



# DIFFERENT VOICES



More than 500 students, faculty and staff signed the annual diversity pledge in 2009 as part of the Law School's Diversity Day. Stephanie Fier '09 (above) helped organize the pledge drive in 2008.

## THE DIVERSITY PLEDGE

As a community, we believe that every person has worth as an individual. Every person is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of class, color, disability, gender, nationality, race, religion or sexual orientation. Thoughts and acts of prejudice have no place in the UVA Law community.

Therefore, we pledge to treat all people with dignity and respect, to discourage others' prejudice in all its forms, and to strive to maintain a climate for work and learning based on mutual respect and understanding.

And from this day forward knowing that both the UVA Law community and the world will be a better place because of our efforts, we will incorporate this pledge into our daily lives.



**“LAW IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL** by which society respects and mediates differing interests, goals and perspectives. Law cannot serve that function unless it

invites all voices to be heard, and we expect no less of our own classroom experience.”

—PAUL G. MAHONEY, DEAN

**A DIVERSITY OF PERSPECTIVES** enhances the classroom conversation and fosters shared values of tolerance, respect and mutual support. Ask any student: What sets Virginia Law apart from other top law schools is the extraordinary sense of community found here. At Virginia, a rigorous and academically challenging professional education is paired with a collegial environment in which all voices are heard and all views shared. It is a better way to learn — but equally important, it's better preparation for the legal profession. Teamwork, cooperation, respect for different points of view, skilled communication and an understanding of varied perspectives are all an integral part of a profession that serves an increasingly diverse society.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Virginia students have the opportunity to participate in innovative student organizations that bring together students of different racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and religious backgrounds, as well as people of different sexual orientations and political affiliations.

### Asian Pacific American Law Students Association

APALSA provides academic and social support to its members and reaches out to the Law School community on issues pertaining to Asian-Americans.



### Black Law Students Association

BLSA promotes the welfare of its members through educational, professional, cultural and social



**“THE LAW SCHOOL** embraces diversity in all of its many forms. The law school classroom is most dynamic when there is a range of viewpoints that encourage lively discussion and debate. We look for applicants with differing backgrounds and experiences who will contribute to the environment at Virginia and enrich the academic experience for all.”

—JASON WU TRUJILLO '01  
Senior Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid



**“THE UVA COMMUNITY IS** extremely welcoming and accepting because people really draw close together — especially among the different minority groups,” said Jose Masini '10, president of the Latin American Law Organization. “The emphasis on getting to know each other’s diversity and coming together as a family and community is really strong. For example, I’m a member of the Black Law Students Association, and many BLSA members are in LALO. We work closely with each other, with other groups, and with the SBA to promote the idea of diversity at UVA and of a single student body strengthened by our differences.”

programs, while offering a forum for the discussion of issues affecting both the black law student and University communities. The group won National Chapter of the Year at the 2007 BLSA conference.

### **Feminist Legal Forum**

The Feminist Legal Forum is dedicated to advancing feminist discussion and awareness at the Law School and eradicating sexism within the legal profession.

### **Jewish Law Students Association**

JLSA provides cultural, educational and social programming for Jewish law students and serves as a resource for the rest of the Law School.

### **Lambda Law Alliance**

Lambda Law Alliance provides a supportive network for sexual minorities and their allies enrolled in the Law School and heightens community awareness about legal issues relevant to sexual minorities.

### **Latin American Law Organization**

LALO is an all-inclusive student group devoted to increasing awareness of legal issues facing Latinos and Latin America.

### **Law Christian Fellowship**

LCF is a nondenominational Christian fellowship committed to presenting Christianity to the Law School and the surrounding Charlottesville community through service, outreach and fellowship.

### **Law Partners**

Law Partners is a social and support network for couples connected with the Law School.

### **Muslim Law Students Association**

MLSA is dedicated to furthering a discussion of topics related to Islamic Law as well as contemporary issues facing the people of the Islamic World. It is also committed to creating an awareness of and celebrating Islamic culture.

### **Native American Law Students Association**

NALSA is an all-inclusive student group that increases awareness of legal issues affecting Native American populations and enables students to engage in activities related to Native culture.

### **Peer Advisor Program**

The Peer Advisor Program helps acclimate first-year students to the law school experience and provides friendship and support throughout law school.

### **Rex E. Lee Law Society**

The Rex E. Lee Law Society supports members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) who are studying or interested in studying law at the University of Virginia.

### **St. Thomas More Society**

The St. Thomas More Society fosters high ethical principles in the legal profession and in the community of Catholic lawyers.

### **Students United to Promote Racial Awareness**

SUPRA is funded by the Law School Foundation to promote understanding among students with different racial and ethnic backgrounds.



### **Virginia Law Families**

Virginia Law Families supports and promotes the interests of students facing the challenges of attending law school while raising children.

### **Virginia Law Veterans**

Virginia Law Veterans serves as an information resource on veterans’ issues and national security and international law and policy topics. The organization sponsors events that support the school’s military community.

### **Virginia Law Women**

Virginia Law Women is dedicated to addressing issues that interest, concern and affect women in law school.

### **Women of Color**

Women of Color promotes the welfare of the diverse population of women at the Law School through a number of programs.



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[www.law.virginia.edu/admissions](http://www.law.virginia.edu/admissions)

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