



Florida Bar Criminal Law Section 2024-2025 Fellowship Application Information

The Florida Bar Criminal Law Section is pleased to announce the inauguration of its Fellowship Program to spur interest, retain, and foster young lawyers' participation in the Section and criminal law. The Fellowship application is available to all attorneys licensed to practice in Florida who are under the age of 36 or less than five years of practice at the time of the application. The Section offers four fellowships on an annual basis to candidates.

The Criminal Law Section Fellowship Program offers a unique opportunity for early-career attorneys to develop specialized skills in criminal law through hands-on experience and mentorship. Fellows will work closely with seasoned attorneys, gaining invaluable insight into the complexities of the criminal justice system. Fellows will have the opportunity to rotate on a yearly basis with a Section's committee of their choosing. Fellows shall have the opportunity to attend Sections meetings and activities, assume written and oral projects respective to their committee's needs, attend networking events throughout Florida with other Section members, and encourage professionalism as promoted by the Florida Bar and the Section.

The Fellowship Program's aim is to foster interest for the next generation of criminal law attorneys in the Section and its programming. Fellows shall have the ability to create a professional network from his or her participation in the Fellowship program, gain expertise in novel topics in criminal law, and develop administrative skills in working with other Section members.

Fellows are expected to commit to a one-year fellowship term. Fellows shall receive an annual subsidy of \$1,000 per year (not to exceed actual out of pocket expenses but does not cover room and board) to assist with costs associated with attending Section meetings and participating in Section activities. Fellows are required to attend the Florida Bar Convention and the Criminal Law Section Luncheon at the Florida Bar Convention. Fellows are encouraged to apply and attend the Gerald T. Bennett Prosecutor/Public Defender Trial Training program and the South Eastern Circuit Bar Mess Foundation Advanced International Advocacy Course in Oxford, United Kingdom, an opportunity to travel to the United Kingdom to learn the differences between the United Kingdom's and the United States' legal systems and participate in a mock trial. Even if a Fellow cannot attend the Gerald T. Bennett Prosecutor/Public Defender Trial Training program or the South Eastern Circuit Bar Mess Foundation Advanced International Advocacy Course during his or her fellowship, he or she may apply at a later time as the opportunity is available to all members.

Fellows shall have access to all continuing legal education courses the Section provides and shall be encouraged if desired, to obtain Board Certification. Each fellow shall also be assigned a qualified mentor in the county of his or her residence to encourage networking and development outside the fellow's employment.

The Section encourages all eligible Section attorneys to apply for the fellowship. If you do not qualify, please refer this information to an associate or acquaintance you believe may be interested. The application is provided on the following page. **The deadline to apply for the fellowship program is May 1, 2025.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Fellowship Program please contact Florida Bar Program Administrator Carly Hopkins at chopkins@floridabar.org.

2024-2025 Criminal Law Section Young Lawyer Division Fellowship Application

In addition to completing the Fellowship Application, all applicants must submit a current resume to Alexa Cline, Fellowship Program Chair, at alexa.cline@myfloridalegal.com.

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address, City, State, ZIP Code _____

Law School _____ Year of Graduation _____

Year of Admission to The Florida Bar _____

Current Employer _____ Position _____

City and County where you are employed _____

Other state Bar admissions _____

Year and month when you became a member of The Florida Bar Criminal Law Section _____

Do you serve on any committees of The Florida Bar Criminal Law Section? Yes ___ No ___

If so, please state which committee(s) you belong to and your responsibilities _____

Are you involved in any other practice-area-specific, local, state, or national bar associations? If so, please include the month and year you became a member of each specific association and the position(s) you held there _____

Please state why you are interested in the Florida Bar's Criminal Law Section Young Lawyers Division Fellowship Program. Please include any goals you wish to achieve as a fellow during your fellowship term.

Fellows shall have access to all continuing legal education courses the Criminal Law Section provides. Fellows agree to not share any Criminal Law Section Continuing Legal Education materials he or she obtains through the course of his or her fellowship commitment.

As a fellow, you have the opportunity to serve on up to three committees during your one-year commitment. A description of each committee can be found at the following [link](#). Please rank in order of 1 to 3, with 1 being your most preferred, the three committees you would like to participate in:

Awards Committee _____	Continuing Legal Education _____	Membership _____
Budget Committee _____	_____	Nominating _____
Ad Hoc Bylaws _____	Diversity and Inclusion _____	Sponsorship _____
Capital Cases _____	Ad Hoc Federal Practice _____	P/PD Trial Advocacy Program _____
Ad Hoc Comments _____	Legislative _____	_____
Communications _____	Long-Range Planning _____	Section Liaisons _____

If selected as a fellow, are you interested in attending the Gerald T. Bennett Prosecutor/Public Defender Trial [Training program](#) or applying for the Bennett Trial Advocacy [Scholarship](#) to the South Eastern Circuit Bar Mess Advanced International Advocacy Course at Keble College in Oxford, England? Y _____ N _____

- The Gerald T. Bennett Prosecutor/Public Defender Trial Training program shall take place between July 20, 2025, through July 25, 2025 at the University of Florida’s Levin College of Law Campus. Fellows who are prosecutors or public defenders with 1 through 5 years of experience are invited to perfect their skills in a multitude of trial matters. Applicants are selected on a first come, first serve basis. Attendees expenses are covered by their respective agencies. The maximum number of attendees per respective State Attorney’s Office or Public Defenders office is four. Fellows who are current Assistant State Attorneys or Assistant Public Defenders are expected to apply to the Prosecutor/Public Defender Trial Training program.
- The South Eastern Circuit Bar Mess Advanced International Advocacy Course is open to all attorneys regardless of age ([link](#)). Applicants must submit a CV or current resume by and must be paid members of the Criminal Law Section of the Florida Bar. Recipients shall receive full tuition, room and board, and a \$1,000 travel reimbursement from the Criminal Law Section of the Florida Bar. The program lasts for 5-days. Please direct your application and any questions to Mr. Aaron Dolan, Criminal Law Section Liaison to the Florida Bar at aaron.dolan@southeastcircuit.org.uk.

Please list the names, emails, and phone numbers of two members of The Florida Bar (other than members of your own firm) who can provide information regarding your professional qualifications and experience. If you are a recent graduate, please provide the names, email addresses, and phone numbers of professors who can provide the requested information.

Reference # 1

Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Reference # 2

Name _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Fellow Responsibilities

Meeting Requirements:

- Attend at minimum one committee meeting during each quarter of the year.
- Mandatory attendance at the Florida Bar Convention and the Criminal Law Section Luncheon at the Florida Bar Convention. Fellows shall receive an annual subsidy of \$1,000.00 per year (not to exceed actual out of pocket expenses) to assist with costs associated with attending Section meetings and participating in Section activities.

Fellow Assignments:

- Complete four CLE course credits of the Fellows choosing from the Criminal Law Section's CLE directory.
- Attend and actively participate in respective Committee meetings.
- Assist the Criminal Law Section in developing one CLE course (CLE course shall not create a conflict of interest with the Fellow's employment).

Mentorship

- Mentors are expected to reach out within two weeks after being assigned to their respective Fellow and have an introductory call about the program and the Fellow's goals.
- Communicate on a bi-monthly basis with the Fellow's mentor. If the Fellow and the mentor live in the same city, the first and last meeting shall be in person. If the Fellow and the mentor live in different cities that are over 50 miles apart, the in-person meeting shall take place at the Florida Bar's Annual Convention. All other meetings may take place telephonically or via audio/video platforms. During the meetings, the Fellow and his or her mentor shall discuss the following:
 - Program goals and what the mentee wishes to achieve through the Criminal Law Section's Fellowship program;
 - Continued review of mentee's goals as well as any professional goals he or she may have;
 - Feedback as to what aspects of the program are working or need improvement to better assist the Fellowship Section committee in continuing to develop the program;
 - A final, self-reflection on the Fellow's success and development after completing the one-year fellowship program and what aspects of the program can be improved and what was done well.
- Mentors and Fellows shall submit evaluations of their Mentor/Fellow, their progress throughout the program, and what improvements or things are working well in the program.