

2021 ACS Lawyer Chapter Model Calendar

The ACS National Office will assist your chapter’s efforts by providing substantive, financial, and administrative support whenever possible. We recommend that chapters primarily focus on constitutional interpretation; host at least one event per month; and promote diversity, equity, inclusion in both chapter programming, invited speakers, co-sponsorships, and membership. We also encourage you to seek co-sponsorship of events with other local organizations to build successful events that will both grow your membership and expand diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage all our chapters to plan for virtual programming until further notice. If you need assistance reaching out to speakers or organizing virtual events, please connect with us at LCEmails@acslaw.org. Also, check out ACS’s [Zoom Guidance](#) on utilizing ACS National Zoom Accounts.

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/18: Organize a day of service for Martin Luther King, Jr Day. See ACS volunteer opportunities here. 1/21: 11th anniversary of Citizens United (decision that allowed for the proliferation of dark money in politics). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host an event on state courts, money in politics, and the importance of an independent judiciary, which can be tied into <i>Citizens United</i>; see ACS Program Guide on voting rights here. See also <i>Dark Money and the Courts</i> here. Check out “What’s the Big Idea? Recommendations for Improving Law & Policy in the Next Administration and in the States,” a collection of essays that represents the best thinking of a diverse set of scholars and advocates from the ACS network. Make plans to celebrate ACS’s 20th anniversary in 2021. Join or renew your ACS National membership. Host an event on Constitutional interpretation (Keeping Faith with the Constitution, It is a Constitution We Are Expounding, The Framers’ Constitution: Toward a Theory of Principled Constitutionalism, or Windsor, Shelby County, and the Demise of Originalism: A Personal Account).
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black History Month. 2/7: Deadline for Richard D Cudahy Writing Competition. Event on First Amendment: ACS First Amendment program guide here. Road shows at law schools, and recruiting graduating 3Ls. Host discussions on how to combat anti-Black racism through law and policy. View ACS’s program guide here.
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women’s History Month. 3/1: 15th anniversary of Roper v. Simmons (death penalty illegal for defendants under 18). 3/2: 40th anniversary of Immigration and Naturalization Service v. Jong Ha Wang (ruled The Board of Immigration Appeals did not exceed its authority in denying Jong Ha Wang motion of “extreme hardship” without a hearing, concluding that respondents had failed to establish a <i>prima facie</i> case of extreme hardship). 3/31: Equal Pay Day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host an event on gender disparities in pay within the legal profession. Host discussions on court reform (including court packing), why courts matter, President Trump’s attacks on the judiciary, judicial nominations, and immigration court’s lack of judicial independence. How to Become a Judge or Gavel Gap programming - host a local, state or federal judge. Host an event on progressive federalism (host the local mayor or member of city council, explore the role of State AGs in protecting & advancing civil rights).
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4/22: Earth Day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host an event on the relationship between the law and the current climate crisis; see an ACS Expert Forum Blog Post on the topic relating to state courts here. Host an event on judicial nominations and court reform. See ideas and resources for court reform events here. Host an event on an ACS issue brief. Host an event on immigration policies. Continue road shows to recruit 3Ls at law schools, speak at an end-of-year happy hour for students and encourage them to join a lawyer chapter wherever they go.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asian Pacific Heritage Month. 5/1: Law Day/Constitution in the Classroom. 5/1: International Workers’ Day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Host an event on labor, unions, and labor law; consider co-programming with local unions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5/25: Memorial Day event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Host an event on the Constitution and foreign policy, military law, the War Powers Act, etc. • Social event with local student chapters. • Host an event on how to write an op-eds and other ways to engage with media.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBTQ+ Pride Month. • Attend the 2021 ACS National Convention (Week of June 6 or June 13. Exact dates TBA). • 6/5: World Environment Day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Host an event on the relationship between the law and the current climate crisis; see an ACS Expert Forum Blog Post on the topic relating to state courts here. • 6/11: 20th anniversary of Tuan Anh Nguyen v. Immigration and Naturalization Service (the different requirements for a child's acquisition of citizenship depending upon whether the citizen parent is the mother or the father, is consistent with the equal protection guarantee embedded in the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment). • 6/17: 40th anniversary of Connecticut Bd. Of Pardons v. Dumschat (ruled the Connecticut Board of Pardons does not have to provide inmates with a reason as to why commutation is not granted). • 6/21: 50th anniversary of Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics (violating an individual's Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable search and seizure gives rise to a federal claim for damages). • Happy hour to welcome summer interns/associates to your city's legal community.
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7/5: Independence Day (Observed). • Co-sponsor a Summer Happy Hour with local progressive affinity groups. • Host a SCOTUS 2020-2021 Term Review. • Host an event on judicial nominations and court reform. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ See ideas and resources for court reform events here. • Road show to recruit attorneys at major local law firms.
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8/26: Women's Equality Day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Host an event on the fight for gender equity, including the right to autonomy over one's reproductive health, a constitutional amendment prohibiting sex discrimination (the ERA), and the impact of COVID-19 on women and women of color; consider co-programming with local women's bar associations. • Host an event on progressive constitutional interpretation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Choose a topic from Keeping Faith with the Constitution, It is a Constitution We Are Expounding, The Framers' Constitution: Toward a Theory of Principled Constitutionalism, or Windsor, Shelby County, and the Demise of Originalism: A Personal Account. • Host a social event or back-to-school happy hour with local ACS Student Chapters.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15-10/15). • 9/6: Labor Day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Host an event on labor, unions, and labor law; consider co-programming with local unions. • 9/11: 20th anniversary of September 11, 2001. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Host an event on national security and civil liberties. • 9/17: Constitution Day and 234th Anniversary of the Constitution. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Host a Constitution in the Classroom event. • 9/28: National Voter Registration Day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Host an event on voting rights, including the 19th Amendment, redistricting, campaign finance, and election security; see ACS Program Guide on voting rights here. • Host a SCOTUS 2021-2022 Term Preview. • Host a fall kick off happy hour (welcome new lawyers to your area).
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Disability Employment Awareness Month • Promote a day of service or a volunteer opportunity with your chapter. • Host a career panel for local law student members (progressive careers, alternative careers, clerkships).
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native American Heritage Month. • Invite a federal judge to speak about the importance of the independent judicial branch. • Event on judicial diversity (the Gavel Gap) or diversity in the legal profession. • Event on the impact of the 2021 federal, state, and local elections on progressive conceptions of law.
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal Human Rights Month/Interfaith Month. • Chapter membership outreach: join or renew your ACS membership for 2022 here. • Holiday happy hour with other progressive groups or local ACS student and lawyer chapters. • Strategize for election of new chapter leadership for 2022, if not already accomplished.