



Business Law Section of the Florida Bar

2020-2022 DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

MISSION OF THE BUSINESS LAW SECTION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The Business Law Section of The Florida Bar (the “**Section**”) consists of numerous active committees and an Executive Council with more than 40 members. The Section is committed to recruiting young lawyers and diverse lawyers to join, participate (and ultimately serve in leadership positions) in the Section.

The Section has implemented a Fellowship Program to provide a two-year subsidy to eight qualified applicants who express an interest in becoming active in the substantive work and leadership of the Section. During their participation in the Fellowship Program, selected Fellows will receive leadership training and work closely with leading attorneys in the Business Law field. At the end of their Fellowship term, we are confident all Fellows will find the program enhanced their personal and professional development.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program will award eight (8) Fellowships per year.

Term: Each Fellow will serve a two-year term.

Annual Subsidy: Each Fellow will receive a subsidy of up to \$2,500 annually (not to exceed actual out-of-pocket expenses) to help defray the expense of attending Section meetings.

Mentoring: Each Fellow will be assigned a social mentor, who is a member of the Executive Council, to assist the Fellow in maximizing his or her experience as a Fellow and attending Section meetings and events. In addition, each Fellow will be assigned a substantive committee mentor to assist the Fellow’s active involvement in the committee that most closely fits the Fellow’s practice area with the goal of maximizing his or her professional development through the Fellowship Program.

Participation Requirement: Each Fellow is required to satisfy the following **minimum** participation requirements:

- (1) Attend Executive Council meetings at the Section's meetings in January, June and Labor-Day weekend each year;
- (2) Serve as an active member of the Communications Committee, the Membership Committee or the Inclusion, Mentoring & Fellowship Committee; and
- (3) Be an active member of at least one substantive committee. As an active committee member, the Fellow will be required to complete one substantive work project to be chosen in consultation with the committee chairperson. This project may include writing an article in his or her area of expertise, chairing a subcommittee, or drafting proposed legislation on behalf of the committee. Each Fellow must prepare a work plan which outlines their chosen substantive project and submit it to the Inclusion, Mentoring & Fellowship Committee by October of each year, with a follow-up report to the Inclusion, Mentoring & Fellowship Committee in December of each year.
- (4) Serve as a mentor for Law Student Scholars at our yearly BLS Labor Day Retreat.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

The Fellowship Program is open to all members of the Florida Bar in good standing who satisfy the following criteria:

- A. Be a current member of the Business Law Section; and
- B. Be (a) practicing in the Florida Bar for fewer than 10 years or (b) younger than 36 years of age; and
- C. Applicants must demonstrate that a substantial portion of their practice is focused in the area of Business law.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Applications must be RECEIVED by March 29, 2020.

Applications can be submitted by mail and e-mail to:
The Florida Bar
Business Law Section Fellowship Program
651 E. Jefferson Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2300
ATTN: Stefanie Svisco, BLS Section Administrator
Email to ssvisco@flabar.org

With a copy to Sara Paris, Chair of the Inclusion, Mentoring, & Fellowship Committee at Sara.Paris@thomsonreuters.com.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Ms. Paris by email at Sara.Paris@thomsonreuters.com.