

Appendix B: Student Life & Organizations

Student Organizations

Below is a listing of the Student Bar Association approved organizations at ASL. The participation level of these organizations is contingent upon student interest and involvement. Please see Glenna Owens, Student Services Coordinator, for more information.

Alexander Hamilton Society

The Alexander Hamilton Society is an organization comprised of those law students, administrators, teaching staff, and support personnel of the law school who profess a sincere and sympathetic interest in as well as a proven and unique concern for debate on basic principles and contemporary issues in foreign, economic, and national security policy.

Appalachian Journal of Law

The Appalachian Journal of Law (Journal) is a student-run organization, operating with the aid and guidance of the faculty and staff of Appalachian School of Law (ASL) that is an official publication of the ASL. Its purpose is to attract, edit, and publish scholarly articles, notes, and comments written by academics, jurists, practitioners, students, community leaders, and others. It is designed to provide a forum for issues that arise in the communities of Appalachia and nationwide. Those serving on the Journal are expected to adhere to the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and scholarship in the production of a publication that embodies the quality and professionalism that are hallmarks of the legal profession.

Appalachian Women in Law Society (AWILS)

Appalachian Women in Law Society (“Where there’s A.W.I.L., there’s a way”) is an egalitarian, consensus-based organization concerned with issues facing women in law. The group, which welcomes all students, participates in community service projects, networks with women lawyers in the Appalachian School of Law region, and hosts discussions of gender-related topics.

ASL Memorial 5K Run/Walk

The ASL Memorial 5K Run/Walk, held annually in October. The ASL Memorial 5K Run/Walk is a community service project designed to foster and promote the memory of Tony Sutin, Tom Blackwell, and Angela Dales. The organized event endeavors to build stronger ties with the local community while offering community service opportunities to ASL staff and volunteers. Proceeds of the race benefit the Anthony Sutin and Thomas Blackwell Endowment Scholarship Funds, which benefit future ASL students in memory of those who died on January 16, 2002.

Basketball Team

The ASL Basketball team is a social group of players of all skill levels that get together to exercise, fellowship, network, and play the game of basketball. We strive to represent the school in activities for students as well as the local community. Our purpose is to promote unity, teamwork, and communication through basketball.

Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

Black Law Students Association is a student organization on campus that supports minority students and students in general who want to be included in the organization. The National Black Students Association’s (“NBSA”) mission, which is followed by all chapters, is to increase the number of culturally responsible black and minority attorneys who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the

community. BLSA conducts general body meetings for members and students who are interested in joining the organization 2-3 times per semester to discuss current issues in the legal community, support each other academically, discuss the organization budget and plan for community service events in the community. BLSA facilitates informal potlucks on campus throughout each semester in order to relieve the stressor and rigors of being a law student and to support each other emotionally and academically.

Business and International Law Society (BILS)

The Business and International Law Society is an association that promotes the study of business and international law by supporting the professional development of its members. They thrive to explore issues of importance to the corporate and international legal community, assist students in pursuing legal careers with an international component, promote awareness of international legal topics, and increase understanding of the corporate and international law practice. BILS is committed to upholding the highest standards for advancing the values of collegiality, intellectual diversity, and freedom of inquiry.

Christian Legal Society (CLS)

The Christian Legal Society (“CLS”) is a non-denominational membership organization of lawyers, judges, law professors, and law students, working in association with others, to follow the command of Jesus “to do justice with the love of God.” (Luke 11:42, Matthew 23:23). CLS is international in scope, with more than 90 attorney chapters and 165 law student chapters located in more than 1100 cities, in all 50 states and in 10 foreign countries. The mission of CLS is to identify, equip, and mobilize “a national grassroots network of lawyers and law students committed to proclaiming, loving and serving Jesus Christ, through all that we do in the practice of law, and by advocating biblical conflict reconciliation, public justice, religious freedom and the sanctity of human life.” The ASL chapter of CLS meets regularly throughout the school year to share prayer, Bible study, and fellowship. The chapter also works on projects of service to ASL and the community. All are welcome to attend.

Criminal Law Society

The Criminal Law Society of Appalachian School of Law is dedicated to keeping students informed of developments in the criminal law area, as well as increasing students’ exposure to networking and career opportunities. Toward this end, the Society will sponsor discussion groups, invite outside speakers, and promote curricular and co-curricular activities in the criminal law field. The Society is apolitical; however, the Society will facilitate student membership in political groups representing defense attorneys or prosecutors.

Democratic Law Society (DLS)

Democratic Law Society strives to prime an interest in liberal politics and progressive policy among law students. We are a student-run organization whose members anxiously seek opportunities to learn more about politics so that we may render service by connecting with organizers, advocates, activists, union leaders, journalists, and elected officials. Our touchstones: equal rights, people before corporate profits, livable working wages, and sustainable clean energy. Regardless of political persuasion, everyone is welcome at our meetings.

Energy and Mineral Law Society (EMLS)

ASL’s Energy and Mineral Law Society is a student chapter of the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation. Each year EMLS sends several students to the Kentucky Mineral Law Conference in Lexington, KY. The Energy & Mineral Law Foundation is a national nonprofit educational organization which fosters the study of the laws and regulations related to natural resource development and energy use. The Foundation is an Accredited Provider of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education programs, AAPL and other professional recertification credits, and provides opportunities for professional development through committee participation, program planning, public speaking and publishing of original work.

Environmental Law Society (ELS)

The Environmental Law Society was established to further the preservation of the greater Grundy area and the larger global environment by recycling. Each semester over 500 pounds of plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and paper are collected and recycled by law school students. The team collects recycling from individual students during ELS's Fall and Spring Recycling Competitions. The ELS Recycling Program saw student involvement in recycling increase significantly during the 2017-2018 academic year. The Environmental Law Society also hosts trail and river cleanups each semester where students can earn community service by collecting litter near campus. Each year ELS also hosts a camping trip to Breaks Interstate Park. Membership in ELS and the Recycling Program also helps students secure community service hours required for graduation from ASL.

Federalist Society

The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies is a group of conservatives and libertarians interested in the current state of the legal order. It is founded on the principles that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be. The Society seeks both to promote an awareness of these principles and to further their application through its activities.

OutLaw

OutLaw is dedicated to creating a safe space for all LGBT+ persons and their allies, and provide social, educational, professional, and philanthropic opportunities for the LGBT+ community at ASL. OutLaw strives to foster a dialogue with the larger campus community and the surrounding community at large about the legal status of LGBT+ persons in society, the ways in which the law interacts with the lives of LGBT+ persons, and what it means to be LGBT+ in the legal profession.

Phi Alpha Delta (PAD)

The L. Anthony Sutin Chapter of the Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity was chartered in 2002. Phi Alpha Delta is the world's largest legal fraternity. The purpose of the fraternity is to form a strong bond uniting students and teachers of the law with members of the Bench and Bar in a fraternal fellowship designed to advance the ideals of liberty and equal justice under law; to stimulate excellence in scholarship; to inspire the virtues of compassion and courage; to foster integrity and professional competence; to promote the welfare of its members; and to encourage their moral, intellectual, and cultural advancement; so that each member may enjoy a lifetime of honorable professional and public service.

Phi Delta Phi (PDP)

The Phi Delta Phi International Legal Fraternity, established in the year 1869 to promote a higher standard of professional ethics, is among the oldest legal organizations in North America. It holds a unique position in the history of the North American bench, bar, and ASLs. Phi Delta Phi is the world's largest legal fraternity whose membership is restricted to students and practitioners of the law. Phi Delta Phi holds monthly meetings for fellowship and planning.

Republican Law Students Association (RLSA)

The RLSA is a local Republican student organization formed at Appalachian School of Law to promote individual liberty, fiscal responsibility, and Constitutional values. All ASL students, faculty, and staff are welcome to join. The RLSA holds bi-monthly meetings during the academic semester, hosts the annual Great American Bash during the Fall semester, attends regional political events, and contributes all charitable proceeds to Fisher House Foundation to build homes for disabled veterans.

Softball Team

At the beginning of every new academic year, the students at Appalachian School of Law start to prepare for a softball tournament that usually takes place during the month of April in Charlottesville, VA. Typically, we have enough students to completely fill two teams, which means that we have double the chance of bringing the winning trophy back to Grundy! Anyone who comes out to the practices and pays the club dues is on the team and we welcome any and all different types of experience levels. So get away from the grind of law school and come have some fun with your classmates on the diamond!

Student Bar Association (SBA)

The Student Bar Association of Appalachian School of Law is governed by four officers, nine Senators, and four Honor Court Justices. Every ASL student is a member of the Student Bar Association by virtue of enrollment. The SBA serves the ASL student body in the formation of law school policy and student governance. In addition, the SBA organizes social events and community service events and facilitates the formation of new student organizations. The SBA plays an important role in serving as a liaison between the students and the faculty and administration.

Student Animal Law Defense Fund (SALDF)

The Appalachian School of Law SALDF is dedicated to providing a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system, and raising the profile of the field of animal law. The Appalachian School of Law SALDF is equally dedicated to protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system. The activities of the Appalachian School of Law SALDF shall include, but not be limited to: hosting speakers, debates, and conferences on current issues in animal law protection; networking with students at other law schools, colleges, and universities, and high schools; conducting educational events such as information tables and video screenings on pertinent issues; and advocating on behalf of vegetarian/vegan students within their law school.

Sutin Public Interest Association (SPIA)

The mission of the Sutin Public Interest Association is to promote awareness, educate, and empower public service-minded law students in upholding Dean Sutin's strong beliefs in serving the public. The founders of this organization were dedicated to surmounting barriers to equal justice that affect millions of low-income individuals and families. Today, the association is committed to organizing, training, and supporting public service-minded law students, and in creating summer and postgraduate public interest career opportunities.

Veteran Law School Association (VLSA)

The Veteran Law School Association was formed to articulate and promote the needs and goals of the veterans, service members, and families represented on campus and in the local community; to foster and encourage an attitude of military service to America; and to focus upon the relationship between duty to country and our legal system. To engender respect among civilian students who have not had the opportunity to serve in the military, for those who have sacrificed through military services to the country, by promoting informational programs on military life. To make known causes advancing the interest of veterans, service members and their families.