



The Florida Bar Criminal Law Section 2026-2027 Fellowship Application

The Florida Bar Criminal Law Section's Fellowship Program is intended 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 have fewer 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 Section's meetings and activities, assume written and oral projects respective to their committee's needs, author articles and case law updates, attend networking events throughout Florida with other Section members, and encourage professionalism as promoted by The Florida Bar and the Section.

The Fellowship'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 \$1,000.00 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 Annual Florida Bar Convention and the Criminal Law Section Luncheon at the 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 later, 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 work toward obtaining Florida Bar 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 March 13, 2026.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Fellowship Program, please contact Alexa Cline, Young Lawyer Division Chair, at alexacline@myfloridalegal.com and Brian H. Zack, Young Lawyer Division Co-Chair, at bhzack1@gmail.com.

2026-2027 Criminal Law Section Young Lawyers Division Fellowship Application

In addition to completing the Fellowship Application, all applicants must submit a current resume to Ms. Alexa Cline, Young Lawyer Division Chair, at alexacline@myfloridalegal.com and Mr. Brian H. Zack, Young Lawyer Division Co-Chair, at bhzack1@gmail.com.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Law school: _____ Graduation year: _____ Bar admission year: _____

Current employer: _____ Position: _____

City/County where employed: _____

Other state bar admissions: _____

Year/month when you joined The Florida Bar Criminal Law Section: _____

Do you serve on any Florida Bar Criminal Law Section committees? Yes: _____ No: _____

If so, please list committees on which you serve and your responsibilities: _____

Are you involved in any other practice-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 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.

Have you previously applied for the Criminal Law Section's Fellowship Program? Yes: _____ No: _____

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

If selected as a fellow, you may be interested in attending the Gerald T. Bennett Prosecutor/Public Defender Trial [Training Program](#) or the [South Eastern Circuit Bar Mess](#) Advanced International Advocacy Course at Keble College in Oxford, England.

The Gerald T. Bennett Prosecutor/Public Defender Trial Training Program takes place in July 2026 at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. Fellows who are prosecutors or public defenders with one–five years of experience are invited to perfect their skills in a multitude of trial matters. Applicants are selected on a first-come, first-served 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. The Criminal Law Section will reimburse travel expenses up to \$1,000.00 for four section members in good standing. Please direct 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 least one committee meeting during each quarter of the year.
- Mandatory attendance at the Annual Florida Bar Convention and the Criminal Law Section Luncheon at the 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 Fellow's choosing from the Criminal Law Section's CLE directory.
- Attend and actively participate in respective Committee meetings.
- Assist Criminal Law Section in developing one CLE course (CLE course shall not create a conflict of interest with the Fellow's employment).
- Write a newsletter article or a case law summary for publication.

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.