WASHINGTON, DC (May 21, 2020) – The Federal Circuit Bar Association® (FCBA) is pleased to announce that Deborah M. Miron, Esquire, has joined the organization as its first female Executive Director.

Ms. Miron brings to the FCBA a wealth of legal and managerial experience through a long, distinguished career as judge, executive, litigator, and dedicated public servant for the United States Government. From 2002-2020, she served as Director of Regional Operations and Chief Administrative Judge of the United States Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), whose primary reviewing court is the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. In that capacity, she had legal and supervisory oversight of the agency’s regional offices, where more than 60 Administrative Judges are charged with hearing and issuing decisions in over 5,000 federal employment appeals each year. She also coordinated the agency’s Mediation Appeals Program. She was appointed a member of the Advisory Council for the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

“The Federal Circuit’s jurisprudence affects increasingly critical components of our economy and our society. The Court’s decisions profoundly impact invention and innovation, domestic and international commerce, and in large measure, establish a standard for how fairly the Federal Government treats its citizens,” said Ms. Miron. “As the significance and impact of the Federal Circuit’s jurisprudence to our society has grown, so too has the importance of the Court and its bar. The FCBA stands in a unique position to highlight the Court’s place at the intersection of these disciplines, and to unite the various stakeholders in the Federal Circuit community,” she continued.
“Deborah’s visionary leadership will elevate the Association to even greater heights. It is especially satisfying to welcome her to the role of Executive Director, as the Circuit community moves boldly into the days ahead,” noted retiring Executive Director James E. Brookshire, who has provided exceptional leadership since 2003.

Previously, Ms. Miron served as Deputy Assistant General Counsel (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) for the Department of the Navy, where she was a senior legal advisor on military and civilian personnel issues in the Pentagon, and supervised 19 legal offices in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East. She held prior positions of increasing supervisory responsibility within the Department, and was appointed Counsel to the Standing Committee on Opportunities for Military and Civilian Women in the Navy.

Earlier in her career, Ms. Miron was a civil trial litigator in federal and local courts on behalf of the District of Columbia, supervisory attorney of a law students in court program, and attorney for the United States Commission on Civil Rights. She received her B.A. magna cum laude from the State University of New York at Buffalo, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and from which she also received her J.D.

Ms. Miron is the recipient of numerous awards including MSPB’s highest honor, the Theodore Roosevelt Award. She received the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia’s Justice for Victims of Crime Award, presented to her by former United States Attorney General Eric Holder, for extraordinary assistance to her employee who was the victim of stalking and violent assault, that enabled the Department of Justice to prosecute the stalker and saved the life of the victim. Ms. Miron was made an Honorary Tailhooker by virtue of having catapulted off a U.S. Navy carrier. She received the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award and twice received the Navy Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service.

Ms. Miron has long been a leader in the Federal Circuit community. As FCBA President (2017-2018), she led the Association in establishing its now signature Mock Argument Program, that gives rising advocates opportunities to hone oral advocacy skills, with feedback from judges and leaders of the bar.

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For more information, contact Tori Wright at 202-536-4160 or wright@fedcirbar.org.
COVID-19 Updates: The Federal Circuit Bar Association® is actively monitoring new developments regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19). You are urged to consult, regularly, information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other reliable sources. A link to the CDC can be found here.

A Call for Ideas: We are issuing an important Call for Ideas on how the Association and its members may help, and help others, to address COVID-19 challenges. Please send your suggestions to CircuitCommunityCovid19@fedcirbar.org. Include your name, organization, and contact information. Key among the Association’s strengths are its networking fabrics. Although not all ideas may be feasible, the networking fabrics themselves are an extraordinary force.

COVID-19 Heroes: In extraordinary times, the exemplary character and strength of human nature blooms. Listed here are the governmental, community, non-profit, and private organizations identified by FCBA members as having made a significant difference in the communities of those members. The community expresses its sincere thanks to each of you.

The Circuit Community is unique. Its members are leaders. They include the most informed and leading edge thinkers in pharma, life science, biotech, high tech, innovation, patent, contract, trade, and other areas. They include both industry and the legal profession. More than ever, now is a time to draw on that excellence and those insights. Send us your ideas, suggestions, and COVID-19 Hero nominations – now.

Best wishes to you, your family, and colleagues from all in the Association family.
FCBA MEMBERS CAUCUS ROOM RECAP

Members Caucus Room Session 3 Recap: COVID-19, Business, and the Profession (May 1, 2020). In response to rapid developments in, and deep interest in, the COVID-19 environment, the FCBA Members Caucus Room continued its focus on the topic in the May 1, 2020 session. Niky Bagley, Member, Cole Schotz, P.C., Chris Geyer, Associate General Counsel, Appian Corporation, and Jonathan Davis, Founder, Veteran Esquire Legal Solutions, PLLC discussed issues related to how the current climate has affected firms and businesses and offered personal anecdotes on how it has affected them personally that may apply to others. Other topics included updates to the Paycheck protection program, the CARES act tax provisions, and the Student Veteran Coronavirus Response Act.

PERSPECTIVES ON THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT’S MODIFIED PROCEDURES DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS RECAP

Webcast Recap: Perspectives on the Federal Circuit’s Modified Procedures During the COVID-19 Crisis (May 14, 2020). The Rules Committee of the Federal Circuit Bar Association® sponsored a special webcast to provide information about the Federal Circuit’s modified procedures during the COVID-19 crisis. The webcast was conducted via Zoom and featured a distinguished panel that included Peter Marksteiner Circuit Executive and Clerk of Court, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; Jarrett Perlow, Chief Deputy Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; Molly Silfen, Associate Solicitor in the Solicitor’s Office at the United States Patent and Trademark Office; and Jonathan Weinberg, Associate Attorney at King & Spalding’s Washington, DC office. The webcast was moderated by Lucas Townsend, a partner of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. The hour-long webcast provided information about the Federal Circuit’s temporary filing procedures, telephonic oral arguments, and the experiences of advocates in arguing appeals under the Court’s modified procedures. The panelists also addressed questions from members of the audience.
SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION SERVICE

The Subscription Information Service is available to those in the community who have yet to become FCBA members. Subscribers can take advantage of the Association’s extraordinary library by gaining access to leadership insight in such areas as intellectual property, trade, innovation, and government contracts. A one year non-exclusive license for each subscriber is available, for instance, to current and past publications and program materials from the Bench & Bar® and Major Regional Programs.

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*Pricing for all services is “charter” introductory pricing, valid until June 30, 2020.
This is an URGENT request by the Federal Circuit Bar Association® (FCBA) to its membership for national pro bono assistance to pro se appellants before the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board. This January marked three years since the 3-member Board lost its quorum. Since last March, it has been operating without any Board members. The principal reviewing court for the Board is the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

The U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB) is statutorily charged with protecting Federal merit systems against partisan political and other prohibited personnel practices by adjudicating employee appeals over which it has jurisdiction. Agencies and appellants dissatisfied with the initial decision of an MSPB Administrative Judge can file a Petition for Review with the 3-Member Board. In the absence of Board members confirmed by the Senate, however, MSPB is unable to issue any Board level decisions on Petitions for Review. As of the end of this calendar year, MSPB reported a backlog of over 2,500 Petitions for Review, and that number is growing. Once a Board quorum is restored, this growing backlog could result in a large volume of MSPB appeals to the Federal Circuit.

This situation is a matter of deep concern for the FCBA, which seeks to improve the administration of justice in all areas of the Court’s jurisdiction.

Appellants who are dissatisfied with the initial decision of an MSPB Administrative Judge have the alternative of filing a petition directly with the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. FCBA’s Government Employees Pro Bono project is designed to pair eligible pro se appellants with FCBA member attorneys for pro bono representation before both Administrative Judges and the Federal Circuit. MSPB administrative hearings are generally held at the local regional or field office, or by videoconferencing. MSPB experience is not required, and training is available.

Law Firms and individual attorneys interested in providing MSPB pro bono assistance should immediately contact FCBA Pro Bono Coordinator Brooke Coleman, at coleman@fedcirbar.org, and fill out the Volunteer Attorney Submission form on the FCBA website.
THE RULES COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

A DISCUSSION WITH THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT’S CLERK’S OFFICE

MODERATOR

Andrew Trask, Counsel, Williams & Connolly LLP

PANELISTS

Peter Marksteiner, Circuit Executive and Clerk of Court, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

Jarrett Perlow, Chief Deputy Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

SUMMARY

On April 24, 2020, the Federal Circuit announced a significant set of proposed amendments to its Rules of Practice. On this webcast, members of the Clerk’s Office will offer information and perspective about this currently pending set of amendments.

PRICING

FCBA Members: Complimentary
Students: Complimentary
Non-Members: $175 – Private Practitioner
            $50 – Government/Academic/Retired

JUNE 23, 2020
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM EST
The Inventor Assistance Program (IAP)

Now Open for Possible Pro Bono Interest: International Inventor Assistance Program

IAP involves, among others, WIPO, WEF, Institute of Professional Representatives before the European Patent Office (EPI), the Inter-American Association of Intellectual Property (ASIP), the International Federation of Inventors’ Association (IFIA), Novartis, Qualcomm, and the Federal Circuit Bar Association. It seeks to bring economically underprivileged inventors around the world in touch with counsel who might consider pro bono prosecution assistance to the inventor. The decision on whether to provide counsel assistance belongs to inventor and possible counsel. Currently, participating countries include Columbia, Morocco, South Africa, and the Philippines. Visit [www.wipo.int/iap](http://www.wipo.int/iap) for more information.

Potential Pro Bono Counsel

The opportunity to join the list of interested pro bono counsel for the IAP outreach is open now. Please provide information [here](#). Supplemental information on the IAP outreach is also available at [here](#).

Inventor and OUS Supplemental Information Now Available

In addition to the general information provided below, supplemental background information is available for the IAP inventor and the outside the United States (OUS) attorney [here](#).

Pro Bono Programs

Thank you for your continued service to the Federal Circuit Bar Association’s pro bono programs. Our pro bono programs are an excellent way to diversify your practice, build inroads to prospective clients, and achieve personal fulfillment through helping others. We are always looking to grow attorney participation in our programs, and encourage current participants to bring others on board. The Inventor Assistance Program through the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is another avenue of pro bono service we are asking our attorneys to explore. WIPO’s program is similar to the FCBA/USPTO program and includes inventors from other countries.

We are actively seeking attorneys to assist with our MSPB program, so please make sure you are registered to receive cases by sending an email to Brooke Coleman at coleman@fedcirbar.org. Our circulation of MSPB and CAFC appeals to attorneys for proffering is pretty steady throughout each week. The USPTO pro bono program circulates an “invention summary” a list of patent prosecution matters for proffering about once every two months. We are expecting to circulate another invention summary at the end of September. If you have any questions or concerns about our pro bono programs, please contact Brooke Coleman at (202) 780-0970 or coleman@fedcirbar.org.
ALERT! THERE’S A NEW ALERTS FEATURE ON FASTCASE

So you’ve run a great search in Fastcase, and you’ve read what’s currently available on the topic. However, you don’t want to have to login every day to re-run the search manually. We don’t blame you, neither would we! Check out the Caselaw Alerts! Just run a search in Fastcase 7:

And in the same box as your search phrase, you will a small “bell” icon. Click on that to set an alert on that search phrase. You will be notified via email whenever there is a new case that matches your search terms.
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We invite you to consider membership in the Circuit community’s most prestigious regional, national, and international voluntary bar – the Federal Circuit Bar Association® (FCBA). FCBA serves as the premier portal for organizations, and individuals, seeking the highest in professional excellence. Membership opens the door to a plethora of benefits!

For more information on membership benefits and pricing, contact Vernon Love at love@fedcirbar.org.
Federal Circuit Bar Association

The Federal Circuit Bar Association Charitable and Educational Fund
Expresses its Appreciation to the Following Organizations for their Generous Contributions
Due to COVID-19 concerns, our in-person events are either postponed, rescheduled, or in the process of being transitioned to virtual events. Please visit the FCBA website at www.fedcirbar.org for current information concerning our upcoming webcasts, virtual conferences, and rescheduled events.