral neuroscience before she dropped out of grad school and went to law school. Did you know that she helped author “A House with Two Rooms: Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia Diaspora Project”? Would you guess that her first car was a VW Beetle that cost something like \$50 or \$100 and had no heat?

Judge Foster reflected on her time at Fredrikson, where she served as the Chair of the White Collar and Regulatory Defense Group. During her tenure there, she litigated complex False Claims Act and civil business disputes, defended white collar criminal cases, and served as a Criminal Justice Act panel attorney. Judge Foster reflected on some of the best parts of her time as a litigator, such as mentors who guided her path and the collegial work environment (including an incident involving art theft and a Velvet Elvis). She was also candid about the tough aspects of private practice, including sexism, working through vacations, and weeks spent away from her family.

While in private practice, Judge Foster devoted significant time to *pro bono* work. She told one story about a client who

was facing deportation and, as a result, separation from her young American-born child. Fortunately, Judge Foster recalled, the judge in that case was “merciful” and did not order the woman deported. Judge Foster reflected on the experience as evidence that there was room for compassion in the judicial system—an ethos she brings with her to the bench.

Judge Foster was sworn in as a U.S. Magistrate Judge last fall. She says it is her dream job—or at least it would be if she could do it entirely from a Caribbean island. Judge Foster has found she enjoys conducting settlement conferences because she’s able to really get to know the parties and their attorneys and to understand the nuances of each side’s argument. She also reflected on the unique role of the judge, who is charged with considering an issue from all angles but can hew closely to their “own truth.” I thought about that shift as I walked back to the office after lunch, taking the long way so I could soak up some of that preternatural spring sun. I imagine the transition to neutral arbiter is tough for such a zealous advocate—but maybe also a welcome respite. While I walked, I thought about what it might feel like to be a claimant or criminal defendant in front of Judge Foster. Tough, good-humored, fair. The ideal qualities in a judge. We’re lucky to have her. ■

Erin Emory is an attorney at Greene Espel PLLP, where she represents clients in complex civil litigation and thorny investigations. Erin specializes in employment disputes, constitutional issues, and general business litigation. When she’s not working, Erin is chasing around her near-toddler, renovating her Minneapolis home, and making just one more cup of coffee.

Clerk’s Corner

By Andrew Pieper



Douglas L. Micko has been appointed as the newest Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, filling the vacancy created when Magistrate Judge Kate M. Menendez was elevated to District Judge in late 2021. Chief Judge Patrick J. Schiltz administered the oath of office to Magistrate Judge Micko on April 10, 2023. Magistrate Judge Micko will be chambered in St. Paul. The formal investiture will take place later this summer.

Judge Joan N. Ericksen was recently appointed by Chief Justice John Roberts to serve as a member of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court for a term concluding on May 18, 2029. This is an extraordinary honor and a testament to

the high regard in which Judge Ericksen is held by leaders of the Federal Judiciary.

The Federal Judiciary, led by the Judicial Conference Committees on the Administration of the Bankruptcy System and the Magistrate Judges System, held the second iteration of the national diversity event for law students and attorneys, “Roadways to the Bench: Who Me? A Bankruptcy or Magistrate Judge?” on April 3, 2023, at 38 locations across the United States. More than 600 federal judges and 2,000 current law students and attorneys attended. The U.S. District Court and U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota joined the event, and the panel included the District of Minnesota’s own Bankruptcy Judge Kesha Tanabe. Read more about the event on page 2. For more information on becoming a Magistrate Judge, including a video and interview topics, visit the Court’s website at <https://www.mnd.uscourts.gov/becoming-magistrate-judge>.

Clerk’s Corner, continued on next page.

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The Minnesota Chapter, along with the District of Minnesota, hosted a *Pro Se* Project social hour on March 15 at the Minneapolis Courthouse. Attendees recognized Tiffany Sanders for her many achievements as the former *Pro Se* Project Coordinator and welcomed Jackie Bailey as the new coordinator.

The District Court is hosting several upcoming events open to the public. First, in recognition of the tenth anniversary of Hmong American Day in Minnesota, the Court will hold a public art reception featuring pieces from artist Kue Vue on Monday, May 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the lobby of the Diana E. Murphy Courthouse in Minneapolis. The event will also include remarks from former Governor Mark Dayton, a Hmong dance performance, and traditional Hmong food. This event is co-sponsored by the Hmong Bar Association and the Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Reservations are not needed, and families and children are encouraged to attend.

Second, the Court will host its annual Minority Judges Reception at the Diana E. Murphy Courthouse on June 15. Reservations are required, so look for an invite from the Chapter coming soon or follow the Court on LinkedIn. ■



HMONG ART RECEPTION

May 15, 2023

5pm to 7pm

Join the District Court of Minnesota in celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Hmong American Day

Featuring art from Hmong artist Kue Vue

Light refreshments will be provided

Sponsored by:



Diana E. Murphy U.S. Courthouse
300 South Fourth Street • Minneapolis, MN 55415

Andrew Pieper is Chief Deputy Clerk for the District of Minnesota.

NLC Luncheon with Judge Tunheim

By Olga Tymouch

On February 16, 2023, the Honorable John R. Tunheim welcomed approximately 40 lawyers to his courtroom for a monthly Judge's Luncheon hosted by the Newer Lawyers Committee. Judge Tunheim focused on answering attendees' questions, graciously sharing his time and hosting the group past the one-hour mark when questions were still coming.

Topics discussed ranged from Judge Tunheim's recent transition from Chief Judge to practical pointers and considerations for young lawyers, including a discussion about what makes a litigator stand out among their peers.

There was also a productive discussion about when federal courts might begin to allow recordings of court proceedings. Although some courts have begun to allow this, the federal court system continues to prohibit the media from photographing, videotaping, or recording live federal court proceedings. This prohibition on recording also includes the use of cell phones and other personal devices, even in courthouses where the public is permitted to carry such devices.

Judge Tunheim, however, noted that there is a great deal of value in allowing Americans to witness the justice system at work. And although the public is welcome to attend court proceedings in person, allowing recording would certainly give more people the opportunity to witness court proceedings more often. Judge Tunheim also encouraged young lawyers to attend court proceedings when possible, as there is a lot to learn by just observing other attorneys at work and the system in action. ■

Olga Tymouch is a litigator at Winthrop & Weinstine, P.A., where she represents clients in an array of industries in government investigations and commercial litigation.

NLC Luncheon with Judge Blackwell

By Abou B. Amara Jr.



On March 15, 2023, the Minnesota Chapter's Newer Lawyers Committee hosted its monthly Judge's Luncheon with the newest member of Minnesota's federal judiciary—Judge Jerry W. Blackwell. Judge Blackwell spoke for nearly an hour and covered a variety of topics.

First, Judge Blackwell noted that success early in one's legal career boils down to “hard work, quality work, on time.” When a newer lawyer commits to those three principles, the Judge explained, others in the profession will note it and doors will continue to open.

Next, Judge Blackwell discussed his personal journey in the law, facing adversities, and his evolution from young lawyer to law firm partner. He also described his efforts to establish an

immensely successful law firm and his time serving as the lead prosecutor in the prosecution of former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin. Judge Blackwell also discussed a core tenant of his professional life: living a life of “service” and recognizing that professional success in the law often flows from an authentic commitment to serving others.

The luncheon concluded with questions and comments from attendees asking what Judge Blackwell misses most about private practice; what changes he's noticed the most since joining the bench; and what he is most looking forward to in his new role as a U.S. District Court Judge. ■

Abou B. Amara Jr. is a complex litigation attorney at Gustafson Gluek PLLC, focusing his class action practice in antitrust, civil rights, consumer protection, data breach, securities, and mass tort.

Capitol Hill Day

By Cassandra Jacobsen



Minnesota Chapter members made their way to Washington, D.C., on March 23, 2023, to participate in the Federal Bar Association's 2023 Capitol Hill Day. Attendees included former National FBA President Anh Le Kremer, Minnesota Chapter President Adam Hansen, former Minnesota Chapter President Vildan Teske, Eighth Circuit Vice President David Goodwin, Younger Lawyers Division Chair Amy Boyle, and Chapter members Christine Thompson and Cassandra Jacobsen.

The Minnesota contingent started their day with a kick-off meeting led by Rhode Island Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. They then spent the remainder of the day meeting with Senate and House Offices, including Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar herself, to discuss critical FBA legislative issues that impact the administration of

justice and the federal courts. The discussion included federal judgeships and caseloads, funding for the federal courts and judicial security, and legislation that would create an independent Article I Immigration Court. ■

Cassandra Jacobsen is an associate at Cozen O'Connor, focusing on complex commercial litigation and advising employers on a variety of employment issues. She currently serves as a Co-Vice President of Special Events for the Chapter.

Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers Honors Judge Frank

By Joan Bibelhausen

Judge Donovan W. Frank was honored with the Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (LCL) Help & Hope award at LCL's 2023 Stepping Up for Well-Being breakfast on March 22. Judge Frank was recognized for his service as a champion for recovery and reducing the stigma of struggling with mental health and substance abuse in our profession and community.

Judge Frank is an active volunteer for LCL and has served on the LCL Board of Directors for three terms, leaving only because of term limits. He was chair from 2019 to 2020. He starred in the ABA's award-winning video, Speaking Out to End Stigma, available at https://www.americanbar.org/groups/lawyer_assistance/profession_wide_anti_stigma_campaign/. As one of two district judges in the District of Minnesota who holds Reentry Court, Judge Frank supports the message of recovery in all facets of the criminal justice community.

LCL Honors Judge Frank, continued on next page.

LCL Honors Judge Frank, continued from previous page.



Personally, Judge Frank has quietly and humbly made a difference for so many in our profession. It is not uncommon for an LCL client to note something that Judge Frank said publicly or privately was a catalyst in their desire to make a change for the better.

Pictured here are Judge Frank; Myrna McCallum, host of the podcast *The Trauma-Informed Lawyer* and co-editor of a new ABA book, *Trauma-Informed Law: A Primer for Lawyer Resilience and Healing*, who spoke at the event; Caitlinrose Fisher, LCL Board Chair; the author, LCL's Executive Director; Andrew Mohring, LCL Board Chair-Elect; and Board Member Kendra Brodin.

LCL provides free and confidential support to legal professionals, their family members, and their organizations on any issue that causes stress or distress. Services include free counseling, educational programs, groups, peer support, and resources to help our profession get well and be well. Learn more at www.mnlcl.org. ■

Joan Bibelhausen is the Executive Director of Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers.

A Teacher-Turned-Lawyer's Tips for Working with Law Clerks

By Ben Bauer

When given the support necessary to succeed, law clerks can produce high-quality work that saves attorney time, contributes to the success of a case, and pushes them forward on their path to becoming lawyers. Without that support, law clerks may churn out unhelpful work or, worse, consume more attorney time than the law clerk's work saves.

Lawyers sometimes forget that many law clerks are still students who may not be ready to contribute in the way we envision without proper support. Providing that support can seem daunting and time-intensive, but it doesn't have to be. As a former educator, I've found that channeling my teaching experience and adapting certain techniques to the lawyer/law clerk context can help prepare law clerks for success without investing too much of our most valuable resource: time. Following these techniques to invest a small amount of time on the front end can help ensure that the lawyer/law clerk relationship achieves its dual purpose: producing meaningful work that saves attorney time and ensuring law clerks have a valuable learning experience as they begin their careers.

1. Provide an Exemplar End Product

The first time I asked my students to write a "paragraph" summarizing a story we read, I got everything from a one-sentence answer to multiple pages of surprisingly insightful literary criticism. I learned the hard way that anyone new to a task is more successful when provided an exemplar they can strive to meet.

For best results, lawyers need to do more than assign a "memo" or "analysis" of a topic. Although the differences may be less drastic than with my seventh graders, a law clerk's understanding of a quality end product is likely different than an experienced attorney's understanding. They may think that a long, detailed overview is best when you're looking for a page of succinct analysis. Or maybe you're more interested in a list of relevant cases and less in

their analysis of each case. How can they know what you're hoping for without an example?

If you assign a memo (or any other project), providing an exemplar memo can help the law clerk understand what theirs should look like. This sets the law clerk up for success, avoids the confusion that stems from inexperience and not understanding which questions to ask, and increases the odds that you'll get a helpful end product. If you don't do so already, you should start keeping examples produced by past law clerks to use as exemplars for similar projects. If this law clerk does a great job, let them know you'll use their work as an exemplar in the future.

2. Provide Oral and Written Directions

Many lawyers like to provide directions in person, which we think saves us time and allows a law clerk to ask any clarifying questions immediately. But we often think we're being more clear than we actually are, and a law clerk may not have the background knowledge to know which questions to ask to clarify the directions. This leads to wasted time correcting unnecessary mistakes or redoing a project. Plus, have you ever (like me) forgotten exactly what it was you asked for when you spoke to the law clerk two weeks earlier?

Everybody (even top-tier law students) retains information better when also seeing it in writing. Accordingly, it's best to provide directions both in person and in writing. It can be as simple as a follow-up email stating "As we discussed, I'd like you to research X, Y, and Z," and assigning a due date. This helps clear up any unknown ambiguities or misunderstandings that neither party is aware of. It also sets the stage for clearer and more effective feedback regarding the scope of the assignment. Feedback along the lines of "this is not what I asked for" is not helpful. Specific feedback like "my email asked for X, Y, and Z but you only focused on X and Y" is much more helpful.

Tips for Working with Law Clerks, continued on next page.

Tips for Working with Law Clerks, continued from previous page.

3. Assign a Draft or a Small First Project and Provide Specific Feedback

My students had the most success when I sought ways to provide feedback quickly, before the final product was complete. We referred to this as a “check for understanding.” In any context, people are unlikely to turn in a perfect end product on the first try. We as lawyers should anticipate that.

For a first assignment, new law clerks can benefit from a smaller, shorter project that allows the lawyer quickly gauge a law clerk’s skill and knowledge and redirect as necessary before minor issues become larger problems. This could also be a “draft” that is not meant to be a final product so the law clerk can correct any mistakes based on the lawyer’s feedback.

But feedback must be specific to be helpful. Telling a law clerk that “Case 1 is more helpful than Case 2” may not help them fix the problem, even if the logic may seem obvious to you. A savvy law clerk will follow-up and ask why, but many will make a similar mistake again. The more specific feedback, the better. For example: “Case 1 is helpful because it involves claims under § 1104(a), like our claims. Case 2 is not helpful because it involves claims under § 1106(b), which we haven’t brought here. You should focus on § 1104(a) cases like Case 1.” This takes the lawyer almost no additional time but is much more likely to prevent future mistakes. Overall, providing meaningful feedback can take as little as five to ten minutes of attorney time but will save far more than that in the long run.

4. Provide a Big-Picture View of the Work

Every college and law school class provided a syllabus detailing the course arc and how each lesson contributed to the course’s overarching goals. That is because people new to any type of work are likely to adapt faster when they understand how an individual project or lesson fits into the bigger picture.

Providing a similar birds-eye view of your work can help a law clerk better understand their work in context. For example, many law clerks have never experienced the lifecycle of a case. Most law clerks don’t follow the same case from start to finish, and without a big-picture view they may lack the necessary context to understand what is important about the work that they’ve been assigned. In other words, it is difficult to understand what is important to the current stage of your case without understanding where you’ve already been and where you hope to go.

Explaining the big picture can look different based on your context. It could be as simple as an overview of where the project fits in the scope of your work and how it will contribute to your success. In a complex class action that typically lasts years, a lawyer might provide an “outline” of a typical case from a complaint to post-trial briefing to help a law clerk understand the sequence of a case and why each stage is important. You only need to create one “outline” that can be reused for each new law clerk. As an added bonus, it can also help clarify your directions by helping you articulate your needs and goals for assigning the project and invest the clerk by helping them understand how their work can influence the case.

5. Keep Their Development in Mind

One complaint I constantly heard from students was “WHY do I need to learn this?” A law clerk likely won’t be so bold as to let out a similar groan, but that doesn’t mean they won’t be groaning to themselves (or the other law clerks). Like anyone else, even the highest-achieving law student is not above becoming bored and uninterested if they don’t view their work as meaningful.

To a lawyer, a project might seem meaningful simply from the fact that we assigned it. But a law clerk may not realize why they’ve been assigned yet another research project on a topic they may never revisit. Even if it seems obvious, you should always explain why the work you’re assigning is important for the law clerk and important to the work you do. You hired them, so you should know what interests them and why they applied to work with you. Keep that in mind as you assign work.

For example, explaining why a project that seems less exciting could help you prevail on the case can invest a law clerk who cares about the broader subject matter or wants to be a team player. This simple step takes almost no time but helps lawyers live up to our end of the bargain to provide law clerks with meaningful opportunities, which leads to an improved work product and a more successful lawyer/law clerk relationship. ■

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Federal Criminal Justice Panel, continued from page 1.

engaged in sustained overincarceration—more people incarcerated and for longer sentences. Fettig pointed out that there has long been a notion that longer sentences would provide deterrence and public safety, but time and studies have shown that not to be the case. Osler examined how sustained overincarceration was done through statutes that were race-neutral yet resulted in the mass incarceration of people of color. As an example, Osler explained that despite an understanding that the 100:1 sentencing ratio between crack and powder cocaine was unfair, the law stayed that way for decades.

Barkow provided statistics demonstrating that people of color are overrepresented and disadvantaged at every stage in the criminal process. For instance, white defendants are 75% more likely than Black defendants to have misdemeanor charges dropped, dismissed, or reduced to avoid incarceration. If they are charged, white defendants are 25% more likely than Black defendants to have a serious charge dismissed through plea bargaining. And currently, more than 60% of people in prison are people of color. Barkow closed the panel by detailing her time on the U.S. Sentencing Commission and provided advice on how to move forward by investing in local communities: “Keep the decisions with those who know the most.”

After the first panel identified problems in the system, the next panel delved into solutions being implemented by county prosecutors. The panel was moderated by University of St. Thomas Associate Professor Dr. Tanya Gladney and featured experienced practitioners from around the country: John Choi, Ramsey County Attorney; Erica MacDonald, former U.S. Attorney for the District of Minnesota and Minnesota District Court Judge; Dan Satterberg, Prosecuting Attorney of King County, Washington; and Sherry Boston, District Attorney of DeKalb County, Georgia.

Gladney began the discussion by speaking about the importance of leadership and described the panelists as “reform-minded leaders.” Reflecting on her time as U.S. Attorney, Judge MacDonald emphasized the importance of being a leader, stating that “the most important thing a U.S. Attorney does is hire people.” Judge MacDonald also emphasized that prosecutors as leaders can focus on entry points to the criminal justice system and utilize alternatives to detention, particularly with juveniles. Satterberg noted that those involved in the criminal justice system and the communities impacted the most trust the system the least. Satterberg highlighted how he has used his leadership to gain the trust of the community. Boston noted that being a leader includes adapting great leadership from elsewhere in one’s community. Boston noted that for her, as a Black woman—a prosecutor whose identity is significant—it is especially important that she uses her voice, and that

prosecutors be “not just prosecutors, but community leaders.”

Choi noted that data collection can lead to important conversations within prosecutors’ offices and communities. He invited impacted communities to talk about alternatives to incarceration and policies, which unveiled previously behind-closed-doors decision-making. The panelists noted that the goal is “equity, not equality.”

Over lunch, seminar attendees were treated to a fireside chat with Former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. Moderator and Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer of Amerisource Bergen, Ann M. Anaya, centered the conversation around Holder’s current and prior leadership advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion. Holder continues his DEI work as Senior Counsel at Covington & Burling, where he has conducted “equity audits” by investigating DEI practices and giving recommendations to improve policies and culture. Holder noted that an emphasis on DEI is not a zero-sum game and “an appropriate emphasis on DEI enhances opportunities for everyone.”



Echoing the last panel’s sentiments regarding the importance of data, Holder noted that data can show individuals who may be skeptical of DEI practices that entities are better when made more inclusive and equitable. Holder also echoed the importance of leadership, particularly for prosecutors because of their impact and discretion. He mentioned that during his time as U.S. Attorney General, he focused on data collection regarding the racial disparities in federal sentences. Holder also reflected on his time as a judge of the D.C. Superior Court, applying his discretion in sentencing, juxtaposed with his discretion as U.S. Attorney General. Holder noted that the sentencing disparities are systemic

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problems that mirror problems in our society. While that may cause some to balk at the size of the problem, Holder pushed back: “It’s really a question of what we’re willing to do as a nation to get ourselves to the place that is consistent with our founding ideals. I think it’s possible. Not easy, but possible.”

After lunch came a lively discussion about community-based initiatives. Moderated by Chief Legal Counsel of Neuromodulation at Medtronic Lola Velazquez-Aguilu, the panel featured practitioners from around the country, including Sterling Knox, Recidivism Reduction Initiative Coordinator for Red Lake and Member of the Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Council; Sasha Cotton, Senior Director for the National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College of Criminal Justice; and Eddie Bocanegra, Senior Advisor for Community Violence Intervention in the Office of the Assistant Attorney General for the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs.

Cotton taught attendees about viewing violence through a public-health lens to build better outcomes and highlighted her work involving group violence prevention strategies and community involvement. Knox detailed recidivism-reduction initiatives within tribes, including Red Lake, that are community-based and rooted in culture. Bocanegra described his work in community-violence intervention through the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs. Bocanegra detailed grants awarded by the Office of Justice Programs, totaling more than \$4 billion, that fund re-entry programs, juvenile-justice programs, and research initiatives. The panelists emphasized that the most important factor for community-based initiatives is listening to those who are most impacted and investing in communities and the individuals who do the most to prevent crime. Cotton quoted Aqeela Sherrills: “There is no public safety without the public.” She continued, “People with lived experience in impacted community are literally the experts of their own experience, and if we don’t center them, we will miss the mark.”

The final panel focused on the creation and use of pre-trial and post-conviction specialty courts to expand the options available to federal judges. The panel was moderated by Shannon Elkins, Assistant Federal Defender for the District of Minnesota, and featured Kito Bess, Chief U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Officer for the District of Minnesota; Ignace Sanon-Jules, Deputy Chief Pretrial Services Officer for the Eastern District of New York; and the Honorable Audrey G. Fleissig of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. Attendees watched a brief video depicting the U.S. Probation and Pretrial Services Reentry Court in Minnesota and heard from reentry court participants on how the program improved their lives and experience with the criminal justice system.

Panelists also compared their specialty courts in Minnesota, New York, and Missouri and discussed how pre-trial and post-conviction specialty courts can help judges serve high-risk individuals, likely to recidivate, through substance-abuse, mental-health, and veterans’ courts. Judge Fleissig noted the benefit of these programs given the judge’s position of sentencing defendants, stating, “The reality is, we as judges are already involved in the process We can foster a system of criminal justice that has these other options as a part of the system, too.”

Closing out the day, a video message from Senator Amy Klobuchar highlighted federal legislation in the First Step Act, the confirmation of diverse jurists to the federal bench, and next steps for federal reform. Uzodima Franklin Aba-Onu, Senior Associate General Counsel at Optum, gave optimistic closing remarks and emphasized that reform is achievable, as evidenced by reforms underway around the country.

The conference and its messages of equity, community, and leadership mirrored the myriad stakeholders and organizations that came together to make the event happen. The conference was co-sponsored by the Federal Bar Association, the Minnesota State Bar Association, Minnesota Coalition of Bar Associations of Color, and the University of St. Thomas School of Law. Judge Jeffrey Bryan, Co-Chair of the Minnesota State Bar Association’s Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Council, worked with a team of former federal prosecutors, members of the state affinity bar organizations, officers of the Federal Bar Association, representatives of the Federal Defender’s Office, the University of St. Thomas, and attorneys in private and public practice to plan the conference. ■

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Photos by Sarah Mayer for the Minnesota State Bar Association.

Meet Judge Blackwell, continued from page 1.

this family and their values that Judge Blackwell learned the three steps of what he calls the “Waltz of Success”—hard work, good quality, and on time.

Judge Blackwell attended Charles B. Aycock Elementary School in Kannapolis. Charles B. Aycock, among his other distinctions, was a ringleader in a white supremacist coup d'état in Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1898 that resulted in the killing of up to hundreds of residents, burning down their homes and businesses, and driving thousands of Black residents out of the city to eliminate their participation in government and policing, replacing them with former Confederates. Judge Blackwell adds that he “was never told in all of my years of public education who Charles Aycock really was, and the Wilmington massacre was never taught either.”

Judge Blackwell excelled academically but learned as much, if not more, about the world around him through the interactions and strong bonds of his community and family. “I was surrounded by a lot of smart people,” he says. “They were not festooned in ivy, but the things they could recite or assemble from memory—entire cars from scratch—would put any lawyer to shame.” He adds, “Intelligence and education I know firsthand are not the same thing; education is mostly about opportunity.”

It was in second grade that Judge Blackwell first considered a career in law, inspired by a simple suggestion from his mother: “You like to read, maybe you should be a lawyer.” He was hooked right then, even if only to make his mother proud. Relatively few white students in Kannapolis went to college at that time and so few African Americans, Judge Blackwell says, that he “could name them all who had ever gone with only a few fingers.” Focusing on academics, leadership, and athletics (high school quarterback), Judge Blackwell chartered his way out of Kannapolis. To this day, Judge Blackwell draws precise analogies of fairness, justice, and humanity from his Southern upbringing.

Judge Blackwell went on to graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1984, earning his Bachelor of Arts. At UNC, he was a Morehead (now Morehead-Cain) Scholar, which is the nation’s first merit scholarship program; like the Rhodes Scholarship that it was meant to mirror, the scholarship was based on demonstrated leadership, character, scholarship, and athletics and provided fully funded educations and global opportunities to top students from the U.S. and abroad. As a Morehead Scholar, he vastly broadened his horizons through various internships—interning with the Menlo Park Police Department in California, working at the corporate headquarters for what is now Bank of America, the Canadian Parliament where he worked on the initial stages of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and an independent travel study abroad after college graduation.

In his junior year, Judge Blackwell momentarily considered the ministry as a profession. But several ministers he knew and trusted advised him that he might do more good and service for society without the assumptions and burdens that come with “wearing the collar.” Heeding that advice, Judge Blackwell attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law. This is where he met the first lawyer he had ever known, and he also met the three people who inspired him most in his career.

To help pay for law school, Judge Blackwell worked on UNC Law Professor Harry E. Groves’s hobby farm, feeding his 90 ducks, goats, and chickens every day; handling yardwork; and helping the professor tend his orchids. Professor Groves was an African American scholar of constitutional law; an Army veteran who served as second lieutenant of artillery in the WWII European Theater; a former dean of the University of Malaya in Singapore, Texas Southern University, and North Carolina Central University; and a 1991 inductee into the National Bar Association’s Hall of Fame. Far from one-dimensional, Professor Groves had wide-ranging interests.

Dr. John Hope Franklin, one of America’s greatest scholars in African American history, was Professor Groves’s good friend who also grew orchids and often was over at the house sharing stories, including experiences from service during WWII. Professor Groves once shared how he and other Black soldiers were placed in cars behind the white German POWs returning home. Despite fighting for the ideal of democracy and against racism in foreign theaters, racial apartheid remained the rule in their own country, and they returned home, still in uniform, as second-class citizens behind the German POWs. Dr. Franklin, who held a Ph.D. from Harvard at the time he voluntarily enlisted, had to fight for his commission after initially being denied based on his skin color and nothing more. Despite carrying the weight of prejudice, they excelled and achieved.

Finally, there was Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Jr., another dear friend of Professor Groves. Judge Higginbotham, who was born in segregated Trenton in 1928, went on to become arguably the most distinguished jurist to sit on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. He was a law professor, noted historian, great African American civil rights advocate, recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, federal district court judge, and consultant to Nelson Mandela on forming the South African Constitution. To be a fly on the wall—or even on the roof—when these three luminaries got together would surely inspire anyone. And their conversations inspired Judge Blackwell. To him, these three men were all examples of excellence, hard work, discipline, and multi-dimensional interests. Seeing them further up the hill of humanity inspired Judge Blackwell to do his best to one day march up to meet them.

After reading a *New York Times* article about a Minneapolis firm representing the victims of the Bhopal gas explosion and discussing it with a law school friend and classmate,

Meet Judge Blackwell, continued on next page.

Meet Judge Blackwell, continued from previous page.

Judge Blackwell decided to begin his career at Robins, Zelle, Larson & Kaplan (now Robins Kaplan) if he could work on that case (which he did). On his first day there, he met now-Judge Susan Richard Nelson, who kindly showed him where to find the office supplies. Although Judge Blackwell knew little about Minnesota when he arrived and initially only planned to stay for a couple of years, he quickly grew fond of the opportunities, the outdoors, and the people. In just six years, at 31 years old, Judge Blackwell made partner and was told that he was the youngest partner at the firm anyone could remember.

In 1996, Judge Blackwell left Robins and became a partner at the beginning of Halleland Lewis Nilan Sipkins & Johnson (now Nilan Johnson Lewis). He ultimately founded Blackwell Burke, one of the leading trial law firms for Fortune 500 companies, small businesses, and individuals in Minnesota. Blackwell Burke provided some of the best trial opportunities for women and diverse lawyers in high-stakes litigation.

Following in the footsteps of his mentors, Judge Blackwell has many accomplishments: Distinguished Alumnus of the University of North Carolina undergraduate and law schools; Minnesota Attorney of the Year, multiple times; National Law Journal's Winning Litigator of the Year; Benchmark Litigation Hall of Fame; and many other local and national recognitions. "It is the service that matters," the Judge says, and not so much the recognition. "Life should be principally service," he often says.

Though a trial lawyer in complex civil litigation for most of his legal career, Judge Blackwell was known to step out of the mold on a *pro bono* basis to handle complex matters in unfamiliar areas. For example, after several immigration attorneys turned away a man whose life was at risk if removed to Liberia, Judge Blackwell obtained relief for him *pro bono* under Article III of the Convention Against Torture, relief not many immigration lawyers had either sought or obtained. In another highly contentious dispute, again for free, he intervened to protect the religious rights and freedoms of a local Ethiopian Church whose resources,

leadership, and independence were threatened by violence and an organized overthrow from local, national, and even international interests as fallout from a split in their mother church, one of Christianity's most ancient branches, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church in Addis Ababa.

More familiar to us locally, in 2020, Judge Blackwell played a central role in obtaining a posthumous pardon for Max Mason, a Black man wrongfully convicted by a Duluth jury in 1920 for the alleged rape of a white woman while three other Black men also falsely accused were murdered by a Duluth mob numbering in the thousands. Most recently, Judge Blackwell answered the call when he served on the prosecution team that secured the historic conviction of ex-police officer Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd, the most widely viewed trial in history and a case that awakened the international conscience on issues of race and police accountability.

After finishing a 12-week trial in Cook County, Illinois, in 2022, Judge Blackwell felt an inner conviction to devote the rest of his professional life to public service. He would wind down the law firm he had taken so long to build and set his sights on becoming a judge.

Sitting on the other side of the bench has been a welcome adjustment for Judge Blackwell, receiving warm and robust support from his fellow jurists and court staff. Just like at the start of his career, Judge Nelson was there once again to show him where to find the office supplies and so much more.

Outside of the law, Judge Blackwell practices meditation regularly and, through his varied interests and hobbies, usually has a few science or other "experiments" going at any given time. Judge Blackwell also shares his encyclopedic knowledge of bees with anyone willing to ask and often hosts school groups for educational visits to his farm. In his chambers, he has a quote on the wall, "I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious." May the federal bench be all the better for it. ■

Gabriel Ramirez-Hernandez is a current term law clerk for Judge Jerry W. Blackwell and former law clerk for Minnesota Court of Appeals Judge Peter M. Reyes Jr. Before joining Judge Blackwell's chambers, Gabriel practiced as a litigation associate at Maslon LLP.

Roadways to the Bench, continued from page 2.

The national broadcast was followed by roundtable discussions. The event in Minnesota was joined by district court judges, bankruptcy judges, and magistrate judges from Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa. Judges sat at different tables to share their insights on becoming federal judges with law students and attorneys.

Judge Donovan W. Frank said, "The job is to do justice," and the federal judge's work "really is in the realm of public interest, so you really have to know why you want to do this job." Bankruptcy Judge William J. Fisher highlighted

the need for community involvement and encouraged young attorneys who are interested in becoming federal judges to be involved in *pro bono* work, which will hone the skills helpful in becoming a federal judge.

"Becoming a judge is a little like getting struck by lightning," said Judge Swain during the panel discussion. "Enjoy your life, learn a lot, be curious, and be open to possibilities." Judge Kasubhai added, "You also need to be able to see yourself as a judge and give yourself credit for what you have." ■

Joo Hee Park is a judicial extern for Judge Tanabe at the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the 2023 Spring term. She is graduating from the University of Minnesota Law School in May 2023.

Introducing the Law School Outreach Committee and Free Student Membership

Since 2012, the Law School Outreach Committee (LSOC) has served as a bridge between the Minnesota Chapter of the FBA and passionate and engaged students at local law schools. The LSOC ensures that students get the most out of their memberships by helping students facilitate learning about federal practice areas; meet members of the FBA, federal bar, and judiciary; and cultivate relationships within the legal community. In doing so, the LSOC works with law school chapters to provide guidance on organizing events, obtaining funding, furthering diversity, and connecting to opportunities in the Minnesota Chapter and FBA-National.

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Students are encouraged to take advantage of this join at <https://www.fedbar.org/membership/> so they can enjoy all the benefits the FBA has to offer. Chapter members are encouraged to **share this information with the students you mentor, work with, and teach.**

The screenshot shows the FBA website's 'Benefits of Membership' page. The browser's address bar displays <https://www.fedbar.org/membership/>. The page header includes the FBA logo and navigation links: Membership, Events, Government Relations, About, The Federal Lawyer, Foundation, and Member Tools. The main heading is 'Benefits of Membership'. Below the heading, there is a call to action: 'Serving the federal practitioner and judiciary since 1920. [Create your account here and join today!](#)'. The text describes the FBA's mission and membership benefits. A sidebar on the right lists 'In This Section' with links to Membership Categories, Chapters, Sections and Divisions, FBA Member Plus Program, and Membership FAQ. A 'Resources' section is also visible at the bottom right.

To get involved, contact law school liaisons Hannah M. Leiendecker and Emily M. McAdam at hannah.leiendecker@faegredrinker.com and emcadam@greeneespel.com.



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Upcoming Events:

Saturday,
May 13, 2023
*Federal Judges' Dinner
Dance*

Thursday,
June 15, 2023
*Minority Judges
Reception*

Monday - Friday,
July 17-21, 2023
Court Camp

Monday,
August 28, 2023
*2023 FBA Golf
Tournament & Social
Event*

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Want to get involved in the Minnesota Chapter of the Federal Bar Association? Visit <http://www.fedbar.org/Chapters/Minnesota-Chapter/Chapter-Initiatives.aspx> for a full list of committees and information about how to get involved.

Online Registration:

The Minnesota Chapter of the FBA utilizes an online registration system for the monthly Minneapolis Club luncheons. A registration link will be sent to you via e-mail for each luncheon. One feature of the system is the automatic calendar entry; just click "Add to Calendar" from the registration system or your confirmation e-mail. Registration coordinators have the option to register multiple attendees in a single registration.

CLE Credit for Monthly Luncheons:

Attending the Monthly Luncheons also earns you CLE credits! If you attended these luncheons, here are the CLE codes and the credits approved:

March Monthly Luncheon (Governor Tim Walz) - 1 standard credit (482423)

April Monthly Luncheon (Magistrate Judge Foster) - TBD

May Monthly Luncheon (Judge Blackwell) - TBD



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