

fcba NEWS

DECEMBER 2024

35th Annual FCBA Charity Auction - A Successful Night of Charity and Fun



On October 23rd, members of the FCBA and supporters gathered at the Hamilton Live in downtown Washington, DC to raise over **\$121,000** in support of two deserving local non-profits: the Washington Jesuit Academy (WJA) and the FCBA Foundation. The Auction Committee sincerely thanks everyone who attended, participated in, volunteered for,

and donated to this year's Charity Auction! This event would not be possible without your generosity and support.

The evening's program, hosted by celebrity emcees, FCBA President, **Kathy Kirby**, and **Tom Power**, featured exciting activities and

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FCBA Offers New Platinum Sponsorship Package

The FCBA is pleased to offer a new sponsorship opportunity! We know that our sponsors — law firms, telecom, media, and tech companies, trade associations, and other generous organizations — are critical to the FCBA's success. In the first half of 2025, with your support, we'll be holding an exciting array of events. While your organization is free to sponsor one or more on an *a la carte* basis (as in the past), in response to sponsor input we now are offering a package sponsorship opportunity.

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Nominations for the 2025 FCBA Election

Pursuant to Article V, Section 21 of the Association's Bylaws, the FCBA Nominations Committee is beginning the process of preparing the ballot for the 2025 annual election. Positions to be filled are: President-Elect; Secretary; Assistant Secretary; Assistant Treasurer; Chapter Representative to the Executive Committee; Delegate to the American Bar Association; four (4) members of the Executive Committee; three (3) members of the Nominations Committee; and four (4) FCBA Foundation Trustees.

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Upcoming Key Events

International Telecommunications Committee CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Monday, January 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET
Topic: Supplementing Terrestrial Coverage from Space: Views from Administrations and the Industry. Where are we now and what to expect in the future?

► SEE PAGE 4

Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Robotics / Consumer Protection Committees CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET
Topic: AI Enters the Messaging Space: Government and Private Sector Approaches to Combatting Deepfakes and Misinformation

► SEE PAGE 4

Atlanta Chapter Breakfast and Panel

Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. ET
Location: Gray Media, 4370 Peachtree Rd NE (Brookhaven)
Topic: Loper Bright and Jarkesy

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Midwest Chapter Lunch and Learn

Date/Time: Monday, January 27, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Central Time (1:00 – 2:00 Eastern)

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform

Topic: Planning for Network Maintenance & Repair

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Diversity Committee CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 28, 12:30 – 2:30 pm ET

Topic: Diversity in the Telecom Sector: Where Do We Go From Here?

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PRESIDENT'S Message

I grew up on Long Island and for my Irish Catholic family, the holiday season did not begin until we all piled into the car and headed into the City to witness St. Patrick's Cathedral in all its Christmas glory and stood in the cold to watch the skaters and stare in awe at the Rockefeller Center tree.



I am often in NYC in December (I am as I write), and again this year I made it a point, on my way back from a business dinner, to stop by The Tree, which still instills in me a sense of awe and wonder. My own personal ritual that incorporates not only that childhood nostalgia but also a very grown-up sense of love and gratitude for family and friends here and gone and the memories, both good and bad, we've shared together. I take a moment to breathe deep, let the stresses go, and try to focus on the positives. Where I've been and where I'm going. The improvements I can make. The good I may be able to accomplish if I set my mind to it. That's not always easy to do in a season that often underscores very real struggles and difficult emotions more than successes. I wish each and every one of my fellow FCBA members your own moment of peace and light this December.

And I bet many of you know what I am going to say next – among my positives, the work of our FCBA! What a joyous moment for me to preside during our 36th Annual Dinner on December 3. To look out from the stage over the sea of our own TMT luminaries and supporters is truly a humbling and inspiring moment. I was so delighted to have a chance to catch up with so many friends in the bar (meaning both FCBA and at the bar afterward) and to meet others, most of whom wanted to thank us for eliminating the paper drink tickets! Some things should go down in FCBA history.

So, a big thank you to our table purchasers, to Chairwoman Rosenworcel for providing the evening's entertainment, to FCC Commissioners Carr, Starks, and Gomez and Assistant Secretary Davidson for making the head table so lively and for your support of our organization, to the many dedicated public servants in attendance, and to the legions I pressed into service to direct us from the reception into the ballroom so as to keep the evening moving along. It is no small feat to pull off an event like ours and I am grateful to FCBA's leadership team and especially to FCBA Executive Director Kerry Loughney, who deserves a standing ovation and a vacation.

As some of you know, the day of the dinner is a long one, kicking off with PLI/FCBA's 42nd Annual Institute on Telecommunications Policy and Regulation. This year's program was spectacular, and I am grateful to the many participants who shared their insights with us as we looked back on the accomplishments of the previous administration and anticipated what to expect in the coming year. Kudos to Program Co-Chairs Scott Delacourt, Michele Farquhar, and Bryan Tramont who put a tremendous

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Diane Griffin Holland

Thank you to our
DIVERSITY PIPELINE PROGRAM SUPPORTERS!

The FCBA is grateful to the firms, companies, and associations listed below who have financially sponsored the Diversity Pipeline Program for the 2024-2025 year. If you are interested in sponsoring the Diversity Pipeline Program, please [click here](#).

ORDER OF THE COIF
(\$5,000)



SUMMA
(\$2,500)



MAGNA
(\$1000)

Kellogg Hansen Todd Figel & Frederick, P.L.L.C.

CUM LAUDE
(\$500)

Diane Holland

**Monday, January 13,
10:00 a.m. –
12:00 p.m. ET
Supplementing
Terrestrial
Coverage from
Space: Views from
Administrations and
the Industry. Where
are we now and
what to expect in
the future?**

The FCBA International Telecommunications Committee will sponsor a CLE on Monday, January 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET entitled **Supplementing Terrestrial Coverage from Space: Views from Administrations and the Industry. Where are we now and what to expect in the future?** The program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

The first half of the program will begin with a high-level overview of the FCC's Supplemental Coverage from Space Report and Order and feature international administrations to provide information on their respective country's approach to SCS. Topics will include status of their domestic regulations, potential roadblocks they foresee or are currently experiencing and their expectation from the ITU. Panel 2 will feature industry representatives to provide information on their respective approach to SCS. Topics will include differences between the SCS and MSS regulatory frameworks, status of their deployments, potential roadblocks they foresee or are currently experiencing.

The FCBA will apply for 2.0 hours of MCLE credit from the VA Bar. This program has not yet been approved.

[Click here to register.](#)

Make sure to log into your account to receive the member rates! If you are signing up on behalf of a member, please sign in using their credentials (username and password). By doing this, the information will be linked to their account.

If you have any issues, please contact Elina Gross at elina@fcba.org.

Agenda

**10:00 – 10:05 a.m.
WELCOME AND
INTRODUCTIONS**

Daudeline Meme, Vice President & Associate General Counsel, Federal Regulatory & International Public Policy, Verizon

**10:05 – 10:15 a.m.
HIGH-LEVEL OVERVIEW OF
THE FCC'S SUPPLEMENTAL
COVERAGE FROM SPACE
REPORT AND ORDER**

E. Barlow Keener, Of Counsel, Womble Bond Dickinson (US) LLP

**10:15 – 11:10 a.m.
VIEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL
ADMINISTRATIONS ON
SUPPLEMENTAL COVERAGE
FROM SPACE**

Moderator:
Pascale Dumit, Director, International Spectrum Policy, T-Mobile

Speakers:
Eric Fournier, Director for Spectrum Planning and International Affairs, ANFR, France
Fernanda Sánchez, Spectrum Allocation Director, IFT, Mexico
Additional Panelist TBA

**11:10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
VIEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY
ON SUPPLEMENTAL
COVERAGE FROM SPACE**

Moderator:
Jodi Goldberg, Special Counsel, Corporate and Securities Practice Group, Sheppard Mullin

Speakers:
Mindel De La Torre, Head of Global Regulatory Affairs, Skylo
Navid Motamed, AVP Public Policy, AT&T
Additional Panelist TBA

**Thursday, January 16,
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET
AI Enters the
Messaging Space:
Government and
Private Sector
Approaches to
Combatting
Deepfakes and
Misinformation**

The FCBA Artificial Intelligence and Consumer Protection Committees will co-sponsor a CLE on Thursday, January 16, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET entitled **AI Enters the Messaging Space: Government and Private Sector Approaches to Combatting Deepfakes and Misinformation.** The program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

The advent of artificial intelligence (“AI”) for robocalling and robotexting in the comes with both promises and risks for consumers and companies alike. AI technologies in the messaging space allow companies and organizations large and small to reach consumers, and even detect harmful calls and texts. However, AI technologies can also be used by bad actors to mislead and defraud.

Policymakers and enforcement agencies at the federal and state levels have been engaged on this issue, proposing new laws and regulations to address the use of AI in the political context, including the Federal Communications Commission's AI Robocalls NPRM and NOI. At the same time, industry and public interest groups have been active in this space, including

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JANUARY 16 CLE

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by exploring technological solutions to detect the use of AI in messaging campaigns.

The FCBA will apply for 2.0 hours of MCLE credit from the VA Bar. This program has not yet been approved.

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Agenda

2:00 – 2:05 p.m. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2:05 – 3:00 p.m. FEDERAL AND STATE EFFORTS TO REGULATE AI IN THE MESSAGING SPACE

Moderator:
TBA

Panelists:
Ben Winters, Director of AI and Privacy,
Consumer Federation of America
Additional Panelist TBA

3:05 – 4:00 p.m. EXPLORING AI DETECTION TECHNOLOGIES

Moderator:
Kevin Rupy, Partner, Wiley Rein LLP

Panelists:
William Maxson, Assistant Director,
Division of Marketing Practices, Federal
Trade Commission
Mike Rudolph, Chief Technology
Officer, YouMail
Vijay Balasubramanian, Co-Founder
& CEO, Pindrop

Tuesday, January 28, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. ET Diversity in the Telecom Sector: Where Do We Go From Here?

The FCBA Diversity Committee will sponsor a CLE on Tuesday, January 28, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. ET entitled **Diversity in the Telecom Sector: Where Do We Go From Here?** The program will be held virtually via the Zoom platform.

Join us for this CLE, where we will have engaging discussions among experts about the status of diversity in the telecom sector, the impact from court decisions and calls for companies to cease diversity efforts, and the role of artificial intelligence.

The FCBA will apply for 2.0 hours of MCLE credit from the VA Bar. This program has not yet been approved.

[Click here to register.](#)

Make sure to log into your account to receive the member rates! If you are signing up on behalf of a member, please sign in using their credentials (username and password). By doing this, the information will be linked to their account.

If you have any issues, please contact Elina Gross at elina@fcba.org.

Agenda

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

PANEL 1: DIVERSITY IN THE TELECOM SECTOR - WHERE ARE WE AND THE ROAD AHEAD

A panel discussion of where things stand in the telecom sector, how court challenges and calls for organizations to end diversity efforts have impacted diversity efforts, and where we go from here.

PANEL 2: ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: ITS IMPACT ON DIVERSITY - A BOON OR A BUST?

A panel discussion on what role artificial intelligence has played in diversity efforts and the targeting of information to underrepresented groups and how artificial intelligence can help organizations ensure that everyone can compete for telecom career opportunities.

Speakers TBD

The FCLJ is Looking for Articles

The *Federal Communications Law Journal* (FCLJ), the official academic journal of the FCBA, is hosted by The George Washington University Law School. It has long been an important source of legal scholarship on communications issues, and the FCBA is proud to offer the journal as a benefit to our members.

The *Federal Communications Law Journal* (FCLJ) editorial board at The George Washington University Law School is seeking article submissions for potential publication in the upcoming issues of the FCLJ. Interested members may submit articles to the Senior Articles Editor, Spencer Banwart (fcljarticles@law.gwu.edu). Articles may also be submitted through ExpressO or Scholastica. For general inquiries about the FCLJ, please contact the Editor-in-Chief, Addison Spencer (fclj@law.gwu.edu).

PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP

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The package sponsorship qualifies you as Platinum Sponsor for the following FCBA events to be held between January and June 2025:

- Sixth Annual Women's Summit Series;
- Congressional Reception;
- Spring Reception, featuring Excellence in Government Service Award;
- Annual Seminar in Hershey, PA.

Among other things, Platinum Sponsorship offers the following benefits:

- A discounted price as compared to cost of sponsoring each of the four events separately at a gold-equivalent level;
- Ability to pre-pay for sponsorships (e.g., to use calendar year 2024 funds for 2025);
- Recognition as a Platinum Sponsor in the FCBA newsletter each month from January-June 2025, in addition to recognition as top-level sponsor at each package event.

Please note that the FCBA Annual Luncheon in June is not included in the package.

Organizations also are free (but certainly not obligated) to add discrete sponsorships to individual sessions at the Annual Seminar (e.g., of hospitality breaks) separate and apart from their Platinum Sponsorship.

We are grateful to our supporters at each and every sponsorship level. I hope some of you will find this streamlined package/discount suits your organization's needs.

[Click here for detailed information on benefits and pricing \(pdf\).](#)

[CLICK HERE TO BECOME A PLATINUM SPONSOR!](#)

[PLEASE SIGN IN WITH YOUR MEMBER CREDENTIALS \(username and password\) in order to link it to your account!](#)

Please contact Elina at elina@fcba.org with any questions.

NOMINATIONS

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The first step of this process is for members to notify the Nominations Committee of their interest in being nominated, or to recommend other members for consideration for nomination. Nominations should be sent to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, Diane Holland, via email to dgholland@wiley.law, with a copy sent to kerry@fcba.org. Please give the

name of the member to be considered for nomination, a brief statement about why the individual is being nominated, and the position they are being recommended for by **Friday, January 17, 2025**.

The Nominations Committee will present a slate of nominations to the membership via email and the in newsletter. At that point, members will have the option of making additional nominations as outlined in the Bylaws.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

▶ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

amount of work into this program and always deliver.

More positives – the Charity Auction raised over \$121,000 for the Washington Jesuit Academy and to fund a four-year FCBA college scholarship. The Annual Dinner helps to fund FCBA's annual operating budget, but \$21,000 of our proceeds from this year's event will go directly to the FCBA Foundation and its scholarship program. The word has spread about our Diversity Pipeline Program and interest is keen. Random Coffees are fostering new friendships. And our chapters and committees are serving members with top-notch offerings. Among other programs, our Space and Global Communications Committee hosted an out of this world Lunch and Learn on the Future of Positioning, Navigation, and Timing (proud of my young colleague Jillian Quigley for moderating) and our Wireline Committee took a look at the future of USF in a star-studded CLE. Both our Atlanta and Midwest Chapters already have events planned for January. I don't need to tell you it's going to be an interesting new year in TMT law and policy – rest assured FCBA will provide the educational tools and networking events to help us all understand the latest developments and move forward together.

You should have seen in your inbox information about our new Platinum

Sponsorship. In response to demand, we're offering a one stop sponsorship shop for a bundle of events through June 2025, including the Congressional Reception, the Women's Summit, the Annual Seminar, and the Spring Reception. Our Platinum Package sponsors will receive a discount and other perks, and our hope is to make event sponsorship more streamlined for our supporters. Of course, we remain grateful to those who choose to help underwrite our events on an *a la carte* basis. I'd love to have your feedback on this offering, so please reach out.

As I've mentioned before, we are always looking for ways to improve the organization's overall value, and to that end will be launching a membership survey right after the holidays—our first since 2017 and, importantly, our first post-pandemic. When the survey is sent to you, I ask that you please take a few minutes to provide your input.

It is not lost on me that with the new year will come uncertainty and change, whether welcome or unwelcome. But I hold firm in my belief that, as a community, FCBA members will continue to offer each other strength and support in myriad forms. I wish you and yours health and happiness and a moment to enjoy and appreciate this season of wonder.

Kathy Kirby
FCBA President 2024-2025

COMMITTEE AND CHAPTER *Events*

Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Robotics Committee

Event: CLE Seminar co-sponsored by the Consumer Protection Committee

Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform

Topic: AI Enters the Messaging Space: Government and Private Sector Approaches to Combatting Deepfakes and Misinformation

Cost: \$135.00 for Private Sector Members; \$95.00 for Non-Profit 501c3 Members; \$50.00 for Government/Academic/Transitional/Retired Members; No charge for Law Student Members; \$205.00 for Non-Members

For more information: See [page 4](#)

[Click here to register.](#)

Atlanta Chapter

Event: Breakfast and Panel

Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. ET

Location: Gray Media, 4370 Peachtree Rd NE (Brookhaven)

Topic: Loper Bright and Jarkesy – Join us to discuss the near and far future for regulatees under recent Supreme Court precedent.

Speakers: Barry Ohlson, Cox Enterprises; Anne Kamosso, Ohmium; Brian Lea, Jones Day

Thanks to Jones Day for Sponsoring the Breakfast!

[Click here to register.](#)

Consumer Protection Committee

Event: CLE Seminar co-sponsored by the Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Robotics Committee

Date/Time: Thursday, January 16, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform

Topic: AI Enters the Messaging Space: Government and Private Sector Approaches to Combatting Deepfakes and Misinformation

Cost: \$135.00 for Private Sector Members; \$95.00 for Non-Profit 501c3 Members; \$50.00 for Government/Academic/Transitional/Retired Members; No charge for Law Student Members; \$205.00 for Non-Members

For more information: See [page 4](#)

[Click here to register.](#)

Diversity Committee

Event: CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Tuesday, January 28, 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform

Topic: Diversity in the Telecom Sector: Where Do We Go From Here?

Cost: \$135.00 for Private Sector Members; \$95.00 for Non-Profit 501c3 Members; \$50.00 for Government/Academic/Transitional/Retired Members; No charge for Law Student Members; \$205.00 for Non-Members

For more information: See [page 5](#)

[Click here to register.](#)

International Telecommunications Committee

Event: CLE Seminar

Date/Time: Monday, January 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform

Topic: Supplementing Terrestrial Coverage from Space: Views from Administrations and the Industry. Where are we now and what to expect in the future?

Cost: \$135.00 for Private Sector Members; \$95.00 for Non-Profit 501c3 Members; \$50.00 for Government/Academic/Transitional/Retired Members; No charge for Law Student Members; \$205.00 for Non-Members

For more information: See [page 4](#)

[Click here to register.](#)

Midwest Chapter

Event: Lunch and Learn

Date/Time: Monday, January 27, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Central Time (1:00 – 2:00 Eastern)

Location: Virtual via the Zoom platform

Topic: Planning for Network Maintenance & Repair. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is helping to pay for a \$65 billion investment in broadband networks. Once the networks are built, how do you fund and plan for their continued operation? This lunch and learn will feature engaging discussions with telecom leaders about how to plan for and finance repair and maintenance of fiber networks.

Speakers: Kyle Hildebrand, Chief Revenue Officer, Vivacity Infrastructure Group, LLC, and others to be announced.

[Click here to register.](#)

The Federal Communications Law Journal

The *Federal Communications Law Journal (FCLJ)* has long been an important source of legal scholarship on communications issues, and the FCBA is proud to offer the journal as a benefit to our members.

FCBA members may now decide how they would like to receive the journal. The *FCLJ* itself will continue to be published in hard copy, however, rather than receiving hard copies as a default, we'll be distributing electronic links to the content.

For those of you who would like to receive the *FCLJ* electronically, you don't have to do anything. We'll email you when a new issue is published. You may also visit <http://www.fclj.org/volumes/> to view archived volumes.

For those of you who would like to receive the *FCLJ* in hard copy format, you should sign up for this option by following the instructions below. The hard copy journal is free, but it must be ordered through our website.

- Log in to your account by [clicking here](#).
- Once logged in, click on "My Profile" and then "My Account" buttons on the top left menu bar.
- Scroll down to the Additional Information section. Select Yes in response to the **FCLJ Subscription - Hard Copy Format** question.
- Click on "Save Changes", and you're done!

If you have any questions, please email Kerry Loughney (kerry@fcba.org).

Diversity Pipeline Program Announces Year 5 Anchor Employers

Year 5 of the FCBA Diversity Pipeline Program is shaping up to be the most impactful year yet!

A record-setting 125 first-year law students from prominent U.S. law schools have applied to participate in Year 5 of the Diversity Pipeline Program – the only legal internship and curriculum-support program in the nation that focuses exclusively on law and policy in the technology, media, and telecommunications (TMT) sector. To ensure Pipeline interns are prepared to contribute meaningfully on day-one of their internships, all selected interns are required to complete successfully the rigorous and ground-breaking TMT Law and Policy Certificate Program.

The twenty Anchor Employers listed below are the Washington DC-based TMT organizations, including law firms, companies, and trade associations, have

committed to participate in Year 5 of the Pipeline Program. The increasing interest from TMT employers in the DC area to host interns demonstrates a shared commitment to fostering an inclusive American legal profession. Participating employers gain access to an exceptional talent pipeline and the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the careers of aspiring legal professionals.

Together – the Pipeline Program, its talented students, and committed employers – is building a more inclusive and innovative future for the TMT industry.

Let's make Year 5 truly transformative!

YEAR 5 ANCHOR EMPLOYERS

- ACA Connects - America's Communications Association
- ACT | The App Association
- AT&T Services
- BT Americas
- CableLabs
- Comcast NBCUniversal
- Cox Enterprises
- Crown Castle
- CTIA
- Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
- HWG LLP
- Hogan Lovells US LLP
- Intrado
- Kellogg, Hansen, Todd, Figel & Frederick, PLLC
- Lerman Senter PLLC
- Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.
- NCTA – The Internet & Television Association
- T-Mobile USA
- The Future of Privacy Forum
- Tripadvisor
- USTelecom – The Broadband Association
- Verizon
- Wireless Infrastructure Association
- Wiley Rein LLP
- Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP

If your organization is interested in becoming an Employer Participant for Summer 2025, please contact the Diversity Pipeline Program Committee via email at DiversityPipeline@fcba.org. The Committee will provide the terms of understanding and enrollment form to be reviewed, executed, and submitted.

Northern California Chapter Mentorship Program Kickoff on November 20

The Northern California chapter launched their mentorship program with a kickoff reception on November 20, hosted by Davis Wright Tremaine in San Francisco! The mentors and mentees enjoyed the opportunity to meet and get to know one another. Twenty mentors and mentees throughout California have been paired thus far in this program. We look forward to a successful year!



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California Chapter Program with Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel on October 15

On Tuesday, October 15th, FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel had a fireside chat with UCLA Law School Professor Sanford Williams at UCLA Law School. The discussion included the latest developments in AI and the future of communications at the FCC.



California Chapter Event with Chairwoman Rosenworcel



Sanford Williams and Chairwoman Rosenworcel



FCBA Welcomes Its Senior Manager of Programs, Stephanie Budaker

Stephanie Budaker is the new Senior Manager at the FCBA and is eager to begin managing key initiatives and projects. Previously, Stephanie worked at the National Association of Broadcasters Leadership Foundation (the NAB's nonprofit,) managing college programs to teach students about broadcasting careers and connect them with recruiters. Before that, she oversaw a network of over 140 diverse nonprofit members at the Alliance for Peacebuilding and organized the flagship annual event, PeaceCon.

Stephanie has a Bachelor's from Kent State University and a Master's in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University. In her free time, she enjoys reading and birdwatching.



Michael Pryor

By: Laura Phillips

I have known Michael Pryor for quite some time. He's had significant experience both at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and within law firms and I was delighted that he was able to take some time to talk with me about building a career over the years and perspectives on success. Michael is currently with a Denver-based firm, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, and is based in their Washington DC office. He is a Member of the firm and he concentrates on telecommunications-related policy, regulation, compliance and litigation matters.



Q: What attracted you to the field of communications?

A: After completing law school I had the opportunity to clerk for Judge Harold Greene, which those of a certain age will remember as overseeing the AT&T antitrust case and the resulting modified final judgment (MFJ) which formed the basis of serious interexchange telecommunications competition as a result of a settlement between DOJ and AT&T. I did so not because of his ongoing oversight of the MFJ, but because I wanted to get into litigation. In pursuing that goal, I had asked around for opinions to identify the really good trial judges in the area, and he was at the top of many lists. After the clerkship, I did start out in litigation in the Washington office of Davis Polk. After several years, the office was being downsized and I found myself with the choice either of moving to New York and continuing with the pace and “glamour” of the types of litigation one associates with being an associate at high end New York firms or going in a different direction. As I was tiring of litigation, I started looking for a regulatory practice. As it so happened, this was about the time that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) was passed, putting my former boss Judge Greene out of the MFJ business but also portending really interesting changes in the telecommunications industry. I was lucky enough to get a job at the FCC – thank you Carol Matthey for hiring me - and I got totally hooked on communications. I started at the Policy Division of the Common Carrier Bureau about three

weeks after the 1996 Act passed, so I had an amazing time with implementation rulemakings, Section 271 proceedings and other issues.

Q: Tell us about the various places you've worked through the years.

A: When I first moved to Washington I worked for a Congressman from my home state and then spent several years working for the Democratic Study Group in the House and went to law school at night. Since then, apart from several years spent happily at the FCC, I have been in private practice, originally at Mintz Levin and now with Brownstein.

Q: Have things unfolded in your career more or less the way you planned?

A: That assumes I had a plan. A bit of personal history is necessary for context. I was born and raised in Spokane Washington and absolutely loved being in the outdoors. I wasn't sure what I wanted to focus on in college and ended up graduating from Western Washington University in Bellingham with a degree in geology. As I never had a solid career plan in college, it never occurred to me that I might end up becoming a lawyer at some point. The path I took after geology was to get into a graduate political science program, which then had me leaving Washington state for Washington DC to intern with a Congressman from Washington and then eventually going to Georgetown Law School in the evening program. Then I was a litigator and then I was at the FCC. So, there are no straight

lines in my path, just a lot zigs and zags. But I feel like I ended up in a good place.

Q: What's the most interesting or challenging thing that you've done in your current position?

A: I don't know if there is one thing as I have been at this for some time! But over the past five or six years I've done a lot of policy work around robocalls and the various regulatory efforts to curb illegal calls. The challenge for my practice and the clients I serve has been to try to convince regulators to maintain some balance between curbing illegal traffic without overly restricting legal calls. This continues to be an imperfect situation and is a tough balancing act.

Q: Is or was there something interesting or someone who surprised or impressed you during your career and why?

A: I have been lucky to work with a number of very good lawyers over the years. But when I think back, one person that really stood out for me was Richard Metzger, who probably needs no introduction to many FCBA members. During the very hectic time of implementing the 1996 Act in the FCC's old Common Carrier Bureau his dedication to that task and the encyclopedic knowledge he brought to bear was notable and impressive.

Q: What do you enjoy reading?

A: I'm a bit all over the place in terms of my reading tastes. I read history and biographies and enjoy good literature – and the occasional crime novel (Tony Hillerman comes to mind). Books I've read over the past year that I really liked include *Boys in the Boat*, the *Code Breaker* by Walter Isaacson, and *Trust* by Hernan Diaz.

Q: Is there something (a hobby or other tidbit) people don't know about you that you are willing to share?

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Get to Know an **FCBA MEMBER**

MICHAEL PRYOR

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A: As I noted above, I have a degree in geology and actually worked as a geologist for a [very] brief period of time. That first post-college job that involved walking in the woods in very straight lines, no matter what lay ahead. The company was laying a grid to map out potential mineral deposits in the Central Cascades in Oregon. That project made me rethink whether geology and I were a match meant to be. But I love hiking and still like to puzzle over rock formations. That and I love playing tennis.

Q: Can you share your perspective on the pitfalls to avoid or other career advice for those who are just getting started in the communications field?

A: Be open to possibilities and opportunities. Try different things and don't be afraid to leave something behind if it's not doing it for you. Sometimes the need for career exploration is triggered just by recognizing that the circumstances of your work have changed, or that you've gotten all you can in terms

of learning and development from a particular position. For example, I left the FCC what to me seemed like the end of an era in terms of reviewing the Bell Operating Company applications under Section 271 to enter the interexchange markets. I had the opportunity to work at a law firm and over the years the focus on my practice has shifted from CLECs to internet companies and expanded from wireline to wireless and into TCPA compliance. Telecommunications technology shifts require always being ready to move into different areas and it's important to understand that client needs shift as well.

Q: How has your life changed as a result of COVID-19 and what are you looking forward to doing next?

A: Like everyone else I'm spending a lot more time working from home and getting to like that. In terms of next – the country just moved in a completely different direction, and it will be interesting to see what changes are coming in policy and regulation both for telecommunications and more generally.

Professionally, I still really enjoy the practice of law, and I value the opportunity to create and craft a good policy or legal argument and consider what might be the best counter argument to it. I still look forward to engaging with new clients that have new technologies that they can bring to the market to address challenges.

Q: How long have you been an FCBA member, and what to you is the value of FCBA membership?

A: A long time. I'm not as active as I once was, working on the CLE committee and some other committees, particularly the wireline committee, over time. The FCBA always has been a great resource for me. I appreciate the panels, CLEs and brown bags, as they all are great ways to get up to speed on areas I don't typically focus on. And of course, the FCBA represents a built-in way to network with others in the field.

Interested in learning more about another FCBA member? If there is a member you'd like to know better, contact Laura Phillips at laura@phillipscommlaw.com.

Do one thing for your career today – join the FCBA Speakers Bureau!

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35th Annual FCBA CHARITY AUCTION

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unique live auction prizes, such as a day at Stone Tower Winery with **Edward “Smitty” Smith** and **Tom Power** and hand-crafted cocktails with FCBA icon, **Van Bloys**. The Bob Schwartz Quintet provided ambient jazz music while FCBA members took part in a first-bid frenzy, raffle, mystery wine grab-bag selection, and a game of telecom trivia and bingo.

WJA plans to use the proceeds from this year’s Auction to construct a new classroom and provide additional tuition awards and scholarships to students. These endeavors support WJA’s mission to offer not only a rigorous educational experience but also provide social, emotional, and financial support for its students. WJA fosters a learning community extending beyond the traditional school day and striving to prepare students for future educational aspirations. 99% of its alumni graduate from high school, and 90% go on to college, trade school, or enter the workforce, well above the national averages. To continue supporting WJA’s mission, check out <https://www.wjacademy.org/ways-to-give> or consider donating to **WJA’s Amazon Wish List**.

The FCBA Foundation plans to use proceeds from the Auction to support its College Scholarship Program, which provides financial assistance and laptop computers to DC public high school students. Scholarship recipients are selected based on their academic achievements, community involvement, and financial need. In 2024, the FCBA provided new laptops and nearly \$294,000 in scholarships to 26 DC high school students. To donate, [click here](#).

The efforts of many individuals led to the success of the 35th Annual Charity Auction. The Auction Committee thanks the Young Lawyers Committee (YLC) Co-Chairs, **Courtney Tolerico**, and **Jaime McCoy**, and FCBA staff, including **Kerry Loughney**, for their dedication to the event. The Co-Chairs appreciate the hard work of the volunteers and Auction Committee members who donated their time and efforts to planning and organizing the event, soliciting prizes, and coordinating with our beneficiaries. Additionally, thank you to the hundreds of generous FCBA members and local business partners who collectively donated over 100 prizes to this year’s Auction!



35th Annual FCBA CHARITY AUCTION



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The event would not have been possible without support from our generous sponsors:

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12.24.1

Associate Attorney – Lerman Senter PLLC is seeking a mid-level associate to join its top-rated Communications and Technology practice. The successful candidate should have at least two years of communications regulatory experience, particularly before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and can expect to work on a wide variety of broadband, media and technology matters. Applicants should have excellent academic credentials and writing skills, outstanding judgment and problem-solving skills, and the ability to manage projects with limited supervision. Open to candidates looking to re-enter the workforce and more senior attorneys with portable business. Membership in the DC Bar is required. Responsibilities will include:

- Drafting pleadings and comments; prosecution of applications before the FCC, USAC and state public utility commissions; handling FCC enforcement matters.
- Counseling clients regarding compliance with federal and state communications and privacy regulations.
- Drafting and negotiation of IoT and technology contracts.
- Advising clients and drafting policies on consumer protection related matters, including privacy, terms of service, accessibility and broadband transparency.
- Drafting and negotiation of acquisition and divestiture agreements for communications companies, including seeking authorization for transactions before the FCC and other agencies.
- Advising clients on federal Universal Service Fund programs and contributions, including representation in audits, investigations, and enforcement.

Lerman Senter is a communications law firm that combines the collegiality of a small firm with the challenge and complexity of representing diverse clients that are leaders in the media and telecommunications industries. We take a comprehensive, full-service approach to providing legal and advisory services to our clients with particular emphasis on quality and responsiveness. The firm's hallmark is providing top quality service on an efficient, cost-effective basis. Health care benefits are provided.

Please send your cover letter, resume, transcript, references and a writing sample to resumes2@lermansenter.com.

Applications from search firms are not being accepted currently.

12.24.2

Associate Attorney – Telecommunications Law Professionals PLLC (“TLP”), a collegial communications boutique law firm located in downtown DC is seeking a full time associate with between 0-2 years work experience. Tasks will include, among others, reviewing and summarizing FCC orders for clients, drafting and reviewing comments in rulemaking proceedings, research and writing in litigation matters, transactional work and related matters. Currently, the firm is using a hybrid work schedule with three days in office and two days remote. For more information on the firm, please visit: www.tlp.law.

Must have JD, 0 to 2 years of legal experience, and be licensed to practice/in good standing in DC or in another jurisdiction with the ability to waive into DC. Prior telecommunications work experience or study preferred. Please submit a resume, cover letter, law school transcript and references to awise@tlp.law to be considered.

12.24.3

Junior-Mid Level Telecom Associate – Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP (Washington, DC) – To apply, please complete an application [here](#) and attach one .pdf containing your cover letter, resume, transcript, and writing sample. To learn more about Wilkinson Barker Knauer, visit www.wbklaw.com.

Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP (WBK), one of the largest law firms in the nation dedicated primarily to the practice of communications and energy law, is ranked as a “Band 1” firm by Chambers USA (Telecom, Broadcast, and Satellite: Regulatory) and Legal 500 (Telecoms and broadcast: regulatory), and is recognized as a “Bronze Band” firm in the World Trademark Review 1000. WBK is the only firm to be named “Law Firm of the Year” in communications law six times by Best Lawyers Best Law Firm (2012, 2014, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2025). The firm, with offices in Washington, DC, Denver, Colorado, and Austin, Texas, advises clients ranging from global Fortune 100 companies to small start-ups in regulatory, transactional, privacy, consumer protection, intellectual property, corporate and litigation matters involving all aspects of communications and energy law, at both the state and federal levels.

Our Ideal Candidate for Our Telecommunications Practice

WBK's DC office seeks a junior to mid-level associate (with one to five years of experience) to join its leading telecommunications practice. The DC-based telecommunications practice

focuses on a wide range of issues before the Federal Communications Commission, Congress, White House, Department of Commerce, other federal agencies, courts, and states, including policymaking, compliance, transactions, enforcement matters, and appellate litigation. We provide competitive compensation and benefits, excellent partnership prospects, and an enjoyable, inclusive, good-natured work environment.

WBK is unparalleled in its telecommunications expertise. Its attorneys include former senior officials from the Federal Communications Commission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration as well as experts in every area of communications law, including broadband, voice, wireless, satellite, broadcast, online services, and equipment. The WBK team also encompasses thought leaders in related areas such as privacy, cybersecurity, and AI. We routinely represent everyone from Fortune-500 companies and top trade associations to startups. We blend expertise on law, technology, and policy with deep connections across all levels of the telecommunications regulatory world to help our clients achieve their business objectives.

Applicants must be licensed in Washington DC or have plans to become licensed in Washington DC in 2025. Our ideal candidate will possess outstanding academic credentials, superb research and writing ability, excellent analytical skills, demonstrated interest in telecom/media/technology, a commitment to teamwork, an entrepreneurial spirit, and sound judgment. Experience with telecommunications or technology policy is a significant plus.

WBK recognizes the importance of diversity and inclusion among our lawyers, other professionals, and staff, as well as in the legal profession generally. WBK has earned Diversity Lab's designation of **Mansfield Certified Plus** since 2021. WBK is an **Equal Opportunity Employer**. We are committed to equal employment opportunity regardless of gender, age, racial or ethnic background, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or veteran status.

We look forward to meeting you.

Associates' annual base compensation is based on a lockstep scale and ranges from \$170,000 to \$250,000. For a comprehensive list of compensation and benefits, please visit the posting [here](#).

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12.24.4

Telecommunications Associate Attorney

– Boutique DC-area law firm is seeking a junior to mid-level telecommunications associate attorney with at least 2-6 years of experience. The ideal candidate will have experience working on FCC matters.

Our telecommunications practice primarily focuses on wireless and wireline matters. Duties will include advocating at the Federal Communications Commission and state public utility commissions, advising clients on federal Universal Service Fund programs and contributions, helping clients remain in compliance with applicable federal and state regulatory compliance obligations, and advising firm clients on legal issues.

Candidates must have strong writing and communications skills, be able to conduct effective legal research and analysis, and work independently and collaboratively while managing multiple priorities and deadlines.

Candidates must have prior history of drafting and filing regulatory documents with federal agencies.

We are looking for candidates who can and want to assume immediate responsibility and who are willing to work as an integral part of a collaborative team.

We offer competitive compensation and excellent benefits in a collegial working environment.

A Juris Doctor (JD) degree from an accredited law school is required, as well as active bar membership in good standing.

For consideration, please submit a cover letter, resume, law school transcript and 1-2 writing samples. This is a blind box ad, so please send materials to Kerry Loughney at the FCBA (kerry@fcba.org).



2025 FCBA Annual Seminar to be held at The Hotel Hershey May 16-18 ~ SAVE THE DATES!

Mark your calendars now and make plans to join your colleagues at the **FCBA Annual Seminar** on **May 16-18, 2025** at the Hotel Hershey in Hershey, PA. Watch for program details in the coming months.

Known for its refined elegance, signature service, and abundant amenities, The Hotel Hershey, one of the finest Historic Hotels of America, is a must-visit destination in Chocolate Town® U.S.A.

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RANDOMCOFFEE



- RandomCoffee has made almost 1200 FCBA connections since first launched in February 2023!
- The first RandomCoffee round of 2025 will be activated on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. Don't miss this chance to participate and join over 590 FCBA members who already have enjoyed a RandomCoffee.
- A sign-up email will be sent from RandomCoffee around 2:30 pm EST. Matches will be announced on Friday,

January 10 at 5:30 pm EST. Please sign up at any time during that window.

- If you don't see the email in your inbox, it may be caught in your spam filter. Please check for an email from "RandomCoffee @ FCBA" or fcba@my.random-coffee.com and allowlist the email going forward so you won't miss future RandomCoffee invitations!

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FCBA Extends a Warm Welcome to Its Newest Members!

(*as of 11/30/24)

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Sara Galloway
Shiva Goel, NTIA
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Travis Hall, NTIA
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Ethan Lukas
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Li-Wen Ong
Lukas Pietrzak, NTIA, US Department of Commerce
David Pontious
Hailey Salmonsén
Peter Shroyer, DLA Piper LLP
Sarah Skaluba, NTIA, U.S. Department of Commerce
Todd Smith, DC Office of the Chief Technology Officer

Rose Soltani
Lale Tuzmen
Damien Usita
Julio Veizaga
Evan Yahng, U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

And huge thanks to those who recruited them: Mary L Brown, Matt Diaz, Carly Didden, Patrick Halley, Warren Kessler, Sanford Williams, Communications & Media Law Society

To Update Your Membership Contact Information

To update your contact information, log in to your [member account](#) and click the About or My Profile sections. **If you are changing your membership type/category** (e.g. Private Sector to Government; Law Student to Private Sector, etc.), you must email Elina Gross (elina@fcba.org) so she can update it.

Calendar

January 13	CLE Seminar: Supplementing Terrestrial Coverage from Space: Views from Administrations and the Industry. Where are we now and what to expect in the future?
January 16	CLE Seminar: AI Enters the Messaging Space: Government and Private Sector Approaches to Combatting Deepfakes and Misinformation
January 16	Atlanta Chapter Breakfast and Panel
January 27	Midwest Chapter Lunch and Learn
January 28	CLE Seminar: Diversity in the Telecom Sector: Where Do We Go From Here?
May 16-18	FCBA Annual Seminar at the Hotel Hershey



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