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AMERICAN
CONSTITUTION
SOCIETY FOR
LAW AND POLICY

Student Chapters Newsletter

Welcome Back!

Welcome back students! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready to kick off the fall semester!

This newsletter features important updates, programming ideas, and the latest news from our National office in DC. We hope that you use these resources to host dynamic speakers, discuss current events, debate policies, network with other progressive leaders, and involve new members. The staff at ACS is here to help you, so please reach out to us with ideas and questions at any time. Thank you all for your leadership and commitment to ensuring that the law is a force to improve the lives of all people.

All the Best,

Meghan, Kate, Peggy and Hugo

New in 2017!

* Save the Date: 2018 National Student Convention

ACS will hold its 6th Annual National Student Convention March 9-10, 2018 at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law in Chicago. Plan to join ACS and nearly 200 other student leaders in Chicago for two days of progressive programming and training.

To help students attend Convention, ACS will award scholarships to selected applicants. Stay tuned for more details on Convention and Convention scholarships.



* Celebrate Constitution Day!

[Constitution Day](#) is Sunday, September 17, 2017. Commemorate the document's birthday by hosting a substantive event on the [first amendment](#), [voting rights](#), or on topics from ACS publications like [The Constitution in 2020](#), [Keeping Faith with the Constitution](#), [It is a Constitution We are Expanding](#), [The Constitution at a Crossroads: The Ideological Battle Over the Meaning of the Constitution](#), or [The Framers' Constitution: Toward a Theory of Principled Constitutionalism](#). Check out some of our past [events](#) for ideas.

* Tapping into ACS's Network

Complete our [Career Interest Form](#), available to [national student members](#), so that we can help connect you with opportunities shared with our network.

Save the Date!

2018 National Convention

This year's National Convention is **June 7-9, 2018** in Washington, DC.

Check out videos from the 2017 convention [here!](#)



* Constitution in the Classroom

ACS's fall [Constitution in the Classroom](#) (CITC) program will be coordinated around Constitution Day on Sunday, September 17, 2017. Each year, we take this opportunity to teach lessons and principles based on the United States Constitution in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the United States. The program seeks to increase the constitutional literacy in our public schools. The time commitment is only one hour and we encourage law student volunteers to teach throughout the semester. See sample curricula [here](#). If you are interested in coordinating a program in your area, please e-mail LCEmails@acslaw.org.



* Fall Membership Competition

ACS is pleased to announce the 6th Annual Student Membership Contest to see which ACS chapter can make the biggest gains in [National Membership](#). ACS will award a total of two full Student Convention scholarships to the chapters that sign up the most new members: one award based on percentage of membership increase and one award based on raw number of new members and renewals. Each awardee chapter will receive one full student convention scholarship. For assistance in building your membership base, check out the suggestions at [this link](#).

Remember, all Executive Board members should be [National Members](#).

New in 2017 continued

FILMS

* National Membership Guide

All Executive Board members should be National Members and should encourage other student members to join. Students may join for \$10 online [here](#). The current student membership cycle will end July 31, 2018. All national members receive access to ACS's nationwide job bank, special members-only conference calls, and are eligible for ACS's student scholarships.



Highlights from the Spring!

- ◆ The World and Donald Trump: A Global Look at Fake News, Mass Surveillance, and Human Rights
- ◆ The First Amendment and the Right to Protest
- ◆ The Supreme Court's Next Gun Battles
- ◆ Running for Office
- ◆ Progressives Who Clerk
- ◆ Abolishing Private Prisons
- ◆ The Incarceration Generation & The Burden of Bail
- ◆ Movie Night - Time: the Kalief Browder Story
- ◆ Tectonic Shifts: Eroding Environmental Protections under the New Administration
- ◆ The Future of the ACA under Trump
- ◆ Immigrant Rights Teach-In: Immigration Law Post-Executive Orders: Rights and Responses
- ◆ Transformative Immigration Defense: Law in Support of an Intersectional Movement
- ◆ The Future of Public Sector Unions: Abood and Beyond
- ◆ Transgender Rights: The Next Battle
- ◆ Economic Inequality
- ◆ Racism, Othering, and the Courage to Tell the Truth
- ◆ Implicit Bias Training
- ◆ The Future of Reproductive Rights Litigation
- ◆ A Guide to Activism in the Age of Trump: Using Local Action for National Impact, Technology to Create Empathy, and Your Voice to Change the World
- ◆ ACLU Legal Observer Training
- ◆ Insider Tips for Effective Citizen Advocacy: "Call Your Rep" Workshop
- ◆ How to Write an Op-Ed
- ◆ How to Maximize Your Impact in Your Local Community
- ◆ Radical Lawyering: A Legal Approach for Social Change
- ◆ Courtwatching: The Significance of Judicial Vacancies
- ◆ The Supreme Court and Trump: Making SCOTUS Great Again?
- ◆ Progressive Federalism
- ◆ Elected Official Series
- ◆ Working for the Public Interest at a State Attorney General's Office
- ◆ The Gavel Gap: How State Courts Fall Short on Diversity
- ◆ Dynamic Public Lawyering in a Defining Moment: Immigration, Consumer Protection, the Environment...and Chaos
- ◆ Speaking When the Walls Have Ears: How to Protect Your Privacy and Secure Your Communications
- ◆ Litigating Against President Trump: The Emoluments Clause
- ◆ Feigning "Draining the Swamp": Ethics, Blurred Lines, and Conflicts of Interests in the Trump Administration
- ◆ Making "America" Great, Again: The Future Implications of Federal, State, and Local Elections on our communities
- ◆ A Cure for Partisan Gerrymandering? The Wisconsin Case and its National Implications

Consider hosting screenings and discussions of the following films. Email us with your mailing address at campus@acslaw.org and we will mail you a DVD with a prepaid return envelope. Click [HERE](#) for information about additional films.

2017 ACS National Convention: At convention this year, we had the privilege of hearing from many legal luminaries, including Justice **Stephen Breyer**, Senator **Mazie Hirono** (Hawaii), Massachusetts Attorney General **Maura Healey**, champion of the Constitution **Khizr Khan**, Southern Center for Human Rights President **Stephen Bright**, and many others. Check out videos of the speeches, plenary sessions, and breakout panels [here](#).

"13th": In this documentary, scholars, activists, and politicians analyze the criminalization of African Americans and the U.S. prison boom. The film is available on Netflix.

"Supreme Court v. the American Voter": Check out [this](#) 10-minute documentary on Voting Rights, which features ACS Board Members, friends and past ACS Convention speakers.

"Roe at Risk: Fighting for Reproductive Justice": This film documents the disturbing reality that 40 years after *Roe v. Wade*, increasingly radical state laws are depriving women of reproductive rights. The film and other resources are available [online](#).

"The State of Arizona": This Emmy nominated film explores the social and political circumstances that gave rise to Arizona's "papers please" law (SB1070), examines the roles played by government and business, and highlights the policy's human consequences. Please contact ACS at campus@acslaw.org for screening information.

"The Right to Unite": Bradley Whitford narrates this powerful documentary about Supreme Court cases that threaten to undermine the rights of working Americans – and how we can fight back. The film and other resources are available [online](#).

"Elizabeth Warren Introduces ACS Policy Recommendations": Sen. Elizabeth Warren introduces "What's The Big Idea?" policy recommendations for the upcoming administration outlined by leading legal scholars and curated by ACS. Check out the video [here](#).

PROGRAMMING IDEAS

We strongly encourage our chapters to cover these important issues and cosponsor these events with other diverse and progressive law student organizations.

* Program Guide and Past Program Guides

President Donald Trump repeatedly makes statements that threaten the foundational freedoms created and protected by the First Amendment of the Constitution. President Trump has proposed government-sponsored discrimination against Muslim citizens and immigrants (free exercise of religion); incited hate speech and supported the criminalization of flag-burners (free speech); vocally rebuked peaceful protesters (the right of the people peaceably to assemble); and supported the “opening up” of libel laws, denied press access, and questioned the legitimacy of the press (freedom of the press).

Given the timeliness of this issue, the 2017 Program Guide is designed to assist in developing events that examine and highlight the fundamental freedoms protected by the First Amendment. The guide includes an introduction to First Amendment clauses, sample topic questions for potential events, and a list of speakers you might consider. The program guide is available [here](#).

To see all of ACS’s past program guides, see <http://www.acslaw.org/program-guides>.



* Diversity Counts

State courts handle the vast majority of the country’s cases, yet little is known about the backgrounds of judges who sit on them. [Diversity Counts](#) maps out how states can collect and release judicial diversity data about the demographic and professional backgrounds of state judges and judicial candidates.

The report:

- ◆ Makes the case that judicial diversity data is important.
- ◆ Presents the findings of a new study on how states collect judicial diversity data.
- ◆ Identifies best practices for collecting and releasing judicial diversity data.
- ◆ Provides guidance on gender identity and sexual orientation data.
- ◆ Makes recommendations to key decision-makers.

For more information and to read the full report, go to www.diversity-counts.com.

Also, check out ACS’s [Gavel Gap report](#) (www.gavelgap.org): a one-of-a-kind dataset on the state judiciary, making available to scholars, policymakers, and the public for the first time data on the biographical characteristics (including age, race and gender) of the judges on every general jurisdiction court in the United States.



* How to Become a Clerk or Judge? Host a Judge!

Host a judicial clerkship panel! Reach out to your local lawyer chapter, faculty advisor, and ACS for assistance in locating speakers. Also, host a local, state, or federal judge to discuss their path to the bench or speak on a topic of their choosing. See ACS’s [The Path to the Federal Bench](#) and [website](#) for more information.

* Resistance Programming

The Trump Administration continues its efforts to roll back on important procedural and substantive protections, including regulations crafted to protect immigrants, LGBTQ people, women, minorities, the poor, workers, net neutrality, the environment, students, consumers, and voters. See [“How Trump is rolling back Obama’s legacy.”](#)

At ACS, we believe that law should be a force to improve the lives of all people. We encourage our chapters to work on resistance programming—programming aimed at resisting injustice; and the roll back of environmental protections, consumer protections, and civil and human rights. See below for sample programs from Spring 2017:

- ◆ How Lawyers/Law Students Can Resist Unconstitutional Actions from the Executive
- ◆ Making “America” Great, Again: The Future Implications of Federal, State, and Local Elections on our communities
- ◆ The Fight for Social Justice
- ◆ Progressive Federalism
- ◆ A Guide to Activism in the Age of Trump: Using Local Action for National Impact, Technology to Create Empathy, and Your Voice to Change the World
- ◆ ACLU of Texas Legal Observer Training
- ◆ Running for Office
- ◆ Insider Tips for Effective Citizen Advocacy: “Call Your Rep” Workshop
- ◆ The Path Forward: Fighting for Immigrant Rights in the Era of Trump
- ◆ Working for the Public Interest at a State Attorney General’s Office
- ◆ Litigating Against President Trump: The Emoluments Clause
- ◆ Understanding Local and State Government Procedures and How to Participate
- ◆ Mass Incarceration in the Trump Era
- ◆ Feigning “Draining the Swamp”: Ethics, Blurred Lines, and Conflicts of Interests in the Trump Administration
- ◆ Know Your Rights: Protesting
- ◆ Transformative Immigration Defense: Law in Support of an Intersectional Movement
- ◆ Defending Planned Parenthood

PROGRAMMING IDEAS continued

* State AG, DA, and Local Change

State attorneys general are [independent state constitutional officers vested with extraordinary prosecutorial discretion](#). The decisions of a state attorney general often reverberate nationally and impact citizens across state lines. State attorneys general are currently leading the fight against attempts to [roll back environmental regulations](#), [slash funding for legal services](#), [ban travelers from majority Muslim countries](#), [cut federal funding for drug treatment](#), [eliminate protections for survivors of sexual assault on college campuses](#), and [revoke reforms designed to help student loan borrowers](#). State attorneys general have also urged President Trump to [“maintain and defend” the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program](#), [defended the right of sanctuary cities to determine their own law enforcement priorities](#), and [fought for the rights of transgender students](#).

We encourage chapters to host programming to examine the role and impact of state attorneys general. Check out the following resources:

- ◆ [“Run Like a Lawyer: Paths from Practice to Elected Office”](#) from the 2017 ACS National Convention
- ◆ [“Progressive Federalism: A New Way Forward?”](#) from the 2017 ACS National Convention
- ◆ [“Address by Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, Introduced by Jeff Clements”](#) from the 2017 ACS National Convention
- ◆ ACSblog:
 - [Bipartisan Coalition of State AGs Oppose Defunding Legal Services Corporation](#)
 - [Maryland Legislature Expands State AG Authority - Finally!](#)
 - [Sabin Center and StateAG.org Launch Environmental Action Database](#)
 - [Twenty-One AGs Urge Education Secretary to Reconsider Rollback of Student Loan Reforms](#)
- ◆ [ACS Briefing Call: DC and Maryland v. Trump](#)
- ◆ [A Briefing Call on San Francisco v. Trump: The Legality of Sanctuary Cities](#)
- ◆ <http://www.stateag.org/>

We also encourage chapters to host programming on running for office, creating positive change locally, the value of public service at the local level, and legislative issues affecting your community. Reach out to elected officials in your region, including the mayor, senators, representatives and council members.



* Healthcare

The Affordable Care Act, which expanded access to healthcare for Americans, has been subject to [contentious debates and fierce backlash](#). As a candidate, President Trump promised to repeal and replace Obamacare. With the Republican Party now enjoying a majority control of each branch of government, Senate and House Republicans have been hastily trying to construct healthcare bills to replace the ACA, starting with the “American Health Care Act” passed by the House last May. Senate Republicans then introduced the “Better Care Reconciliation Act” in June 2017. To see “Who Wins, Who Loses With Senate Health Care Bill,” check out NPR’s chart [here](#). [On July 28, 2017, Senate Republicans’ health plan failed to pass](#). The [“Senate Health Committee will begin holding bipartisan hearings the first week of September on how to stabilize and strengthen the individual insurance market.”](#) For a recap on what happened on the senate floor, check out the New York Times article [here](#).

We encourage our ACS chapters to host events and discussions on the history of the ACA, attempts to repeal the ACA, and the subsequent consequences of replacing the ACA. Other related topics to consider include reproductive health; disability rights; healthcare in prisons; and the effect of an ACA repeal on older Americans, communities of color, LGBTQ communities, and rural communities. For more resources, check out:

- ◆ [“Defending New Ground in Reproductive Rights”](#) at the 2017 ACS National Convention
- ◆ The ACSblog:
 - [A Republican ‘Health Care’ Plan for the Affluent](#)
 - [Health Care as Political Hot Potato](#)
 - [Defending New Ground in Reproductive Rights](#)
 - [Changing the Law to Undermine Reproductive Rights and Women’s Health](#)
 - The Health Care Reform section of the ACSblog [here](#).



PROGRAMMING IDEAS continued

* Immigration

On January 27, 2017, President Trump signed an [executive order](#) barring entry for all refugees to the United States for 120 days, suspending entry for Syrian refugees indefinitely, and banning all visa holders from Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen for 90 days. Soon thereafter, a federal judge in New York granted an Emergency Motion for Stay of Removal noting that the petitioners “[have a strong likelihood of success in establishing that the removal of the petitioner and others similarly situated violates their rights to Due Process and Equal Protection guaranteed by the United States Constitution.](#)” This ruling was quickly followed by a similar ruling in Massachusetts. After a federal district court judge in Seattle blocked the ban nationwide, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against reinstating the travel ban. On March 6, 2017, President Trump [signed a new travel ban](#). On March 7, 2017, Hawaii filed the first challenge against President Trump’s second travel ban. [On March 15, 2017, a federal judge in Hawaii blocked the second travel ban hours before it was set to begin. The temporary restraining order applied nationwide.](#) On June 26, 2017, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a [significant decision](#) on the travel ban, agreeing to hear the case in the October 2017 term and also allowing part of the ban to go into effect: any national from the six countries impacted by the ban or refugee who lacks a credible “[bona fide relationship](#) to a person or entity” is banned from the United States. On June 29, 2017, the Departments of State and Homeland Security issued “guidance” on the definition of “bona fide relationship,” stating that it did not include grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law and any other “extended” family members. A lawsuit was

immediately filed in the federal district court of Hawaii asking the court to “clarify” the Supreme Court’s definition of “bona fide relationship.” The U.S. District Court of Hawaii eventually issued a preliminary injunction on July 13 preventing the government from applying the ban to the very family members the administration sought to exclude.

We encourage our chapters to engage in constructive discussions on immigration, including Trump’s Muslim Ban, the attack on sanctuary cities, refugees, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, the US-Mexico border wall, immigration detention and deportation, the attacks on immigrant communities, the criminalization and demonization of immigrant communities, and immigration reform. Please cosponsor this event and use this programming to build solidarity and inclusion on your campus (see page 6 for more information on “Community Building and Fighting Bigotry”).

For more resources, check out the:

- ♦ The [immigration](#) section of our ACSblog
- ♦ [ACS Webinar: What’s Next? The Supreme Court and the Travel Ban](#)
- ♦ [A Briefing Call on San Francisco v. Trump: The Legality of Sanctuary Cities](#)
- ♦ [What’s Next? The Revised Travel Ban](#)
- ♦ [ACS Briefing Call: What’s Next? The President’s Executive Orders on Immigration](#)
- ♦ [“ACS 2017 National Convention: A Nation of Immigrants No More?”](#) from the 2017 ACS National Convention
- ♦ [“Presentation of the 2017 ACS David Carliner Public Interest Award to Becca Heller by Jacob Remes”](#) from the 2017 ACS National Convention



PROGRAMMING IDEAS continued

* Election Law and Voting Rights

[On May 11, 2017, President Trump signed an Executive Order establishing the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity](#) to investigate “voter fraud”—Voter fraud in general is extremely [rare](#) and [often used as an excuse to impose new voting restrictions](#) making it harder to vote. Kris Kobach, the vice chairman of the Commission, requested that all 50 states send the Commission the personal information of all registered voters, including full names, birth dates, addresses, political affiliations, voting history, and last four digits of Social Security numbers. Many states have refused to comply with such a request. The commission was hit by three lawsuits claiming, [“the purported mission of the commission is a sham, and that its true goal is to introduce stringent qualifications on voting that would mainly disenfranchise minority voters.”](#) In light of these data requests, some voters have already begun withdrawing their voter registration ([“In Colorado more than 3,000 voters worried about the data requests have already withdrawn their registration.”](#)). Moving forward, voting rights experts fear that [the commission may recommend removing voters from rolls and other proposals aimed to limit access to the ballot.](#)

In light of the continued efforts to limit access to the ballot, we encourage our chapters to organize programming on voting rights and election law. In addition to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, organize programming on partisan gerrymandering (*Gill v. Whitford*), racial gerrymandering (*Cooper v. Harris*), voter suppression efforts, and low voter turnout. Consider partnering with a 501(c)(3) that specializes in voter registration, such as the League of Women Voters, to conduct a voter registration drive. National Voter Registration Day is on Tuesday, September 26, 2017.

Last year, ACS created a program guide, along with an accompanying speakers list, for students planning Voting Rights programs. Click [here](#) to view the guide. Also, check out the following:

- ◆ [“A New Battle in the Fight for Voting Rights”](#) from the 2017 National Convention
- ◆ [“Voting Rights Institute Training”](#) from the 2017 National Convention
- ◆ [ACS 2016-2017 Supreme Court Review](#)
- ◆ The ACSblog’s [Voting Rights](#), [Redistricting](#), [Election Law](#), and [Campaign Finance](#) sections
- ◆ [ACS Webinar: What’s Next: The Pence/Kobach “Election Integrity” Commission](#)
- ◆ [The Calm After the Voting Rights Storm?](#)
- ◆ [Briefing Call: Redistricting Cases Before the Supreme Court: McCrory v. Harris and Bethune-Hill v. Virginia State Board of Elections](#)
- ◆ [ACS’s Conference Call on Voter ID Cases in Wisconsin and Texas](#)
- ◆ [A Pragmatic Approach to Challenging Felon Disenfranchisement Laws](#)



* Community Building and Fighting Bigotry

As mentioned in the [Open Letter to President-Elect Trump](#), released by ACS, “Hate crimes and other hate-filled speech and actions against racial, ethnic, and religious minorities have been rampant since [the] election.” We encourage our chapters to take a stand against racism, sexism, misogyny, homophobia, xenophobia, Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. Reach out and collaborate with other student groups to organize programming on these issues. Build a progressive community at your law school by cosponsoring with other on-campus student groups, including but not limited to:

- ◆ Black Law Students Association, Latino Law Students Association, Hispanic Law Students Association, Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, South Asian Law Students Association, Middle Eastern Law Students Association, Muslim Law Students Association, Native American Law Students Association, Disability Law Society, National Lawyers Guild, Women’s Law Association, OUT-Law, If/When/How, Women of Color Collective, American Civil Liberties Union, Public Interest Law Foundation.

Below are some examples of great collaborative programming from Spring 2017:

- ◆ Minorities in Trump’s America
- ◆ Implicit Bias Training
- ◆ Standing in Solidarity: Understanding Islam & Supporting Our Entire Law Community
- ◆ Advocacy for Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers in Challenging Times
- ◆ Trump’s Cabinet and the Impact on Women
- ◆ Anti-Racist Action Training
- ◆ ACS Presents Former Japanese Internee Hiro Nishikawa
- ◆ Screening of “The Women’s List”
- ◆ Issues and Advocacy in the Transgender Community
- ◆ Racial Justice Lawyering
- ◆ Intersectional Happy Hour
- ◆ Diversity on the Bench: The Gavel Gap
- ◆ Transformative Immigration Defense: Law in Support of an Intersectional Movement
- ◆ Gender Marker Training

PROGRAMMING IDEAS continued

* Policing, Race and Criminal Justice

Despite increased public scrutiny, police are rarely held accountable for excessive use of force, according to the authors of "[Curbing Excessive Force: A Primer on Barriers to Police Accountability](#)." Kami Chavis, professor of law and director of the Criminal Justice Program at Wake Forest University School of Law, along with Conor Degnan, contend that when police officers are accused of using excessive force, they are afforded a multitude of unique protections that effectively shield them from both criminal and civil liability. Chavis and Degnan argue that reforms to increase accountability, including greater prosecutorial independence and civilian oversight, are necessary to repair and rebuild the lost trust between police officers and the communities—particularly communities of color—they serve.

Last summer, a Minnesota police officer pulled over, shot and killed Philando Castile. Mr. Castile's girlfriend live streamed his last moments on Facebook. During the stop, "[\[t\]o avoid risk of being shot, \[Mr. Castile\] told the officer who pulled him over that he had a firearm on him, had a permit to carry it, and was reaching for his license, not his weapon. That hardly mattered, because within moments he'd been mortally wounded.](#)" The officer fired seven shots, killing Mr. Castile. The officer was acquitted of manslaughter in June 2017.

In the issue brief, Chavis and Degnan state that, "Mr. Castile is just one of several unarmed African-American men who have died at the hands of the police over the last several years. Although tensions between police and communities of color have long been an issue, a succession of recent allegations of excessive force by police officers has garnered widespread public attention and admonition. The names of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Eric Garner in Staten Island, Tamir Rice in Cleveland, Freddie Gray in Baltimore, and Walter Scott in North Charleston are etched in the public consciousness as rally points for those who call for increased police accountability."

As of July 27, 2017, [568 people have been shot and killed by police this](#) year.

We encourage our chapters to host thoughtful, constructive discussions on policing in America, criminal justice reform, Attorney General Jeff Session's misguided efforts to revive the "war on drugs," the intersection of race and criminal justice, systemic and institutional racism, and systems of oppression. Below are resources to assist you with your programming:

- ◆ ACSblog:
 - [Foreword to Harvard Law and Policy Review 11.2: Beyond the War on Drugs](#)
 - [The Criminal Justice section](#) of the [ACSblog](#)
 - [The Racial Justice section](#) of the [ACSblog](#)
- ◆ Issue Briefs:
 - [Curbing Excessive Force: A Primer on Barriers to Police Accountability](#)
 - [A Pragmatic Approach to Challenging Felon Disfranchisement Laws](#)
 - [Racism in the U.S. Criminal Justice System: Institutionalized Genocide](#)
- ◆ ["Presentation of the 2017 ACS Progressive Champion Award to Stephen Bright by Jarrett Adams"](#) from the 2017 ACS National Convention
- ◆ [ACS National Event: Symposium on Policing in a New Political Era](#)
- ◆ [Expert Briefing on Police Use of Force Against Communities of Color](#)
- ◆ [What's Next: A Lawyer's Response to Racial \(In\)Justice featuring Professor Ted Shaw](#)
- ◆ [2014 Program Guide, Speakers List; Programmatic Suggestions Regarding Criminal Justice and Communities Of Color](#)
- ◆ Other Resources:
 - [Mapping Police Violence](#)
 - ["When a police shooting victim is a white woman"](#) (Vox)
 - ["What the Data Really Says About Police and Racial Bias"](#) (Vanity Fair)



See the [2017-2018 ACS Student Chapters Model Calendar](#) for more ideas on programming.

CHAPTER BUSINESS

* Election/Chapter Updates

If you did not do so in the spring, please make sure to get your updated 2017-2018 Executive Board information to us by submitting it through the [Student Chapter Update Form](#) or by emailing campus@acslaw.org. At ACS, we give chapters a lot of flexibility in designing their chapter leadership. We understand that there may be unique positions created based on the desires and needs of your students and community. We do highly recommend that you have the following positions on your board:

- ◆ **1L rep:** A 1L rep is a great way to introduce 1Ls to your board and begin funneling the next generation of ACS leaders. This person will engage the 1L class and share ACS information with their class.
- ◆ **Historian:** A Historian keeps track of ACS alumni through the years, and encourages them to get involved in your chapter's activities. We've shared with many of you a compiled list of your school's former chapter leaders. A Chapter Historian position takes on this role and maintains employment and contact information for graduating students.
- ◆ **Lawyer Chapter Liaison:** A Lawyer Chapter Liaison helps your chapter stay connected with your local lawyer chapter. The Lawyer Chapter Liaison reaches out to the lawyer chapter for speaker suggestions, organizes events with the lawyer chapter, coordinates cosponsored events with the lawyer chapter, keeps the student chapter apprised of upcoming lawyer chapter events, encourages students to become [ACS National Members](#), and reminds 3Ls to take advantage of our [Discounted Young Lawyer Membership](#) (available in 2018). If you don't have a local lawyer chapter, the liaison could keep track of local attorneys who've previously attended or spoken at your events and outreach to these attorneys when publicizing your events.
- ◆ **Diversity and Inclusion Chair:** This person helps to ensure that programming is inclusive and holistic, that programming includes diverse speakers, that membership is diverse, and that your chapter regularly collaborates, communicates, and partners with diverse bar associations and other organizations.

* Posting Events to the National Calendar

Please remember to post **ALL** the events your chapter hosts or co-sponsors on the main ACS calendar. Posting your events to the calendar allows us to keep local students and attorneys informed of your programming and lets ACS National know about your exciting programming! We also use these events to recognize and award outstanding chapters as Student Chapter of the Week. Please email campus@acslaw.org for online posting instructions. Make sure to also email us your event pictures and sign-in sheets at campus@acslaw.org.

* Funding & Reimbursement

ACS offers event costs and speaker travel costs to student chapters. In order to access ACS funding, you must do the following:

- 1) You must first post the event. Email campus@acslaw.org for posting instructions,
 - 2) Wait 1-2 business days,
 - 3) Then request funding through the link [here](#). Generally, all requests for event funds must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the event; 4 weeks prior for travel funds.
 - 4) An email will be sent after the request has been made detailing whether the travel and/or event costs have been approved. You **MUST** wait for ACS approval before spending or having a speaker spend any funds. See Funding Instructions [here](#) for more information.
 - 5) Once your [event funding](#) has been approved, you can either go through the reimbursement process or the prepayment process. [Speaker travel](#) funds must go through the reimbursement process.
- ◆ **Option 1: Reimbursement:** You will pay for the food (or the speaker will pay for his/her travel). Then, no later than 30 days after your event, submit your [reimbursement form](#) and receipts to Accounts Payable at accountspayable@acslaw.org. Reimbursement checks are typically mailed out within 3- 6 weeks. Errors in reimbursement forms or receipt copies could delay the process.
 - ◆ **Option 2: Prepayment:** ACS National would directly pay the vendor for the approved event expenses. The following conditions must be met:
 - The vendor must accept American Express.
 - You must provide our tax-exempt letter to the vendor. If the vendor is a caterer, you must get and submit to us a completed W-9 from the caterer.
 - You must have already called in your order to the appropriate vendor, and where possible, received an invoice/order number.
 - Once the above requirements have been met, send an e-mail to campus@acslaw.org within five days of the event with the following information:
 - * An invoice from the vendor with the order and total amount due,
 - * The vendor's completed W-9 (if applicable), and
 - * The link to the posted event
 - Upon receipt of your request, we will call the vendor, pay for the order, and follow up with an e-mail to you the same day that we pay.

* Fall Conference Calls

ACS's Student Chapters Team hosts fall conference calls to speak with your chapter's Executive Board Members and if possible, Faculty Advisor(s). These calls are a great time to discuss recent events, programming ideas, chapter policies, and funding with the national staff. Please look out for emails from our Student Chapters team about these upcoming calls or email us to schedule a call today.

CHAPTER BUSINESS continued

* Social Media

Check out this [guide](#) with tips for your social media presence, growing your chapter and learning how to best advertise your events online. For additional ideas or help regarding your chapter's communications needs, please contact us. Also, check us out on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

* Promotional Materials

We are happy to provide you with promotional materials to distribute at events or organization fairs. Send us a request at campus@acslaw.org with your mailing address at least TWO weeks before your event.

* 501(c)(3) Guidelines

Reminder: ACS is a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization. For specific guidance on what this means for your programming, please read pages 6-7 of the [Student Chapter Handbook](#), and feel free to email us anytime with additional questions.

Also, check out our [speaker release form](#) and chapter leaders call on 501(c)(3) rules:

- ◆ Part one available [here](#).
- ◆ Part two available [here](#).

* Share Resources & Cosponsor Events

Listserv: The National Office has a listserv for chapter leaders nationwide to connect and share ideas. If you are not on this list and think you should be, please email us at campus@acslaw.org to be added.

Out of Town Speakers: If your chapter is planning an event featuring an out-of-town speaker, please contact other student or lawyer chapter leaders in your area so that the other chapters can host the speaker at their respective campus. Click [here](#) to find another student or lawyer chapter near you! By sharing resources, we can strengthen our nationwide network.

Cosponsor: Also, consider cosponsoring events with other student groups on your campus. These shared events broaden your programming, increase your student audience and allow for more networking opportunities. Reach out to your Faculty Advisor(s) for ideas and speaker suggestions, as he or she can often aid in making these on-campus connections between student organizations. Remember, each chapter should meet with its Faculty Advisor(s) at the beginning of each semester and after board elections.

* Additional National Resources

We can provide you with speaker and event suggestions and talk through event ideas with your chapter. Contact your chapter's national liaison or our general inbox at campus@acslaw.org.

You should also check out the [Student Chapters webpage](#) for downloadable materials and other helpful resources, such as the updated [Student Handbook](#), [Model Calendar](#), and [past program guides](#). We also have the following: [Sample Invitation Letter](#), [Model Flyer & Template](#), [Faculty Advisor Checklist](#), [Sign-In Sheet](#), [Event Checklist](#) and other helpful suggestions and ideas for your chapter.

* Take Advantage of Speakers in Your Area

ACS has prepared a list of [Visiting Professors](#) and [Conferences and Conventions](#). Some exciting scholars, practitioners and judges will be in your city soon! We encourage you to check both documents and invite speakers to engage with your chapter!

* Graduating ACS Leaders

We want to encourage our amazing student leaders to remain involved with ACS as attorneys. ACS needs you! Here are some quick tips on how you can continue to engage with ACS wherever you have landed:

- ◆ ACS offers a [Discounted Young Lawyer Membership](#) rate of \$10 to 2018 graduates (beginning in January 2018). Be sure to take advantage of this deal! Your membership will be good through December 2019!
- ◆ Join us at the ACS National Convention in Washington, DC.
- ◆ Join [your local lawyer chapter](#), or reach out to ACS's Lawyer Chapter team at LCEmails@acslaw.org for any lawyer chapter related questions or if you'd like to learn how to start one.
- ◆ Come back to visit us in person or online so we can hear your updates and connect you with our current members.



Grow Our Network!

Please help us reach out to private Facebook groups and email lists of progressives looking for ways to engage by posting about ACS. Help us let others know that ACS is a national progressive organization of lawyers, judges, law students, and anyone interested in law and policy with over 200 chapters in 40 cities and nearly every law school across the country. Please include a link to the [ACS website](#) and be sure to invite them to [join ACS!](#)



Writing Competitions!

* [2018 Constance Baker Motley National Student Writing Competition](#) (deadline February 2018).

The top 3 authors will receive special recognition at the 2018 ACS National Convention and cash prizes.

* [2017-2018 Richard D. Cudahy Writing Competition](#) (deadline February 2018). This writing competition on regulatory and administrative law is open to practicing lawyers, policymakers, academics and law students. A winner will be selected in both the lawyer and student categories. Winners will receive cash prizes and special recognition.

Please email questions to writing_competition@acslaw.org.



Esqyr Bar Exam Prep

Esqyr bar exam prep provides online study tools — built from NCBE materials — for under \$200. Esqyr is proud to sponsor ACS and offers a discount to ACS student members.

For more information, [please click here](#) and enter the password: ACS17.



CONTACT US

The American Constitution Society
1333 H Street NW, 11th Fl.
Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202-393-6181
Fax: 202-393-6189

www.ACSLaw.org
Email: campus@acslaw.org

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

ACSblog: www.acsblog.org

Twitter: [@acslaw](https://twitter.com/acslaw) &
[@ACSstudents](https://twitter.com/ACSstudents)

Instagram: [@acstudentchapters](https://www.instagram.com/acstudentchapters)

LinkedIn: [American Constitution Society \(ACS\) - official group](#)

Facebook: [American Constitution Society for Law and Policy \(Official\)](#)

ACKNOWLEDGE, EDUCATE, ENGAGE AND CELEBRATE

August

- ◆ International Youth Day, August 12, 2017

September

- ◆ National Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 - October 15, 2017

October

- ◆ LGBT History Month
- ◆ National Disability Employment Awareness Month

November

- ◆ Native American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month

December

- ◆ Universal Human Rights Month

ACS AND YOUR CAREER

Career Interest Forms

Complete our [Career Interest Form](#), available to National Student Members, so that we can help connect you with opportunities shared with our network. If you are not yet a National Student Member, sign up [here](#).

Summer

Let us know where you will be next summer so that we can connect you with ACSers in your summer city. Please complete the Summer ACS form [here](#).

Job Bank

Check out the latest job opportunities in our [job bank](#), available only to [ACS National Members](#).

STUDENT CHAPTERS STAFF

Meghan Paulas

Director of Student Chapters
mpaulas@acslaw.org

Kate Azevedo

Associate Director of Student Chapters
kazevedo@acslaw.org

Peggy Li

Associate Director of Student Chapters
pli@acslaw.org

Hugo Solano

Student Chapters Fellow
hsolano@acslaw.org