

# 2019 FBA Rising Professionals Symposium in Las Vegas



This February, Oregon Chapter Board Members Jack Scholz and Nicole Elgin had the opportunity to attend the second annual Federal Bar Association Rising Professionals Symposium. The Symposium spanned three days (January 31 – February 2) at the Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas and aimed to help young FBA members develop litigation and professional skills to further their careers. The Symposium included attendees from over 20 states and the sessions ranged from discussion panels with in house counsel on how to fill the role of an effective outside counselor to an update from Chief Judge Gloria M. Navarro of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada.

The first day of the Symposium began with a reception to welcome attendees and the opportunity to network with the numerous Symposium speakers. The next day started

off with a welcome from FBA Immediate Past President Kip T. Bollin highlighting the benefits of membership in both the FBA and engaging with the Young Lawyers Division. The day was full of interesting practice tips, business development insights, and a debrief on how the federal government shutdown was impacting court staff and federal practitioners nationwide. The “Practice Prowess” panel included one segment titled “VoiR Dire – Win Your Case and Charm The Pants Off The Jury” and featured U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, Marisa Darden, who highlighted how a new practitioner can still effectively advocate on the client’s behalf, even when the judge heavily controls voir dire.

Another panel, called “In Your Newsfeed” covered topics from the latest legal developments on block chain technologies, data breach class actions, to how states are adapting outdated harassment and vicarious liability statutes to address increased prosecution of both children and parents involved in cyberbullying.

Next up was a great session with Funny or Die General Counsel, C.J. Lee-Vranca. With a spin on Zach Galifianakis’ *Between Two Ferns*, C.J. spoke of the company’s evolution, particularly

Nicole Elgin, Barran Liebman LLP from a legal compliance standpoint, since Will Ferrell first started the company in 2007. The audience learned of the many creative pathways to becoming an entertainment lawyer and how companies, particularly in Hollywood, are adapting their policies and practices in the wake of the #MeToo movement.

The final day of the Symposium ended with a powerful presentation from author Allison Leotta on criminal law, travelling despite the demands of a litigator’s schedule, and making mid-life career changes. While Allison is known for her books including *Discretion* and *The Last Good Girl*, her expertise also stems from her 12 years of prosecuting sex-crimes in Washington DC. The entire event ended on a positive and comedic note when Comedian of Law, Joel Oster, energized the standard ethics CLE by having audience members compete to determine sanctions based on the stories of attorney or judicial misconduct.

National FBA plans to hold the Rising Professionals Symposium again next year and all Oregon Chapter members are encouraged to attend! You can contact Jack Scholz at [jrs@hartwagner.com](mailto:jrs@hartwagner.com) or Nicole Elgin at [nelgin@barran.com](mailto:nelgin@barran.com) to learn more.