

# The American College of Employee Benefits Counsel

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Charleston, SC – At its 26th Annual Meeting and Gala on November 8, 2025, at the Francis Marion Hotel, the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel (ACEBC®) inducted 4 employee benefits attorneys from across the country as new Fellows. The ACEBC® also awarded its annual prizes to the winners of the Sydney M. Perlstadt and Brian J. Dougherty Memorial Awards in the student writing competition, the competition for proposals simplifying employee benefit plan regulation, and recognized the student Moot Court competition winners honoring charter member Nell Hennessy.

“The College is pleased to welcome our distinguished 2025 Class of Fellows and to honor them for their sustained excellence and service to the employee benefits community and the public at large. We’re also extremely proud of all our award winners,” said Frank Palmieri, College President and Partner at Palmieri & Eisenberg in Princeton, NJ.

ACEBC® Fellows are nationally recognized for professional excellence and a sustained commitment over a career spanning at least 20 years to public awareness and understanding of the law impacting retirement plans, healthcare coverage, welfare and disability benefits, fringe benefits and other employee benefits and employment compensation arrangements affecting the American workforce.

The College’s over 475 Fellows advance its important mission through public discourse of significant legal and social policy issues in employee benefits law through such activities as writing, speaking, teaching, and leadership in bar and professional associations, and through other College activities.

In addition to its annual Gala and student writing, Moot Court and simplification competitions, the College presents symposiums, educational programming and training on employee benefit and employment compensation topics, regularly engages with government agencies on employee benefit regulatory matters and offers a searchable data base of Fellows who serve as expert witnesses and mediators. The College is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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**AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COUNSEL  
2025 FELLOWS**

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Carlos Gonzalez, Atlanta, GA

**2025 STUDENT WRITING COMPETITION PRIZES**

Brian J. Dougherty Memorial Award:  
Nell Cormack, Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law

Sidney M. Perlstadt Memorial Award:  
Emily Bingham, University of Minnesota Law School

Honorable Mention:  
Melissa Welch, Georgetown University Law Center

**2025 ELLEN A. (NELL) HENNESSY EMPLOYEE BENEFITS MOOT COURT COMPETITION  
PRIZES**

Best Team:  
Keegan Coon and Cagan Baldree  
Baylor University School of Law

Best Brief:  
Carolyn Jones and Christina Hitchcock  
The George Washington University Law School

Best Oral Advocate:  
Albert Anaim, The Catholic  
University of America, Columbus School of Law

**2025 SIMPLIFICATION AWARD PRIZE**

Winners:  
Molly Pratzner, Philadelphia, PA  
Susan Rees, Washington, DC