

August 19, 2008

Dear Member of the Class of 2011,

As President of the Student Bar Association (SBA) and on behalf of the entire student body, I am thrilled to be among the first to welcome you into our law school family. You bring a fresh perspective and unbridled enthusiasm to this place, and we are glad you are here.

As a first year law student, there will be many opportunities and many ways for you to get involved within the law school community. One way is by becoming a member of the SBA, an organization dedicated to improving the educational, social, and professional experience of all law students. The SBA has several concurrent goals including: (1) providing an effective outlet for the expression of student views; (2) serving as a liaison between the student, faculty, staff, and alumni; (3) fostering close personal relationships among the law school community; (4) creating networking opportunities with the local legal community; and (5) maintaining meaningful relationships with national, state, and local bar associations through the SC Bar Young Lawyers' Division and the American Bar Association (ABA) Law Student Division.

I encourage you to join the SBA as a paid member and take advantage of all that our organization has to offer. On the attached page, you will find a brief description of our SBA committees as well as information about how you can join as a dues paying member or run for class representative. We hope that you will get involved!

Again, we are happy to have you here and look forward to meeting you personally in the days and weeks ahead. If you should have any questions about the SBA or law school life in general, feel free to contact me at [joe.c.harris@gmail.com](mailto:joe.c.harris@gmail.com).

Best of luck,

Joe Harris  
SBA President

## What does the SBA do?

### Service

- SBA organizes the following:
  1. Two Red Cross Blood Drives per year.
  2. Weekly volunteer opportunities for students (with the assistance of the Pro Bono office).
  3. Student-Faculty Committees, which address a wide range of student concerns (e.g., curriculum, admissions, and the hiring of new faculty).
  4. The Orientation Program for the incoming 1L class.
  5. The selection of two Law School Student Senators to participate in the university wide student Senate.
  6. The Campus Safety Committee (textbook stamping, laptop engraving, frequent communication with the undergrad Safety Committee to discuss safety issues and concerns).

### Social Events

- SBA hosts the following events:
  1. The 1L Orientation mixer and the school-wide Welcome Back Party for all students.
  2. A Halloween Party (with the Medical and Business Schools).
  3. Destination ski and kayaking trips.
  4. The Barrister's Ball (Spring formal).
  5. Carolina Cup Excursion
  6. End of Semester parties

### Communication

- SBA oversees the following methods of communication:
  1. SBA E-brief (weekly news letter e-mailed to students which highlights school and community activities and important announcements)
  2. SBA TWEN website (available through Westlaw)
  3. Facebook (law school yearbook and directory)
  4. Survival Guide (a publication chocked full of useful info which helps incoming students adjust to life in Columbia).
  5. SBA Facebook page (new for this year—SBA will feature announcements and upcoming events on its own Facebook website page).

### Athletics

- SBA hosts the following events:
  1. Spring Golf Tournament
  2. Thursday Night Bowling League
  3. Intramural sports (such as the UVA Softball Tournament)

## How do I get involved?

- **Join as a paid member.** You can join at the Organization Fair during Orientation.
  1. Dues are as follows: 1 yr. \$30 2 yrs. \$55 3 yrs. \$75.
  2. Paying your dues will allow you to receive a free Facebook as well as a \$5 discount on up to 2 tickets at each event per year saving you a total of \$75 a year. Paying your dues also allows you to serve on committees and run for office.
- **Run for office.** Elections for 1L Class Representatives are held a few weeks after classes begin. Each 1L section will elect 3 representatives. To run for office or join a committee you must be a dues paying member of SBA.