

The Federalist Society
University of Maryland School of Law

Organizational Meeting
Wednesday, September 5, 2007
12:15 PM
Room 302

“The courts must declare the sense of the law; and if they should be disposed to exercise WILL instead of JUDGMENT, the consequence would be the substitution of their pleasure to that of the legislative body.”

The Federalist No. 78

I. Welcome & Introductions

- a. President: Celia Landgren, Class of 2008 (celia.landgren@gmail.com)
- b. Vice President: Sebastian Kurian, Class of 2008 (skurian@alumni.upenn.edu)

II. Introduction to The Federalist Society

- a. The Federalist Philosophy and Background
 - i. The Federalist Society is an organization of 40,000 lawyers, law students, scholars, and other individuals who believe and trust that individual citizens can make the best choices for themselves and society. It was founded in 1982 by a group of law students interested in making sure that the principles of limited government embodied in our Constitution receive a fair hearing.
 - ii. Law schools and the legal profession are currently strongly dominated by a form of orthodox liberal ideology which advocates a centralized and uniform society. While some members of the academic community have dissented from these views, by and large they are taught simultaneously with (and indeed as if they were) the law.
 - iii. *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:*
 - 1. *the state exists to preserve freedom;*
 - 2. *the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution;*
 - 3. *and it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be.*

- iv. The Society seeks both to promote an awareness of these principles and to further their application through its activities.
 - v. This entails reordering priorities within the legal system to place a premium on *individual liberty*, *traditional values*, and *the rule of law*. It also requires restoring the recognition of the importance of these norms among lawyers, judges, and law professors.
 - vi. In working to achieve these goals, the Society has created a conservative and libertarian intellectual network that extends to all levels of the legal community.
 - vii. **PLEASE NOTE: The Society is non-partisan. We do not lobby for legislation, take policy positions, or sponsor or endorse nominees and candidates for public service. While overall the Society believes in limited government, its members are diverse and often hold conflicting views on a broad range of issues such as tort reform, privacy rights, and criminal justice.**
- b. National Organization
- i. Student Division
 - 1. The Student Division includes more than 5,000 law students at approximately 180 ABA-accredited law schools, including all of the top twenty law schools. The national office provides speakers and other assistance to the chapters in organizing their lectures, debates, and educational activities.
 - ii. Faculty Division
 - 1. The Federalist Society established its Faculty Division in early 1999 with a conference that was attended by many of the rising stars in the legal academy. The objective of the Faculty Division is to provide events and other tools to help encourage constructive academic discourse. This encouragement will help foster the growth and development of rigorous traditional legal scholarship.
 - iii. Lawyers Division
 - 1. The Lawyers Division is comprised of over 20,000 legal professionals and others interested in current intellectual and practical developments in the law. It has active chapters in sixty cities, including Baltimore, Washington, D.C., New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, San Francisco, Denver, Atlanta, Houston, Pittsburgh, Seattle, and Indianapolis. Activities include the annual National Lawyers Convention, a Speakers Bureau for organizing lectures and debates, and 15 Practice Groups.
 - iv. Benefits of Joining the National Organization
 - 1. Advance notice of The Federalist Society's many programs and conferences.
 - 2. Membership in two Practice Groups that allow you to better explore legal specialties that interest you.
 - 3. ½ travel scholarships to the National Student Symposium.

4. Membership discounts for many Federalist Society programs and conferences.
 5. Subscriptions to high-quality Federalist Society publications such as *The Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*.
 6. Opportunities to network with other students and legal professionals in the foremost legal group for conservatives and libertarians.
- c. Our Chapter
- i. Speakers & Debates
 1. 2 large events per semester, typically debates
 2. Additional “members only” speaker events
 - ii. Brown Bag Lunch Series
 1. Local practitioners and scholars speak to students at an informal roundtable setting
 - iii. Social Activities
 1. 1 happy hour per semester
 - iv. Service Projects
 1. Spring project TBD

III. Upcoming Events

- a. Wednesday, September 12, 2007, 12:10 PM – Room 107
 - i. 9/11 Commemorative event, "Maryland Law Alums Confront the War on Terror"
 - ii. Co-Sponsored by The Center for Health and Homeland Security, Fed-Soc, ACS, and The Maryland Katrina and Indigent Defense Project
 - iii. Will feature the perspectives of four recent School of Law graduates who are addressing issues of homeland security in their careers
 - iv. See http://www.law.umaryland.edu/news_detail.asp?news=275
 - v. Lunch provided
- b. Tuesday, October 16, 2007, 4:00 PM – Room 302
 - i. Debate featuring Dr. Robert A. Levy of the CATO Institute, “The Second Amendment Under Fire”
 - ii. Debate opponent TBD
 - iii. See <http://www.cato.org/people/levy.html> for more information about Dr. Levy and the D.C. gun ban
 - iv. Refreshments provided
- c. Medical Malpractice Debate – spring

IV. Brainstorming

- a. Please contact Celia or Sebastian if you have any ideas for future events!

V. Election

- a. Secretary
- b. Treasurer
- c. 1L Liaison
- d. Officer-at-Large

VI. Questions?

- a. Please feel free to contact Celia or Sebastian with your questions!

Thank you for coming!
We look forward to seeing you and your friends at our upcoming events!