

ABA 14TH Circuit Spring Meeting

GOAL: *Find ways the ABA can work for Pacific McGeorge Students*

TO: Pacific McGeorge Board of Governors
FROM: ABA Representative Mirwais Haider
DATE: April 21, 2015
RE: ABA 14th Circuit Spring Meeting

On the weekend of February 20-21, I had the pleasure of attending the 14th Circuit Spring Meeting and Student Governor Election at William S. Boyd School of Law – UNLV in Las Vegas, Nevada. I had the opportunity to meet other ABA members, ABA representatives, law faculty and legal professionals from various public sector and private practice backgrounds.

Introduction to 14th Circuit Student Governor

I arrived to Las Vegas on Friday afternoon and attended the welcome reception held at a restaurant near UNLV. It was a great opportunity to sit down with the Student Governor of our circuit, Brianna Lamanna, as well as the 2015-2016 14th Circuit Student Governor, Mayra Menjivar. As Student Governor for the upcoming school year, Mayra will play a key role in facilitating ABA activities within the 14th Circuit. I look forward to introducing Pacific McGeorge's next ABA Rep to Mayra before the end of this semester to establish a positive relationship early on and work closely together through the coming school year.

Panel of Practitioners

Although a small turnout, the Spring Meeting was a very productive and rewarding program. The event itself started on Saturday morning with a welcome address by the Dean of UNLV followed by the keynote address ("Definition of a Leader in the Legal Profession, Community, and Law School") from Barbara Buckley, Executive Director of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada. Consistent with the theme for the meeting, "Public Sector vs. Private Practice," a panel of practitioners from both fields discussed the pros and cons of working in public service, corporate counsel, and private practice. There was also a panel of judges and former law clerks that talked about the value of securing a clerkship and how to be a successful aid to a judge. I have some notes from these panels and can provide them for supporting similar future programs at McGeorge.

Benefits of Bar Membership

After lunch, the President of the State Bar of Nevada, Elana Graham, explained how bar membership can benefit law students and attorneys. It was an informative presentation that highlighted the valuable resources of bar membership such as registering for specialized practice areas and connecting with professionals from the legal field. Explaining the benefits of bar membership to current and future Pacific McGeorge students is a critical first step to strengthening the role of Pacific McGeorge within the ABA. To increase our visibility and presence, we need students to be actively engaged in ABA programs and opportunities. To

accomplish that, we must convey the benefits they and their professional careers will gain as a result.

ABA Mental Health & Wellness Day

The Mental Health Presentation addressed the stress and anxiety that can result from the deadlines, frustrations, and demands from law school. I think our Wellness Committee does a nice job of raising awareness for these concerns and can benefit by adding more events throughout the school year to help McGeorge students better manage these health issues associated with stress, anxiety, etc.

14th Circuit Student Governor

The end of the program included the announcement of the new 14th Circuit Student Governor, Mayra Menjivar, a 1L from UNLV. It is worth noting that she was the only candidate. Hopefully, through the implementation of the two-year position of ABA Rep at McGeorge, next year the aforementioned student can also run for the position. The application deadline for Student Circuit Governors is February 1st. A future McGeorge ABA Vice Rep (under proposed structure) could therefore apply for Circuit Governor (by Feb. 1st) to be served during their term as ABA Rep (the following year).

Possible Changes to ABA Schools

The end of the program included the State of the Division Report from Ryan Meyerhoff, a UC Davis School of Law student currently serving as one of the three Law Student Delegates to the ABA House of Delegates. He explained the current status of the widely debated Interpretation 305-2, which states a law school may not grant credit to a student for participation in a field placement program for which a student receives compensation. The ABA's Law Student Division is working to end the long-standing ban so that students have more opportunities for paid work. The matter has been sent back to the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar for further consideration. In addition, the following are resolutions being set forth for review:

- Creation of task force on the future of legal education
- Elimination of 45,000 minute attendance requirement
 - Would allow completion of law school in 24 months
- Increasing ABA Law Student Division grant fund eligibility from \$500 to \$1,000
- Waiving ABA membership fee for all law students (now effective)
- Waiving ABA membership fee for Specialized Practice Areas

Eliminating the costs associated with becoming an ABA member goes a long way in encouraging students to participate in the ABA's vast array of opportunities.

After Ryan's presentation, I was able to introduce AB 100 to the students. AB 100 is the Assembly Bill created by Ernesto and other members of the McGeorge Legislative and Public Policy Clinic. It would establish the CA Law Fellowship Program, a privately funded fellowship that would pave the way for law school graduates to work within the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of state government. I distributed a copy of the bill, a summary sheet, and template for signing to support the initiative to all the students. By following up with these

students and getting law students within the ABA to promote the measure, AB 100 will gain valuable support in its efforts towards adoption by the CA Legislature.

Overall, I think that the 14th Circuit Spring Meeting was a success and another step in the right direction for Pacific McGeorge's increasing role in the ABA. I thank you for approving my funding request and providing me the ability to attend and participate in the program.

I appreciate your time and consideration in reviewing this report and am open to any questions or concerns that you may have. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mirwais Haider
ABA Representative