

The Fort Myers Division of the Middle District of Florida and
The Bench Bar Fund of the Middle District of Florida

presents the

2024 Summer Series

for law students working for Judges and Lawyers in the Fort Myers Division

The Fort Myers Division of the Middle District of Florida welcomes local law students to the courthouse for a ten-part series that will enable them to connect with judges and lawyers and to learn more about federal practice.

All events are **FREE**. RSVP to any (or all) events by emailing Courtney Ward at Courtney.Ward@flmd.uscourts.gov. If you RSVP “yes” to attend any event, please make every effort to come.

All events will be **in person** at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building in downtown Fort Myers unless otherwise designated below. The courthouse’s address is 2110 First Street, Fort Myers, Florida 33901. Parking is available in the public garage across the street from the courthouse’s front entrance.

Morning at the Federal Courthouse

Come to the federal courthouse to meet U.S. District Judge Sheri Polster Chappell and U.S. Magistrate Judges Nicholas Mizell and Kyle Dudek to learn how civil and criminal cases progress through the justice system. This event is a unique chance to better understand federal litigation from start to finish and to gain insight on what the Judges expect of attorneys who appear before them. Coffee, bagels, and breakfast pastries will be served.

When: May 30, 2024 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m

Where: Jury deliberation room for Courtroom 5D (fifth floor)

Demystifying the Roles of United States Magistrate Judges

Join U.S. Magistrate Judge Kyle C. Dudek as he discusses the duties and responsibilities of federal magistrate judges and holds a mock bond hearing. Lunch will be provided.

When: June 5, 2024 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Courtroom 4E

A Day in the Life of Deputy U.S. Marshal

The U.S. Marshal Service is the judiciary's enforcement arm, so join U.S. Deputy Marshal Ricardo Rodriguez for a tour of Charlotte County Jail. Following the tour, we will have lunch with Marshal Rodriguez where he will be available to answer questions about the day-to-day responsibilities of his agency.

When: June 13, 2024. We will meet at 9:00am in Courtroom 4E to coordinate transportation. Lunch will follow.

Where: Charlotte County Jail

Who Wants to Clerk?

Are you interested in clerking after law school? Join U.S. Magistrate Judge Kyle C. Dudek and several current clerks working at the Courthouse for a lunch to discuss applying to clerkships, the dos and don'ts of interviewing, and post-clerkship opportunities. Lunch will be provided.

When: June 26, 2024 from 12:00 to 1:00pm

Where: Jury deliberation room for Courtroom 5D (fifth floor)

The Federal Criminal Justice System Part I

Join Jesus Casas, Chief Assistant United States Attorney, for a behind-the-scenes look at the federal criminal justice system. Mr. Casas will provide a tour of the grand-jury deliberation room and discuss the grand jury process. Lunch will be provided, and Mr. Cases will be available to answer questions about the day-to-day job of a federal prosecutor.

When: July 11, 2024 from 11:00 am to 1:00pm

Where: Courtroom 4E

The Federal Criminal Justice System Part II

Join Russ Rosenthal, Fort Myers Division Supervisor and Second Assistant, for a presentation about representing indigent defendants and preparing for sentencings. Lunch will be provided following the presentation.

When: July 17, 2024 from 11:00 am to 1:00pm

Where: Courtroom 4E

Federal Criminal Cases and Sentencing

Observe U.S. District Judge Thomas Barber as he presides over sentencing hearings and then join him for lunch and a debriefing on the proceedings and a discussion on federal and state criminal cases. Lunch will be provided.

When: July 19, 2024. The hearings start at 9:00 a.m. and will last until lunch. Watch some or all hearings. But the lunch will start around noon in the jury deliberation room.

Where: Courtroom 6B (sixth floor)

The Job of an Interpreter

Join certified federal court interpreter Leon Fontova for a discussion about how his services are utilized and the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a federal court interpreter. Lunch will be provided.

When: July 24, 2024 from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Courtroom 4E

Farewell Lunch Reception
Summer is ending and law school is about to start again. Before you return to the classroom, join the Judges, lawyers, law clerks, and court employees for lunch at the courthouse. Lunch will be provided.
When: July 31, 2024 from 12:00 to 1:00
Where: Jury Assembly Room (second floor)