

# End of Year Meeting Report

## Next Generation Committee

Submitted by Stephen Wheelis and Meredith Grabill, Co-Chairs  
June 26, 2024

Since the Mid-Year Report, The Next Gen Committee has held monthly meetings by zoom/telephone. The final meeting will be held during the conference on Wednesday, September 18, 2024. The Committee includes:

### **JUDGES**

Judge Stephen Wheelis, Co-Chair  
Judge Meredith Grabill, Co-Chair  
Judge Janet Bostwick  
Judge Jason Burgess  
Judge Scott Grossman  
Judge Whitman Holt  
Judge Sandra Klein  
Judge Karen Owens  
Judge Keith Phillips  
Judge Erithe Smith

### **ATTORNEY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Eyal Berger  
David Gaffey  
Jarret Hitchings  
Alex Dugan  
Sarah Fowler  
Marilee Mark  
Ashley Edwards  
Zachary Fairlie  
Julie Harrison  
Lacey Rochester  
Jill Walters  
Esther McKean  
Lisa Starks  
Pete Morrison  
Molly Sigler  
Steven Kinsella  
Krystal Mikkilineni  
Ashley Teesdale  
Kevin Capuzzi  
Alexandra Blye  
Sameer Alifarag  
Richard Keeton  
Faye Rasch

The 2024 Next Generation class of participants includes 54 participants, our largest class ever. Currently we need 26 Judges to volunteer to assist with the Roundtable Event for the Next Generation participants at the conference. For those Judges who are not familiar with the Next Generation Program, information is posted on the NCBJ website.

A draft copy of the Next Generation programming schedule for the NCBJ conference in Seattle is attached to this report. Venues for the events have not yet been finalized.

The Next Generation Committee is unique in that it is comprised of both Judges and attorneys. The attorney members of the Committee are able to solicit sponsorships for the NextGen events. This year, in an effort to help reduce the expense of the event to NCBJ, the NextGen attorney committee members are obtaining sponsorships with a goal of \$16,500 as well as in kind donations of about \$3,500. (It should also be noted that the 54 NextGen class participants are required to register and pay registration fees for the NCBJ event.) This year NextGen was able to award one scholarship to a qualifying 2024 participant.

For the third year, the NextGen Committee has agreed to partner with the Blackshear and NCBJ Fellows, allowing them to attend certain NextGen events. Also, NextGen attorney committee members have volunteered to serve as mentors for the NCBJ Fellows.

Approximately 14 Judges have already volunteered to participate in the Next Generation Roundtable event and Judges Grabill and Wheelis thank them for their willingness to assist.

Also, for the second year, NextGen appointed Ambassadors from each alumni class who have volunteered to meet with and mentor the current NextGen class participants.

The NextGen Committee, through its attorney members, maintains an active social media link through LinkedIn which group includes former NextGen participants. The Alumni, at their cost, are invited to attend the Next Generation reunion dinner held as part of the NextGen programming during each NCBJ conference.

There are no action items to request of the Board of Governors and the Committee rests on this written report.

Stephen D. Wheelis  
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, WDLA  
2024 Co-Chair, Next Generation Committee

Meredith Grabill  
U.S. Bankruptcy Judge, EDLA  
2024 Co-Chair, Next Generation Committee



## NEXTGen

NCBJ in collaboration with the American College of Bankruptcy

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS  
SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2024  
SEATTLE, WA

The 2024 NextGen program will take place during NCBJ's Annual Meeting, which will be held from Wednesday, September 18 to Friday, September 20, 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Downtown in Seattle, WA. As in past years, NextGen participants will enjoy an exclusive Judicial Roundtable program, as well as networking opportunities and social events with the 2024 classmates and NextGen alumni. Our NextGen schedule for 2024 is set forth below. Bear in mind we continue to work on scheduling and we will share details through social media as they occur.

- **Wednesday, September 18, 9:00 Coffee for NCBJ Mentors and Mentees and NextGen Ambassadors.** Location – lobby coffee shop (Contact Eyal Berger for more detail)
- **Wednesday, September 18, Dine-Around Lunches (mandatory) 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.** Join your NextGen classmates in small groups with NextGen Committee attorney members as facilitators at some of Seattle's lovely restaurants near the Hyatt Regency Downtown. Additional details and instructions will be forthcoming. Lunch is complimentary, provided by NCBJ and the Next Generation Committee. Participants will be contacted regarding the lunch location for each group.
- **Wednesday, September 18, Judicial Roundtable (mandatory) 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** The centerpiece of the NextGen experience, the Judicial Roundtable program serves as an opportunity for each NextGen participant to interact with at least twenty bankruptcy judges over the course of the Roundtable. Participation in the Judicial Roundtable is included in your NCBJ Annual Meeting registration fee. Moderated by Judge Wheelis and Judge Grabill. Location – TBD
  - 3:45 – Next Generation Committee Meeting following Roundtable Networking. Location–TBD
- **Wednesday, September 18, Getting to Know You Reception for 2024 NextGen'rs (optional) 3:45 p.m. 4:30 p.m. (following the Judicial Roundtable).** Continue networking with your classmates and Roundtable Judges. Location – The Lobby Bar.
- **Wednesday, September 18, NCBJ Emerging Leaders Reception 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** including NextGen class members, Alums, Blackshear Fellows & Alums, JTB Interns, Trials Skills participants and NCBJ first timers and Judges. Cost is included in your NCBJ registration fee.
- **Wednesday, September 18, Conference Opening Reception 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** This event is included in your registration fee.
- **Thursday, September 19, Cocktails and Conversation (NextGen Class and Alumni) 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.** Enjoy pre-dinner cocktails and network with your class and NextGen alumni. (No cost). Location – TBD.
- **Thursday, September 19, Dinner 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** Enjoy dinner with 2024 NextGen'rs and NextGen alumni. This is a ticketed event and the per ticket cost is \$TBD. (Dinner is complimentary for the 2024 NextGen class) Dinner will be at TBD.

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