



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MEMPHIS**®

Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law

**LAW SCHOOL STUDENT  
ORGANIZATION  
HANDBOOK  
2023 – 2024**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

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Dear Student Leaders,

Much of the strength, richness and diversity of the Memphis Law experience is due to the leadership, hard work and thoughtful programming of our student organizations. The Law School Faculty and Staff and I are here to support your work in as many ways as possible – from assistance with event planning and room reservations to thinking through fundraising to publicity to helping you manage your finances. We work to marshal the many resources of the Law School and the University on your behalf. This Handbook is a guide to the policies and resources of the Law School and the University of Memphis as a whole. We eagerly look forward to working with you and your groups to make your time at Memphis Law the meaningful, vibrant, and fun experience we hope it will be.

Fondly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meredith Aden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Meredith" being more prominent than the last name "Aden".

Meredith Aden, J.D., LL.M.  
Assistant Dean for Law Student Affairs  
University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law

## 2 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: AN OVERVIEW

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Student Organizations at Memphis Law are among the most important drivers of students' lives and experiences during their time at the Law School. Student Organizations are shaping the public conversation, providing social spaces, mentoring and guiding students, and creating communities. This is important work that requires a real dedication of time, effort, and energy.

Managing a Student Organization is akin to managing a small not-for-profit organization, and like managing a not-for-profit, requires a combination of vision, dedication, financial oversight, flexibility, and the ability to plan and then execute those plans.

As you think about the upcoming year, the questions below might serve as a helpful guide for you to implement your vision. Sit down as a board and consider some of the following:

### WHAT ARE OUR GOALS FOR THIS YEAR?

What would we like to achieve and how would we like to make our mark on Memphis Law? What is our vision for our organization? Why did we choose to dedicate our free time to this organization?

### WHAT ARE THE EVENTS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HOLD?

Do we want to plan a major event? Should we stick with smaller events only? How does planning for a major event differ from planning for a smaller event? How should we schedule our events over the course of the year? Are there other groups who might be a natural partner for any of these events? Should an event be social, academic, professional, or some combination of the above? How much will a given event cost? What faculty members might be invited to participate in an event? What outside speakers? What are the logistics of inviting outside speakers to an event? How should responsibility for an event be allocated within the organization?

### HOW WILL WE MANAGE THE FINANCES OF OUR ORGANIZATION?

What is the estimated total cost of our events for the year? How will we get funds? Will we seek funding from the Student Government Association, or will we fundraise from outside sources, or hold internal fundraisers such as a bake sale? Will we be selling tickets to events, or charging membership dues? Who will manage your organization's finances? How will we keep up with our reporting responsibilities and track money spent or deposited?

### HOW WILL WE MANAGE THE ORGANIZATION?

How should responsibility be allocated within the board? How should tasks be delegated to the membership? How should we attract and involve 1Ls? How can we create structure within the organization to help manage things?

### 3 HOW TO BECOME A STUDENT ORGANIZATION

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#### BECOMING A LAW SCHOOL STUDENT ORGANIZATION

To become a Law School Student Organization, you must complete all steps in the Law Student Organization Registration form on TigerZone [here](#).

You will need the following information to complete the registration process:

1. All information on the University's Registration Checklist [here](#)
2. Completed Advisor Verification Form available [here](#)
3. List of officers with email addresses and titles
4. Name and contact information for your designated PR Representative
5. Constitution and/or Bylaws

You will also complete a Law Student Organization Training as part of the registration process.

#### STARTING A NEW STUDENT ORGANIZATION

You can find useful information about starting a new Student Organization [here](#), including information about creating a constitution and bylaws.

### 4 BUILDING LOGISTICS

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#### LOCKERS

If your student organization does not have a designated office space but needs some secure storage space, you may request one or more lockers from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs' Office. Lockers for student organizations are free but must be cleaned out and re-requested each year.

#### MAILBOXES

Each student organization has a designated mailbox in the student mailbox area of the basement. Mail received for your organization will be placed in your organization's mailbox.

Designate someone from your organization to check your organizations mailbox each week.

#### STUDENT ORGANIZATION STORAGE & KEYS

Law Review, Moot Court, Honor Council, and SBA have designated office spaces. These organizations should pass down keys at the end of the academic year to the incoming officers for that organization. Student organizations must keep up with the keys, as we cannot have new keys made due to university policies. These organizations are expected to keep their office spaces clean and purged of old food, paperwork, books, etc.

Each year, all other student organizations may request access to communal student organization storage space in Rooms 058, 060, 062, and 067, subject to availability. Storage space will be reallocated each year based on current requests and needs. Requests may be made to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

Each organization is expected to be considerate of other organizations sharing the storage space and keep them clean and tidy. And, at the end of each year, each organization should go through items in the storage space to purge old books, food, paperwork, or other items. Organizations who do not keep their storage areas tidy may forfeit access to storage space.

Due to space restrictions, student organization storage spaces are not personal offices but communal storage spaces.

#### PROMOTIONAL TABLES

Registered Law Student Organizations may conduct table sits outside of the Student Lounge. Remove your belongings each day and to leave the space as you found it.

Use the rolling tables in the lobby but ensure that you pick the tables up to move them, as dragging them and chairs can cause damage to the floors in the lobby.

## 5 PLANNING AN EVENT

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### PLANNING

#### Communication with Law Firms, Guests, and other Professionals

Remember that students represent the Law School in dealings with attorneys, judges, alumni, law firms, and other professionals. Keep in mind that working professionals are accustomed to prompt responses to correspondence, so it is important to make sure that members respond to email correspondence as soon as is reasonably possible, even if simply to acknowledge that the message has been received and will follow up with a more detailed response later.

In addition, remember to use a respectful and courteous tone in all written correspondence. Specifically, use salutations (Dear, To Whom It May Concern, etc.), titles (Professor, Judge, Ms., Mr., etc.), and closings (Sincerely, Best Regards, etc.). Also make sure that any outgoing correspondence is carefully proofread before it is sent out. Sloppily written emails can leave a guest or law firm with a negative impression of the writer and the Law School. For a sample email invitation to a guest speaker, see Appendix A.

Once a guest accepts an invitation to the Law School, remember to confirm the event with the speaker again at least 10-14 days prior to the date of the event. In that confirmation, be sure to inform the guest of any necessary logistical details (driving directions, where to meet a Student Organization's members, parking arrangements, food accommodations, etc.). For a sample guest speaker logistics email, see Appendix B.

Finally, be sure to send the guest a written thank you after the event. For a sample thank you email, see Appendix C.

Failure to adhere to these communication guidelines not only may reflect poorly on the Law School and law students, but also may jeopardize opportunities for



the Law School and/or Student Organizations to work with a guest, law firm, or organization in the future.

#### Distinguished Guest Approval Process

Student Organizations wishing to invite Judges or other dignitaries to the Law School for events should request permission or a letter of invitation from Dean Schaffzin prior to contacting the prospective attendee.

#### Political Activities

As a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the tax code, the University is prohibited from participating in political campaign activities. Although the University may, consistent with its purposes, engage in and sponsor debate and discussion of political issues, the support of individual candidates, campaigns or political parties is prohibited.

The University may not endorse any candidates, make donations to any politician's campaign, issue statements for or against any candidate, or engage in any activity that would either support or oppose any candidate for public office. Furthermore, no political fundraising may occur on the University's campus, in the name of the University, or through the use of University e-mail accounts. These prohibitions apply to all campaigns, including those at the federal, state, and local levels.

During election years, it is particularly important that Student Organizations be mindful of the University's policy regarding political campaign-related activities. If a Student Organization plans an event focusing on an election or working with an individual currently running for political office, discuss it ahead of time with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

#### EVENT LOGISTICS

##### Alcohol

The University of Memphis prohibits the use of drugs or alcohol by students on all campuses, including the Law School campus. You can find more information about this policy [here](#). Students are advised not to plan events at the Law School at which alcoholic beverages will be served or consumed.

##### Attendees

For events involving those not in our Law School community, you must provide a list of attendees and information about the event (date, time, organization, description of event) to the security desk *before* the beginning of the event.

If your event will include minors, you must comply with the University's Minors on Campus Policy. (See more information under Minors on Campus Policy below).

##### Canceling or Rescheduling an Event

Notify [Ms. Ann Onidas](#) (Room 275 in Dean's Suite) as soon as possible if you cancel an event and no longer need the space to be reserved so we can make the space available to others.

### Facilities Requests

If you need assistance with classroom setup or building logistics, contact [Ms. Onidas](#). Provide her with detailed information regarding your event at least two weeks before the scheduled date. She can help you coordinate with physical plant to create a work order if you need to rearrange furniture, etc. Do not move any furniture on your own!

Work orders must be entered in advance for all Law School events that require custodial or maintenance personnel to move furniture during setup or breakdown. A work order must also be entered for all events that require custodial or maintenance staff to work after 2:00 p.m. on Monday – Friday or to work on weekends. Organizations needing after-hours custodial services will be charged a fee for services. [Ms. Onidas](#) can give you information about the cost of these services.

### Food

Student Organizations are responsible for ordering and payment of food expenses.

Student Organizations should notify the security desk when you have a food order being delivered to the Law School for an event or meeting.

All Student Organizations must have a representative available when the food is delivered. The security desk is not responsible for finding students when food is delivered.

If you have questions or need assistance with ordering food, contact [Ann Onidas](#).

### Food/Catering Information

The law school does not generally provide funding for or reimburse expenses for food at student events and meetings.

The [Food/Catering Expense Form](#) is only required if have money in a foundation account for your student organization and you are seeking reimbursement from that account for your food expenses. Students seeking reimbursement should submit this form 10 days before the event for approval prior to expending funds. Students who don't receive approval in advance are not guaranteed to be reimbursed for those expenses.

If the event requires a contract, student organizations should submit [Food/Catering Expense Form](#) along with the contract thirty (30) business days in advance of the event.

If you are not seeking reimbursement from your organization's existing foundation account and are using your organization's checking account to pay for food, you do not need to submit this form.

The requestor and advisor will receive email notification as to whether the request was approved or denied within 24 hours of submission of the form.

Student Organizations cannot order and charge to law school vendor accounts unless authorized by the Business Officer.

When seeking reimbursement, Student Organizations will need to provide a list of attendees, documentation about the event, and receipts to be eligible for reimbursement after pre-approval.

#### Minors on Campus Policy

University has a [Minors on Campus Policy](#) for events on campus that may include minors (those under 18 years old). Organizations scheduling events on campus (including at the law school) that may include minors under the age of 18 must comply with the University's Policy.

Email <mailto:minorsoncampus@memphis.edu> if an event you have planned may include minors, including high school-aged children.

#### Parking Passes

Email [Ann Onidas](#) for assistance with a parking pass for your speaker or VIP. Include the name of the event, the organization(s) sponsoring the event, and the date(s) and time(s) you need parking passes.

#### Room Cleanup

Students are expected to leave rooms in the good condition, and to contact the custodial staff to dispose of or remove extra food, etc., after any event where food is served.

If you need custodial services after hours, you will need to contact [Ann Onidas](#) for a work order. (See Facilities Requests above).

#### Room Reservations

Use the Law School's internal room reservation calendar to find a date for your event and to request a room. You can access the internal calendar (Virtual EMS) [here](#). You will not be able to make room reservations until you have designated a scheduler for your organization in TigerZone. If you don't see your organization listed as an option, check your designated scheduler in TigerZone.

When selecting your date, check the calendar for other events and be considerate of other organizations and meetings that are already scheduled and avoid conflicts whenever possible.

See instructions for using EMS to view room availability and for requesting space [here](#).

All events taking place in any room at the Law School must be requested via EMS. Even if your event is in a large space such as the Reading Room (4<sup>th</sup> floor) or the Student Lounge, you must request use of this space via the EMS system. If you are having an event that is not listed on the EMS calendar (off campus, for example), ensure you have posted it on [ON LEGAL GROUNDS](#) and on the TigerZone law branch calendar or provide information about it to [Ann Onidas](#) in Dean Schaffzin's office.

Check to be sure your event isn't on a date with a religious holiday that might keep some students, faculty, and staff from attending.

If a student who uses a wheelchair may want to attend your event, you can search the EMS Room Reservation System for a room with an accessible table to host your event and use an RSVP form to confirm attendance.

### Technology Requests

If you need A/V assistance (microphones, audio-visual equipment, etc.) for your event, submit a request [here](#).

Select:

- Login to the self-service portal
- Classroom & computer lab support
- Smart classroom, then PC-MAC or other hardware Classroom
- Building: Law Campus - to ensure the ticket gets routed to Law IT

Be sure to include the following information in the description:

- Event Logistics (date, time, room, organization)
- Event A/V needs description Publicizing Your Event

### Virtual Meetings

Our main classrooms are equipped with speakers, microphones, and video cameras. If you would like to have a meeting that includes an option for remote participation, please contact [Andrew Hughes](#) at least 5 days in advance for assistance.

The University has access to two different platforms you can use to host virtual meetings.

#### ZOOM

Any student can access an enterprise (unlimited) Zoom license through U of M. Sign in with your U of M login and password [here](#).

Review [Zoom – Best Practices to Avoid Zoombombing](#) and review your available Zoom security settings [here](#).

## MICROSOFT TEAMS

Any student can access Microsoft Teams free through U of M. You can find information about accessing and using Microsoft Teams [here](#).

## Uber

Student organizations planning off-campus events are encouraged to include Uber vouchers or otherwise plan opportunities for safe transit for students as part of their budgets for the events.

## ROLE OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE

Each organization should designate an officer to serve as the organization's Public Relations Representative. This officer is responsible for internal and external publicity and will be the official publicity account holder for purposes of that student organization.

Student Organizations will not have access to [TIGERZONE](#), [ON LEGAL GROUNDS](#), the monitors around the building, or the class Facebook pages until officially registered according to the instructions in this Handbook.

Options for internal publicity include:

### INTERNAL PUBLICITY

#### TigerZone Events Calendar

Once your room is booked and event details are entered into the room reservation calendar system, submit the Event Registration Form in TigerZone to publicize your event in [TigerZone's Law Event Calendar](#).

#### ON LEGAL GROUNDS

[ON LEGAL GROUNDS](#) is the Law School's internal events and announcements blog and is the primary method of communicating announcements and information to students.

Each Student Organization's Public Relations Representative will be given access to [ON LEGAL GROUNDS](#) upon Registration. PR Representatives will be provided with [BLOG POSTING GUIDELINES](#) and are responsible for ensuring that any postings are compliant with the guidelines. Student Organizations who violate the [BLOG POSTING GUIDELINES](#) may have their access to internal publicity suspended.

#### Corq Mobile Application

Events publicized in TigerZone's Event Calendar are also available to view via the Corq mobile application available [here](#). Students should select Filter, then under Branches, select the Law School Branch to see only Law School Events.

## Monitors

Once your organization is registered, you may submit slides to be included on the monitors around the building. To submit a slide to be displayed on the monitors follow the instructions [here](#).

## Class Facebook Pages

The Public Relations Representative for your Student Organizations may ask for access to post on the Law School's class Facebook pages. To receive access, contact [Penny Rogers](#) in the Office of Admissions (Room 252).

Only the official Public Relations Representative for each organization will be given access to the class Facebook pages.

## Bulletin Boards

SBA, Moot Court, and Law Review have their own bulletin boards in the lobby. In the elevator lobby on the South side of the building, there is another bulletin board that is available for other Student Organizations to use for publicity.

Allonya Payne, a faculty assistant in the third-floor faculty wing, has the key to all the bulletin boards should you need to change or update the content. Return the key immediately upon making changes to the bulletin boards.

## Restrictions on Internal Publicity

Students and Student Organizations may only post flyers around the building in designated locations. Designated locations are limited to the official bulletin boards, unofficial boards in the basement near the lockers and mailboxes, and the student lounge. Students and Student Organizations may not post flyers in other locations, including in and on walls or classroom doors.

## EXTERNAL PUBLICITY

External publicity inquiries should be directed to the Law School's Director of Communications, [Ryan Jones](#), in Room 268.

### Logo Usage & Professional Design

Any use of the University or Law School logos must be approved by [Ryan Jones](#).

Student Organizations should contact Tiger Copy and Graphics for professional design services. They do charge a fee. The product will need to be approved by [Ryan Jones](#) or the main campus Office of Marketing and Communications.

There are existing templates for branded marketing materials that can be used if an RSO member has design capabilities. They can be found [here](#).

### Media Requests

Student Organizations are to notify [Ryan Jones](#) of any press or media inquiries that they receive. Students can utilize any existing personal relationships with reporters that they may have but they still need to notify Ryan Jones when doing

so. Additionally, they should not reach out to the media as representatives of the Law School or University.

Students are not allowed to invite members of the media on to campus. If any media representatives do arrive at an event unannounced, they cannot film or record in the building without the permission from [Ryan Jones](#) or the main campus Office of Marketing and Communications.

### Social Media

Student Organizations that would like to have their event information shared via the Law School's social media channels should send the information to [Ryan Jones](#), formatted and grammatically correct upon submission, along with any photos, flyers or invitations that go along with the announcement. This should be done at least 24 hours prior to the event.

If a student organization has or wants to create a social media page, a full time University employee must also be named as an administrator of the account. The Social Media Coordinator within the Office of University Communications must be notified of the account creation along with the account administrator information ([socialmediateam@memphis.edu](mailto:socialmediateam@memphis.edu)). The administrator(s) of the account are fully responsible for the actions taken using the account. In order to be recognized as an official University platform for your organization or department, University employees are required on each University account and the account, and its administrators, must be registered with the Social Media Coordinator in the Office of University Communications ([socialmediateam@memphis.edu](mailto:socialmediateam@memphis.edu)).

### Website

If you would like to update your Student Organization's page on the Law School website, contact [Ryan Jones](#) with the changes you would like to make. Ensure that any text is formatted and grammatically correct upon submission, along with any photos or other attachments that need to be added to the page.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

The Office of the Dean now maintains a professional-grade digital camera available to checkout at no cost to faculty, staff, and Student Organizations. The primary purpose of this equipment checkout is to enhance and document Law School-related events and activities to build relationships, provide content for social media or marketing efforts or historical documentation. The specific organization hosting an event or setting up a photoshoot is responsible for checking out and using the equipment, as well as returning it in a timely fashion and in working order. The Student Organization is also responsible for noting the specific photos that correspond to their event and relaying the name of that event and the date it occurred on the checkout log.

## Camera Checkout Procedure

1. The camera and its accessories will reside with [Ann Onidas](#), the Dean's Assistant. To check out the camera for an event, you must sign it out in the "Camera check-out log." This will be kept in a binder in Ann Onidas' office.
2. Maximum length of checkout is 48 hours, and in the case of a weekend event, the camera must be returned the following Monday before Noon. Only a Law School faculty or staff member, or a Student Organization leader or designated member of that organization, may checkout and use the camera.
3. The camera is preset to its full AUTO settings, so do not change the settings unless you know how to restore them to their preset condition. There is a full instruction manual in the binder with tabs noting the preset AUTO features and instructions to set them.
4. The camera may only be used for Law School-related events and activities; it is not for personal use.
5. You will need to record your name, your Student Organization, the event name and date, and the estimated length of checkout when filling out the checkout form. MAKE NOTE: Upon checking the camera back in, you will need to note on the form the photo range for the photos from your event (i.e. Photo 001 – 035) and the name of your event on the form.
6. Ann Onidas will transfer the photos from the camera onto a shareable platform ONCE PER WEEK. The Communications Director will then screen those photos and upload them to the Law School's official Flickr account and send the necessary party a shareable link. You will then be able to download any photos or share them with anyone you like.

This checkout policy is subject to change or adaptation as we test things out. Let us know if you see areas for improvement.

## 6 MANAGING A STUDENT ORGANIZATION

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### TIGERZONE

[TigerZone](#) is the University of Memphis's official Registered Student Organization management site for Law Student Organizations. Registration through [TigerZone](#) (and RSO training) is required for Student Organizations to be officially registered with the University of Memphis and the Law School and to be eligible for financial support through the Student Government Association. It also contains many helpful features to manage your Student Organization including:



## Events Calendar

Student organizations can publicize events on [TigerZone's Law Event Calendar](#) and the [Corq](#) mobile application.

## Online Voting

Students must use [TigerZone](#) to conduct secure, online elections. Elections conducted by another method will not be recognized as valid.

## Membership and Roster Management

Students can management their membership and rosters via [TigerZone](#). They can set up email groups for various constituencies.

Interested students can also join organizations via [TigerZone](#).

## Document/Form Management

Student Organizations can preserve important information and documents on [TigerZone](#) to provide access to important information and forms to members and to ensure the smooth transition of the organization from year-to-year.

## Attendance Management

Student Organizations can track attendance using the Event Check-In App. Instructions are available [here](#).

# 7 FINANCES

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## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FINANCIAL MATTERS

The contact for fiscal procedures for Law School RSOs is [Chris Whitehead](#), Business Officer, Room 267, 901-678-1657.

Contact Chris Whitehead for the following:

1. Anything related to purchases from Student Organization accounts.
2. Reimbursements from the school to the Student Organizations.
3. Where appropriate, when Student Organizations have questions regarding travel-related assistance/reimbursement.
4. MUST have ANY contract approved by Chris.

## BANK ACCOUNTS

Organizations may pursue any of the following when managing organization funds:

1. Set up an account with an off-campus financial institution such as First South Credit Union – University of Memphis branch.
  - a. Organizations using this option should take precautions to employ proper financial management procedures.

- b. The Student Organization's Advisor should be set up as a signatory on any off-campus financial accounts.
2. Work with the Bursar's office to use Marketplace [an on-line system that will allow members to pay dues or deposit any other organization revenue with a credit or debit card]. An on-campus email account is required for Marketplace.
3. Work with the Business Officer, Chris Whitehead, to set up an on-campus account.

#### FUNDRAISING

Students seeking to solicit for sponsorships in the amount of \$10,000 or more for their organizations, should confer with the Law School's Director of Development, [Johnell Goins](#).

See Fundraising information below.

#### HANDLING MONEY

1. **Law School Student Organizations are strongly discouraged from collecting cash or checks. It is preferable to use an electronic means of transfer that can be tracked.**
2. RSOs intending to collect money should obtain the following: a safe/cash deposit box, deposit bags for large types of money, a register/pre-numbered receipt book, counterfeit money detector, a change fund, if necessary, a check endorsement stamp, if necessary.
3. Determine the plan for transportation of money to/from location of event. Make an approved list of people who will be handling the cash/currency.
  - a. First South has a dropbox at their current Highland location.
4. Student Organizations should prepare a collection process when receiving/handling cash at events. These items should be considered in the process:
  - a. Only one person per cash box/register.
  - b. Check all dollar bill denominations \$20 and over with counterfeit pen.
  - c. Log every transaction via the receipt book.
  - d. Keep cash on hand to a minimum.
5. If collecting checks:
  - i. Be sure name on check matches customer's ID.
  - ii. Endorse back of the check immediately with "For Deposit Only."
  - iii. Keep a log of all checks collected.
  - iv. Be sure the written amount on the check matches the number amount on check.
6. Reconciling: RSOs should ensure that the amount of money on hand is equal to the total sales of items/donations collected.
  - a. The cash box/register should be reconciled against the receipts for that shift in order to identify any discrepancies.

- b. Should have at least one independent person count the total cash collected prior to making any deposits.
  - c. Cash should be counted out of sight in a secure location.
7. Depositing: RSOs should deposit any funds that are received into the Student Organization's banking account.
- a. Make your deposits as quickly as possible. Do not wait to deposit money.
  - b. Be sure to transport cash in a discrete, non-see through bag.
  - c. Should always walk/travel in a group when making a deposit.
  - d. If depositing funds into a University account, advance arrangements/set-ups must be established with the Business Officer, Chris Whitehead.

## REIMBURSEMENT

The law school does not generally provide funding for or reimburse expenses for food at student events and meetings.

Students who need to be reimbursed for expenditures should contact [Chris Whitehead](#) about reimbursement. Check with him before you spend any money to make sure the expense you are considering can be reimbursed and how.

Students seeking reimbursement from their organization's foundation account for food/catering expenses should confirm funds are available before making a purchase. Submit the [Law School Student Organization Expense Pre-Approval Form](#) to [Chris Whitehead](#) for approval at least 10 business days before the event.

## SOURCES OF FUNDING

The Law School does not have funds available to support Student Organizations. Funding is available from the main campus via the following procedures.

### Operational Assistance Funding

The University provides up to \$400 each semester (Fall and Spring) in operational assistance funding for registered Student Organizations. The funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis until that semester's fund is depleted. Therefore, it's to your organization's advantage to submit any requests for operational funding as early in the semester as possible to ensure funds are still available.

Funds can be used for the following:

1. Placing ads in the Daily Helmsman (student newspaper)
2. Making copies, signs, banners, etc. at Tiger Copy and Graphics
3. Using mail services (for sending mail only, not for stamps);
4. Business cards; and
5. Buying office supplies for the organization in the campus bookstore.

Funds cannot be used for the following:

1. Food;
2. Gifts;
3. Off-campus vendors; and
4. Reimbursement of money you have already spent.

You can apply for Operational Assistance Funding [here](#). (See Campus Links at the bottom right of the page).

#### Student Event Allocation Funding

Registered Student Organizations can also apply for funding for special events and speakers. There is a proposal process that the organization must complete proposals several weeks to a semester in advance of the event, depending on the size and nature of the event. A selection committee decides which events to fund.

You can find out more information about the proposal process, selection process, and deadlines for student event allocations [here](#).

#### Student Travel Funding

Funds are also available from the SGA for travel to conferences and conventions.

You can find the current applicable deadlines and apply for SGA Travel Funding [here](#). There is also a training for law students seeking travel funding available [here](#).

There is a priority deadline early in each semester. Applying by the priority deadline creates the best opportunity to receive maximum funding. Applications for travel funding must be submitted at least 14 days in advance to be considered for funding.

**Requests to the Law School for travel funding will receive only partial funding if a request has not been submitted first to the Student Government Association. This includes all Moot Court Travel Team travel.**

#### Office of Access & Multicultural Affairs Funding

The Office of Access & Multicultural Affairs has a limited budget to support Student Organizations with diversity-related missions and/or that host diversity-related programming.

Priority will be given to Events co-sponsored with other organizations, and events that are related to access & multicultural affairs.

The application will be available [here](#) in August and remain open through mid-September.

Contact [Interim Dean Jacque O'Bryant](#), Director of Access & Multicultural Affairs, for more information about the requirements and application process.

## TAX-EXEMPT STATUS

All official University-recognized LSSOs (including RSOs) qualify as tax-exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the tax code. Contact [Chris Whitehead](#) to obtain a copy of the letter required by most establishments to demonstrate proof of tax-exempt status at the time of purchase.

## 8 CONTRACTS

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Student Organizations are extensions of the University of Memphis. Student Organizations and their student members may not enter any contracts on behalf of their organization without approval. If your organization needs to sign a contract for a venue or other services, submit the [Law School Student Organization Expense Pre-Approval Form](#) to [Chris Whitehead](#) at least 30 days before your event so that he can obtain the necessary approvals – including the Office of University Counsel – on campus.

## 9 FUNDRAISING

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### CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FUNDRAISING

The Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at The University of Memphis understands that Student Organizations may wish to seek external funds to support initiatives related to their work and studies at the Law School.

The School of Law benefits greatly from the financial support of many of our alums, law firms, and Corporate Sponsors in the Greater Memphis Community, as well as other areas around the state and throughout the country. Therefore, all fundraising initiatives must be coordinated with the University's office of Student Leadership and Involvement.

The following section outlines the policies and procedures our Student Organizations must follow to solicit prospective donors for financial support.

### OBTAINING APPROVAL TO SOLICIT FUNDS

Any time your organization has a fundraiser, ticket sales, charity events, or anything that money is taken for, you must complete two forms. This includes dues collections & any sort of t-shirt sales.

1. Complete the [SOLICITATION OF FUNDS BY A STUDENT ORGANIZATION PRE-EVENT FORM](#). This form must be completed before taking any money.
2. After your event, complete the [SOLICITATION OF FUNDS – POST-EVENT FORM](#). This form should show the total dollar amount raised.

### MONEY AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENDITURES

1. All money raised must be deposited into a University of Memphis Foundation Account.

2. If your Student Organization does not have a Foundation Fund Account, we will establish one for you.
3. Money from this fund must:
  - a. Be used for the means and purposes established in the fund agreement
  - b. Be paid for in advance with reimbursement given for the exact amount of receipt.
  - c. Be for a vendor that will invoice the University of Memphis Foundation for the needs of the Student Organization.
4. You must turn in all receipts into the Business Officer of the Law School, [Chris Whitehead](#), for reimbursement.

The Office of Development will not be an active participant in your fundraising initiatives, but is are happy to provide support and guidance in a way that will assist in your success.

## 10 STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

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The law school will never censor the content of any statement or message a registered student organization wants to issue. However, we do have recommendations for registered student organizations who wish to make statements of support on current issues.

### CONSIDER THE NATURE OF YOUR ORGANIZATION

Student leaders should first consider whether they lead the type of organization that does or does not issue statements. Such actions do not advance the missions of many registered student organizations. Having a policy in place against making statements can take some pressure off those leaders in the heat of the moment.

Student organizations should memorialize that in a policy reflected in their bylaws. These matters are much better considered when there is no specific topic students feel compelled to address.

### PROCESS FOR ISSUANCE OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS

If your registered student organization has determined its mission would support the issuance of public statements, it should devise and memorialize the process by which it would do so.

Factors that registered student organizations should consider in deciding whether, when, and how to issue a public statement include:

1. Do the bylaws of the registered student organization allow public statements?
2. Is the registered student organization affiliated with a national organization? Has the national organization already issued a statement, or does it have plans to do so? Does that affiliation permit chapters to issue independent statements? Does the national organization provide guidance for such actions?
3. What is the goal of issuing a public statement? Would the issuance of a public statement advance the mission of the registered student organization? Are there more effective measures to achieving the same goal and advancing the registered student organization's mission?

4. Does the University's Office of Student Affairs allow for the issuance of public statements by a registered student organization? Does that office offer guidance concerning such actions?
5. Have you consulted with your advisor about issuing a statement?
6. Have you devised an internal process by which to approve a public statement? Who will vote? By what margin must a statement be adopted?
7. Does the statement contain factual assertions? Are they true? How much confidence do leaders have in the sources supporting that truth? Will a statement open a registered student organization to potential claims of defamation?

The weight of issuing a public statement is not something to be taken lightly and a careful process that should not be rushed can help reinforce the significance of that action. A careful process can ensure that your statement has credibility and broad support.

A registered student organization should always share the statement with its membership for adoption before making a statement. It will take some time for members to review and respond, but ultimately, it will produce a stronger, more unified statement.

## 11 LIBRARY LIAISON

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[Steve Richardson](#) is the Library's Liaison for Student Organizations. Contact Steve if you need help with research for a panel or presentation your organization is preparing or for other library/research needs you may have.

## 12 TRANSITIONING YOUR ORGANIZATION

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You should begin planning for the transition of your organization as soon as you assume office. Keep detailed notes and records and organize them so that you can pass them along to the student who takes over for you next year.

You can find a [STUDENT ORGANIZATION TRANSITION GUIDE](#) in Appendix D.

## 13 HELPFUL LAW SCHOOL CONTACTS

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Contact	Title	Areas of Support	Office
<a href="#">DEAN ADEN</a>	ASSISTANT DEAN FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS	Internal publicity & general support	258
<a href="#">AMBER CAMPBELL</a>	ACCESS & MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS FELLOW	Multicultural affairs	272
<a href="#">ANN ONIDAS</a>	ASSISTANT TO DEAN SCHAFFZIN	Room reservations, building logistics, and parking passes	275
<a href="#">JOHNELL GOINS</a>	DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT	Fundraising	270
<a href="#">ANDREW HUGHES</a>	AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICES COORDINATOR	A/V assistance	218
<a href="#">LAVAIRE LOCKHART</a>	DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	IT assistance	207
<a href="#">INTERIM DEAN JACQUE O'BRYANT</a>	ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ACCESS & MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS	Multicultural affairs	351
<a href="#">CHRIS WHITEHEAD</a>	BUSINESS OFFICER	Financial assistance, food request forms, reimbursement, travel, & accounts	267
<a href="#">RYAN JONES</a>	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS	External PR, logo usage, social media, & website	268
<a href="#">STEVE RICHARDSON</a>	LIBRARY LIAISON	Library/Research	111B
<a href="#">PENNY ROGERS</a>	ADMISSIONS ASSISTANT	Access to class Facebook pages	252

If you are not sure where to go with a question, ask Dean Aden she will be able to point you in the right direction if she can't assist you herself.



## 14 APPENDICES

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### APPENDIX A – SAMPLE EMAIL INVITATION TO SPEAKER

Dear Mr./Ms./Professor/Judge [LAST NAME],

On behalf of the University of Memphis School of Law chapter of [name of organization], I would like to invite you to the Law School to speak on [topic/panel]. Our organization would like to host a program on [topic] on [X date or dates] at [time], and given your expertise in that subject matter, we hope that you will be able to join us for the event.

We would be honored if you would accept this invitation to join us for this event. Let me know at your convenience if you will be able to join us for the event, and do not hesitate to contact me via this email address or at [phone number] if you have any questions about the event.

Sincerely,

Name

Title (President, IPLS, etc.)

### APPENDIX B – SAMPLE LOGISTICS EMAIL FOR SPEAKER

(TO BE SENT 10-14 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF THE PROGRAM)

Dear Mr./Ms./Professor/Judge [LAST NAME],

We look forward to hosting you here at the University of Memphis School of Law soon. Below, find information on your talk on [Day], [Date].

I have attached a parking pass for you to use during the event.

Let me know if you have any questions, whether you have any objections to the proposed title, and the answers to the questions below.

We are very much looking forward to having you speak at the Law School!

Sincerely,

Name

Title (President/Secretary, Name of Organization)

## **Questions**

### **Panelist Information**

[In the event that there is more than one speaker, list the names and affiliations of all of the speakers, including the moderator]

### **Topic Outline**

[In the event that there is more than one speaker, list talking points that may come up during the discussion]

**Timing**

The preceding class ends at 11:50, so your talk will begin at about 12:00. The next class begins at 1:00, and we try to end lunch programs by about 12:50 to avoid a mass exodus as students get anxious about having time to run to their lockers, use the restroom, and make it to class. Wrapping up your remarks by 12:40 or 12:45 would be ideal to allow time for questions.

**Phone numbers**

My cell phone number: [insert].

The name and cell phone number of the representative of our organization who will meet you when you arrive: [insert].

**Parking Pass**

When you arrive, park (INSERT INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT WHERE TO PARK BASED ON THE AVAILABLE PARKING PASS EITHER IN A VISITOR SPOT OR AT METRO 67).

**Location**

The Law School is located at 1 North Front Street, Memphis, Tennessee 38103. The room you are going to is Room [X]. As you enter, you will need to check in with the security desk.

**APPENDIX C – SAMPLE THANK YOU EMAIL TO SPEAKER**

(TO BE SENT WITHIN TWO BUSINESS DAYS OF PROGRAM)

Dear Mr./Ms./Professor/Judge [LAST NAME],

On behalf of [the name of the organization], I wanted to thank you again for coming to the Law School for the [date of program] [title of program]. We greatly appreciate the time you took out of your busy schedule to speak with the Law School community on the topic of [name of topic], and we hope to have you back at the Law School again soon.

Thank you again for your support of the University of Memphis School of Law, and do not hesitate to contact [the name of the organization] should you have any questions or suggestions about the program.

Sincerely,

Name

Title (President/Secretary, Name of Organization)

## APPENDIX D – TRANSITIONING YOUR STUDENT ORGANIZATION



### STUDENT ORGANIZATION OFFICER TRANSITION GUIDE

#### TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

- ☐ When new officers have been elected, orient them together as a group with all the outgoing officers. Include the organization's advisor in this process as well. Outgoing officers should openly share what they believe went well and what they would change if they could do over again.
- ☐ Make introductions to resources. Schedule time to introduce incoming officers to Faculty Advisors and relevant staff (Dean of Student Affairs, Business Officers, etc.).
- ☐ Recognize your outgoing officers (certificates, gifts, thank-you cards, etc.).
- ☐ Be available for consultation or questions even after you are gone.

#### THE BASICS

- ☐ Organize all binders, handbooks, files, and electronic documents (including the Student Org Directory and Constitution and by-laws).
- ☐ Update the electronic Student Organization Directory to reflect the new officers.
- ☐ Give access and instructions to any online platforms, such as:
  - ☐ Organization Emails
  - ☐ Membership Rosters
  - ☐ Social Media Accounts like Facebook
  - ☐ Website/Blog
  - ☐ Online document storage (such as Dropbox or Google Drive)
  - ☐ National affiliation website login information/passwords
  - ☐ Tiger Zone and any other communication tool your organization may utilize
- ☐ Clean out/organize your organization's mailboxes, locker, or office space. Show new officers where these are located.
- ☐ Pass along the Student Organization Handbook and instructions for the EMS calendar.
- ☐ Finish all necessary correspondence and transfer any ongoing projects to incoming officers.

## **FINANCES**

- ☐ Ensure that your advisor is a signatory on all bank accounts
- ☐ Discuss the financial status of the organization
- ☐ Share from where your organization receives money
- ☐ If your organization received student organization funding, share information and budget
- ☐ Discuss any fundraising plans or goals
- ☐ Documents to share: Budget spreadsheet, past student organization funding applications, any approved budgets

## **SHARE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS**

Share all documents electronically and any hardcopies you might have.

Below are ideas of what to include:

- ☐ Mission, philosophy, goals and/or purpose of the organization
- ☐ Constitution/By-Laws
- ☐ Budgets/Financial reports
- ☐ Meeting agendas and minutes
- ☐ Calendar of events and deadlines
- ☐ Officer position descriptions
- ☐ Election process and timeline
- ☐ Membership recruitment information and timeline
- ☐ List of members and their contact information (e-mail, phone number).
- ☐ Past Correspondence (and E-mails to the chapter/organization if applicable)
- ☐ Event planning guide/checklist for any past events or programs
- ☐ Contacts
  - ☐ Professional contacts in the area, Chapter/Organization specific contacts
- ☐ Marketing
  - ☐ Logos (organization logos, past events, etc.), past print publications, press releases, photos, marketing/branding policy set by your organization

## **PASS ALONG YOUR WISDOM!**

You have learned important things along the way that can help future leaders. Mistakes, tips, tricks, ideas and successes are all important things to share.

Think: What would you have wanted to know when you took office?

- ☐ Review the organization's constitution, by-laws, written material, and goals. Outline any areas needing attention or revision.
- ☐ Culture of the group
- ☐ Tips for running an effective meeting
- ☐ Ideas for improvement

- ☐ Prepare and share end-of-the-year activity report incorporating the organization's goals, activities, and accomplishments
- ☐ Recruitment ideas
- ☐ Fundraising ideas/projects