FROM SHARING CLASS NOTES and collaborating on research to working together to improve the legal system and national policy, the collegial spirit of the Virginia Law community takes shape in many ways among students and faculty. Virginia’s students learn from faculty members who have open doors and put teaching first, whether it’s in the classroom or collaborating on an outside project. Students also build camaraderie and shared interests through a range of extracurricular organizations and academic journals.

Ultimately, students’ experience in making connections among faculty and classmates fosters a loyal network that remains strong after graduation, and hones the kind of skills that serve alumni well in their careers.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
A Cappellate Opinions
Advocates for Disabled Veterans
Advocates for Life at Virginia Law
American Constitution Society for Law and Policy
Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
Barristers United
Black Law Students Association
Child Advocacy Research and Education
Domestic Violence Project
Federalist Society
Feminist Legal Forum
First Year Council
Graduate Law Students Association
Health Law Association
JD/MBA Society
Jean Pictet Society for International Humanitarian Law
Jewish Law Students Association
John Bassett Moore Society of International Law
Korean American Law Student Association
Lambda Law Alliance
Latin American Law Organization
Law Christian Fellowship
Law School Football League
Legal Advisory Workshops for Undergraduate Students
The Libel Show
Moot Court Board
National Lawyers Guild
National Trial Advocacy Team
Native American Law Students Association
North Grounds Softball League
Outdoors at VA Law
Peer Advisor Program
Phi Delta Phi International Legal Honor Society - Minor Inn
Philip C. Jessup International moot Court Team
Public Interest Law Association
Rex E. Lee Law Society
Rivanna Investments
St. Thomas More Society
Street Law
Student Bar Association
Student Legal Forum
Student Legal Forum Virginia Animal Law Society
Virginia Employment and Labor Law Association
Virginia Environmental Law Forum
Virginia Law & Business Society
Virginia Law Democrats
Virginia Law Families
Virginia Law Republicans
Virginia Law Rod & Gun Club
Virginia Law Students for Reproductive Justice
Virginia Law Veterans
Virginia Law Weekly (newspaper)
Virginia Law Wine Society
Virginia Law Women
Virginia Society of Law & Technology
Volunteer Income Tax Association
West Coast Wahoos
Women of Color

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS
Journal of Law & Politics
Virginia Environmental Law Journal
Virginia Journal of Criminal Law
Virginia Journal of International Law
Virginia Journal of Law & Technology
Virginia Journal of Social Policy & the Law
Virginia Law & Business Review
Virginia Law Review
Virginia Sports and Entertainment Law Journal
Virginia Tax Review

“The STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION hosts picnics for students, faculty and staff in the fall and spring each year.”

“I was cold-called in my first class, on my first day of law school,” CHARIS REDMOND ’17 said. “During my cold call, I was skimming the textbook to check my responses to a handful of rapid-fire questions. At one point, as I was hesitating on my answer, I looked down at my book for help. My section-mate next to me already had reached over and put his finger on a line that supported my response, which helped me more quickly quote the text. You’re fully supported by your section, your professors, Peer Advisors, etc. from day one.”
Professors take time to get to know students, and engagement also is facilitated through the Student Bar Association’s “Take a Professor to Lunch” program. Some students design their own research paper for credit, allowing them to work closely with a faculty mentor who supervises their work. Students in mock trial or moot court competitions often practice with faculty members acting as judges and offering feedback afterwards.

Professors also help graduates by conducting practice job talks for those entering legal academia or by advising on practice in a variety of fields, both in the public and private sectors.

Many such projects offer practical experience to students interested in a particular legal field or in helping low-income clients.

LAW STUDENTS LAUNCH NEW ORGANIZATIONS, run pro bono service projects and lead charitable efforts that benefit the community and nurture organizational and networking skills.

For example, students who participate in the DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT monitor domestic violence–related criminal justice proceedings in area jurisdictions and assist the Commonwealth’s Attorney Offices of Charlottesville and of Albemarle in their prosecution of domestic violence cases. Another group, the VOLUNTEER TAX INCOME ASSOCIATION, helps low-income and elderly residents of Charlottesville complete their income tax returns on Saturday mornings during tax season.

SUPPORT FROM FACULTY Many students work with faculty members outside of the classroom at some point during law school, whether it’s as a research assistant, by co-organizing events or conferences, or through service projects.

“Although I have many amazing friends at UVA, my small section and I share a special bond,” SAMUEL RICHMAN ‘16 said. “After only a year of knowing each other, I can already count many of them as some of my best friends. Although this might sound a little odd, this is by no means the exception at UVA. “I was at a convention in NEW YORK CITY for the annual meeting of the NATIONAL LGBT BAR ASSOCIATION when I ran into a UVA Law alum and invited him to the annual dinner party held by UVA for LGBT alumni. At the dinner party, he immediately recognized a fellow alum from his 1L small section over 30 years ago. It was as if no time had passed; the two spent the rest of the evening laughing and reminiscing about stories from law school.”