

THE BENCH BAR FUND OF THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA & THE ORLANDO
CHAPTER OF THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION

present the

2026

SUMMER SERIES

for law students and young lawyers working in Orlando and nearby areas

Welcome to federal court! This five-part series will introduce law students and young lawyers to federal judges, federal practitioners, and aspects of federal practice. All events are free. All events require business attire. You must have a valid ID to enter the courthouse. Only members of the bar may bring a cell phone into the courthouse.

Please note that each event requires a reservation. Be mindful that if you make a reservation, a seat will be saved for you and food will be bought for you. If you cannot attend, immediately contact Nicole De Brigard, Summer Series Chair, Nicole_DeBrigard@ca11.uscourts.gov, so your seat can be given to someone else.

Appellate Practice

This panel will provide practical insight into the federal appellate process, from drafting persuasive briefs to preparing for oral arguments. Featuring Eleventh Circuit Judge Embry J. Kidd and experienced appellate practitioners, the panel discussion will highlight the key differences between trial and appellate practice, share guidance for developing strong advocacy skills, and provide an opportunity for questions.

Lunch will be provided after the panel, along with a livestream event featuring Supreme Court and appellate advocate Kannon Shanmugam lecturing on “Celebrating 250 Years of the Declaration of Independence.” CLE credit is available for licensed attorneys who attend the livestream lecture.

Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 11:00AM – 1:00PM

Courtroom 3A, 3rd Floor, United States Federal Courthouse, 401 W. Central Blvd, Orlando, FL 32801

Lunch will be provided at no cost

Please RSVP [HERE](#)

Please direct questions to Nicole De Brigard, Nicole_DeBrigard@ca11.uscourts.gov.

Pro Bono Panel

The pro bono event will feature a panel discussion on the significance of pro bono work, the methods practitioners use to find pro bono cases, the ways they balance pro bono commitments with their regular workload, and some personal anecdotes.

Monday, June 15, 2026, 12:00PM – 1:30PM

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Orlando Event Space, 3rd Floor, United States Federal Courthouse, 401 W. Central Blvd, Orlando, FL 32801

Lunch will be provided at no cost

Please RSVP [HERE](#)

Please direct questions to Savannah Young, youngsa@gtlaw.com.

Artificial Intelligence for Federal Court Practitioners

The use of artificial intelligence has rapidly become part of everyday legal practice, including in federal litigation. While AI offers efficiency and cost advantages, courts are increasingly addressing its misuse. Join us for a discussion on how AI fits into the current litigation landscape and the common pitfalls that can create serious risk. CLE Credit is available for licensed attorneys.

Friday, June 26, 2026, 12:00PM – 1:30PM

Orlando Event Space, 3rd floor, United States Federal Courthouse, 401 W. Central Blvd, Orlando, FL 32801

Lunch will be provided at no cost

Please RSVP [HERE](#)

Please direct questions to Lindy Keown, lkeown@bakerlaw.com.

A Day of Federal Practice

Join us for a day at the courthouse focused on federal practice. This event features a courthouse tour with the U.S. Marshals and a roundtable featuring two district judges, a magistrate judge, and civil and criminal practitioners. They will discuss federal practice from the perspectives of the bench and counsel table. Lunch will be provided after the roundtable, along with the opportunity to view any hearings set that afternoon.

Tuesday, July 7, 2026, 9:30AM – 1:00PM. Participants have the option to attend hearings after lunch.

Courtroom 3A, United States Federal Courthouse, 401 W. Central Blvd, Orlando, FL 32801

Lunch will be provided at no cost

Please RSVP [HERE](#)

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Please direct questions to Jeremy Bloor, Jeremy.Bloor@usdoj.gov, and Andrea Hernandez, Andrea.Hernandez@flmd.uscourts.gov.

The United States Bankruptcy Court

Most of us have had some type of debt: credit cards, student loans, medical bills. And sometimes, that debt becomes overwhelming. The process of bankruptcy helps individuals and businesses craft a plan to clear their debts and reorganize their financial affairs. Observe hearings before the United States Bankruptcy Court and then join United States Bankruptcy Judges and practitioners for a casual Q&A lunch.

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 10:00AM – 12:00PM

United States Bankruptcy Court, 400 W. Washington Street, 6th Floor, Orlando, FL 32801

Lunch will be provided at no cost

Please RSVP [HERE](#)

Please direct questions to Andrew Ballentine, aballentine@nardellalaw.com.