



Federal Bar Association: Los Angeles Chapter Judicial Clerkship Mentorship Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

Judicial clerkships are generally viewed as one of the most prestigious positions for law school graduates, and serving as a judicial law clerk can open up wide-ranging opportunities in academia, law firm practice, and influential government work. Unfortunately, however, there is a lack of diversity among federal law clerks, and the clerkship application process can be daunting, particularly for those who have no familiarity with judges, federal practice, or the process of applying for a clerkship. This program seeks to address this issue.

The FBA-LA Judicial Clerkship Mentoring Program has a three-part mission:

- (1) to increase awareness and interest in judicial clerkships among law students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in the legal profession,
- (2) to support such law students to apply to federal judicial clerkships by guiding them on the application and interview process, and
- (3) to help those law students succeed in their clerkships by helping them develop their writing, analytical, and organizational skills through presentations and trainings.

MENTORSHIP

Each student will be assigned a mentor who is an FBA-LA member (*please note FBA-LA member judges and their staff are ineligible to participate as mentors*). Mentors will plan regular meetings with their paired law student via Zoom or if desired, a COVID-safe, in-person meeting. Mentors will assist and review materials prepared by law students in support of the student's OSCAR application.

SEMINARS

In the months leading up to the June OSCAR application deadline, FBA-LA member judges and practitioners will host a series of seminars. Each seminar will address a component of the OSCAR application. Examples of workshop topics include: a writing workshop, with emphasis on students' writing samples; recommenders/letters of recommendation; and an interviewing skills workshop.

Following the application process, seminars will focus on developing students' writing, analytical, and organizational skills.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Students must be members of the graduating class of 2024.
- Students must intend to apply for clerkships via OSCAR's Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan (June 2023 application deadline).
- Students must submit an application that will require, inter alia, the applicant to state their specific interest in participating in the program (an essay of 500 words or less).
- The application must be received by Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 5 PM, PST. Submission details below.

QUESTIONS

Any questions about the program may be directed to Program Co-Chairs Marisa Hernández-Stern (marisa.mabalaco@gmail.com) or Moez Kaba (mkaba@houston.com).



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Judicial Clerkship Mentorship Program**

**Law Student Application
Section One: Student Information**

Name: _____
First **Middle Initial** **Last**

Email Address: _____ **Telephone Number:** _____

Current Address: _____
Street Name and Number **Apartment Number**

City **State** **Zip Code**

Race/Ethnicity (Optional): _____

Gender Identity (Optional): _____

Sexual Orientation (Optional): _____

**Other diversity or socio-economic information of which you would like the committee to be aware
(Optional):** _____

Section Two: Educational Information

Law School: _____

Undergraduate Institution(s): _____

Undergraduate Degree(s): _____ **Dates Attended:** _____

(If Applicable) Advanced Degree Institution: _____

Advanced Degree in: _____ **Dates Attended:** _____



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Section Three: Reference

Below, please include all the requested information for your listed reference.

Name: _____ **Current Position:** _____

Current Email: _____ **Current Phone:** _____

Brief Description of how reference knows applicant: _____

Additional Application Materials

1. Resume

2. Transcript(s). Both official and non-official law school transcripts are accepted. If your school does not follow the standard “A/B/C” grading model, please include your school’s explanation of how grades are issued.

3. Statement of Interest. In 500 words or less, please explain your specific interest in participating in the FBA-LA’s Mentorship Program, and how your background and experiences will contribute to the program’s goal of increasing diversity among federal law clerks. The student statement should include your name at the top (preferably in the header), be double-spaced, include page numbers, and be typed in Times New Roman font, size 12.

Submission Instructions

Please submit your application materials in the following order in a single PDF file: (1) Sections One thru Three (2) Resume (3) Transcript, and (4) Statement of Interest. The name of the PDF file should be “Applicant First Applicant Last (School attending).” **The application must be received by Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 5 PM, PST at the following email address:**

marisa.mabalaco@gmail.com.