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 has nearly 60 student organizations, many of which are focused on bringing together students of different racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and religious backgrounds, as well as people of different sexual orientations and political affiliations.

KEY GROUPS INCLUDE:
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association
- Black Law Students Alliance
- Association
- Feminist Legal Forum
- Jewish Law Students Association
- Lambda Law Alliance
- Latin American Law Organization
- Law Christian Fellowship
- Korean American Law Student Association
- Native American Law Students Association
- Peer Advisor Program
- Rex E. Lee Law Society
- St. Thomas More Society
- Virginia Law Families
- Virginia Law Democrats
- Virginia Law Republicans
- Virginia Law Veterans
- Virginia Law Women
- Women of Color

"The beauty of Virginia Law is it embraces diversity. The collegial atmosphere of the Law School is warm and welcoming to the many voices and life experiences that make this community strong. That serves students while they are here, and once they venture beyond Grounds," said CORDEL FAULK '01, Assistant Dean for Admissions.
EVENTS IN 2014-15 INCLUDED:

AN INTRODUCTION TO NATIVE AMERICAN LAW, led by Professor Michael Doran and sponsored by the Native American Law Students Association

STUDENT-PROFESSOR PASSOVER LUNCH, sponsored by the Jewish Law Students Association

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WOMEN IN IN-HOUSE AND PUBLIC SERVICE ROLES, sponsored by Virginia Law Women and AT&T

APALSA CAREER NETWORKING DAY: SUCCEEDING AS A FIRST-GENERATION LAWYER, co-sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and Shearman & Sterling

THE GRAND JURY, PROSECUTORIAL DISCRETION AND RACIAL BIAS, with former U.S. Attorney Timothy Heaphy ’91 and Professor Claudrena Harold of UVA’s Corcoran Department of History, sponsored by the Black Law Students Association and the Student Bar Association

THE PEER ADVISOR PROGRAM Through the Peer Advisor program, run through the Law School’s Office of Student Affairs, second- and third-year law students help entering students acclimate to law school by offering friendship and support.

EVENTS Student organizations are the drivers behind a variety of events designed to support their members, including career networking receptions, social and mentoring events with faculty, and talks by women, minority or LGBT lawyers about their experiences practicing law.

The BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION, in coordination with the Law School’s Career Services Office, hosts two diversity receptions each year, during which law firm representatives network with students.

LAMBDA LAW ALLIANCE recently presented a new award recognizing support for the LGBT community to PROFESSOR ANNE COUGHLIN [pictured] and LUIS ALVAREZ JR. ’88, president and CEO of the UVA LAW SCHOOL FOUNDATION. The awards, which will be given to one or more recipients each year, were presented at the annual Lambda Law Alliance dinner in Charlottesville. Alumni supporters of the Law School’s LGBT community returned for the event, at which employers network with students as well.

SiJIA XIANG ’16 and several other students stayed in Charlottesville for Thanksgiving, and ate with a section-mate who served a dinner “complete with turkey, mashed potatoes, and mac-and-cheese with pineapple,” she said. “It was one of the best Thanksgiving dinners I have had in my life.”

TANNER CAMP ’16 and his wife were expecting a baby during his first year of law school when his section-mates threw the couple a surprise birthday shower. “There we were, over 2,000 miles away from our families, and my wife and I felt completely at home,” he said.

“Law is an important tool by which society respects and mediates differing interests, goals and perspectives,” said DEAN PAUL G. MAHONEY. “Law cannot serve that function unless it invites all voices to be heard, and we expect no less of our own classroom experience.”

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