

Student Life & Organizations

Student Organizations

Below is a listing of the active Student Bar Association approved organizations at ASL. The participation level of these organizations is contingent upon student interest and involvement. Please see David Western, Dean of Students, for more information.

Appalachian Journal of Law

The Appalachian Journal of Law (Journal) is an official publication of 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 strives to educate, support, and empower women not just in the legal field but within our entire community as well. 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.

Basketball Team

The ASL Basketball team is dedicated to winning for fun and enjoyment in promotion for the school and its students and faculty. Our members are committed to excellence, integrity, and fellowship in all games we play. We strive to bring the local community entertainment, win or lose, and regardless of the skill level of players to compete with altruism.

Black Law Students Association (BLSA)

The Black Law Students Association utilizes the collective resources of the organization to articulate and promote the educational, professional, political, and social needs and goals of Black law students at ASL; fosters and encourages professional competence of law students within ASL; improves the relationship between Black law students and Black attorneys in the American legal structure; instills in the Black attorney and law student a greater awareness and commitment to the needs of the Black community and the Buchanan County Community; influences the legal community by bringing about meaningful legal and political change that addresses the needs and concerns of the Black community; works very closely with the law school administration on minority recruitment, retention, and financial aid; adopts and implements a policy of economic independence; encourages participation between all racial and ethnic groups; and encourages Black students to pursue careers in the judiciary.

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. BILS thrives to explore issues of importance to the corporate and international legal community, assist students in pursuing legal careers

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with an international component, promote awareness of international legal topics, and increase understanding of 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”) exists to inspire, encourage, and equip lawyers and law students, both individually and in the community, to proclaim, love, and serve Jesus Christ through the study and practice of law, the defense of religious freedom, and the provision of legal assistance to the poor. CLS is dedicated to seeking justice with the love of God by following His principles: helping members faithfully serve Jesus in their professions, relationships, communities, and churches; influencing the legal profession and the law in accordance with His teaching; and serving others as He would serve them.

Criminal Law Society

The Criminal Law Society 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, CLS will sponsor discussion groups, invite outside speakers, and promote curricular and co-curricular activities in the criminal law field. CLS is apolitical; however, it will facilitate student membership in political groups representing defense attorneys or prosecutors.

Energy and Mineral Law Society (EMLS)

ASL’s Energy and Mineral Law Society is a student chapter of the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation. EMLS’s purpose is to promote the educational and professional advancement of its members in the practice areas of Energy and Mineral Law. EMLS solicits co-curricular educational and employment opportunities for its members, facilitates occasions for fraternity and association within these specialized legal communities, and encourages the faculty and administration to offer an elective curriculum to explore the pertinent areas of Energy and Mineral Law as applicable to prospective practitioners. Each year EMLS sends several students to the Kentucky Mineral Law Conference in Lexington, KY.

Environmental Law Society (ELS)

The Environmental Law Society’s mission is to promote awareness of environmental concerns, issues, and problems within the legal community, the student body, and the local community; bridge the communication and information gaps between the scientific and political/legal communities; enhance the law school experience for students interested in environmental issues confronting southwest Virginia, the United States, and the world; and serve the community and the school by actively engaging in projects and events to serve this mission. ELS hosts recycling competitions and river cleanups.

Moot Court Board

The Appalachian School of Law Moot Court Team is headed by the Moot Court Board. The members/teams consist of students who have taken Appellate Advocacy, indicated an interest in joining the Moot Court Team, and been approved by the professors who provide coaching for the team. The teams travel to competitions held at other law schools, usually involving environmental and criminal problems. Teams have also entered competitions in space law and child welfare law.

National Latina/o Law Student Association (NLLSA)

ASL's Chapter of the NLLSA is part of the national organization. NLLSA serves as a conduit for Latina/o law student voices. Founded on principles of social, ethnic, racial, gender, and sexual equality, NLLSA is focused on advancing Latina/o academic success and commitment to community service. NLLSA is fueled by a progressive coalition-building approach that addresses legal issues affecting Latinas/os around the nation.

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 this chapter shall be to provide an effective, cohesive forum, smaller than that of the entire law school student body; to provide for the professional advancement of its members; to promote the principles of liberty and equal justice under law for all citizens; to stimulate excellence in scholarship; to provide a forum for the interchange between members of this chapter and members of the practicing bar, the bench, and law professors; to develop lasting professional friendships among its members; and to provide the ideals, principles, and purposes of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, international as defined in Article II of the Constitution of the Fraternity.

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 ASL. Phi Delta Phi is the world's largest legal fraternity whose membership is restricted to students and practitioners of the law. ASL's Chapter of Phi Delta Phi is named Blackwell Inn Phi Delta Phi International.

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 goal of the RLSA is to support Republican candidates on the local and national level as well as encouraging debate and thoughtful awareness of the issues of the day on campus.

Softball Team

At the beginning of every new academic year, the students at Appalachian School of Law start to prepare for the Annual University of Virginia School of Law Softball Invitational 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 –six 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.

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. VLSA works 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.