OUR PURPOSE

Law schools and the legal profession are currently strongly dominated by a form of orthodox liberal ideology which advocates a centralized and uniform society. While some members of the academic community have dissented from these views, by and large they are taught simultaneously with (and indeed as if they were) the law.

The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies is a group of conservatives and libertarians interested in the current state of the legal order. It is founded on the principles that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be. The Society seeks both to promote an awareness of these principles and to further their application through its activities.

This entails reordering priorities within the legal system to place a premium on individual liberty, traditional values, and the rule of law. It also requires restoring the recognition of the importance of these norms among lawyers, judges, law students, and professors. In working to achieve these goals, the Society has created a conservative and libertarian intellectual network that extends to all levels of the legal community.
The Federalist Society enjoyed great success at every level during the last year as our Annual Report and press clippings detail. The breadth of our activities continues to expand with our Regulatory Transparency Project, our Article I Initiative, our work with state courts, and all of the activities of our student and lawyers chapters and our practice groups.

The Federalist Society was much in the news in 2017, especially in conjunction with judicial selection. It delights us that many of those involved with the Society who care deeply about the principles we discuss and debate are serving their country and in one way or another, attempting to apply their principles in practice.

For from its first days, the Society has focused on ideas. We have fostered intellectual discussion of ideas in general, and of originalism and textualism in particular, in every sector of the legal community. In addition to building on our aforementioned results, we see an extra challenge ahead for free speech and open inquiry. To counter these trends, those who view themselves as intellectually oriented must make a point to fully understand the views of those they disagree with.

But often there are other key reasons for the opinion and the person might not even hold such beliefs except for those other reasons. You may still differ sharply, but it will not be as easy to label the opponent as evil. But perhaps even more importantly, the more thoroughly you understand the ideas you disagree with, the more profitable engaging with them is. It is from significant differences of views fully aired and understood that society develops better ideas. Our liberal democracy and perhaps Western civilization depends on such exchanges, but they simply will not be valuable if, rather than debating and discussing what we seriously believe, we simply engage in ad hominem attacks and refuting straw men.

In this effort, as in all of our activities, we depend on our thousands of volunteers and donors across the country. We thank you for your help and look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,

Eugene B. Meyer
President
The First Amendment enshrines some of our most important freedoms, so the Student Division kicked off 2017 by exploring “The First Amendment in Contemporary Society” at the National Student Symposium. The Columbia Law School Chapter hosted hundreds of students in New York City to hear debates and panels on religious freedom, free speech on campus, the freedom of the press, and more. First Amendment scholars like Michael McConnell, Marci Hamilton, Douglas Laycock, Eugene Volokh, and Phillip Hamburger engaged each other in spirited discourse over free speech and tolerance in a free society.

At the symposium banquet, Professor William Baude received the Bator Award, and Professor Richard Epstein delivered a keynote address—“A Common Law Approach to the First Amendment”—applying his contrarian approach to the First Amendment. Students left energized by the discussions and their new friendships with students across the country.

In the spring, the Yale Law School Federalist Society Chapter celebrated Justice Clarence Thomas’s twenty-fifth year on the court with a day-long symposium in his honor. Judges and constitutional scholars gathered in New Haven to deliver papers on Justice Thomas’s contributions to Supreme Court jurisprudence. The Justice himself attended and delivered remarks commending the Yale Chapter for its determined work defending the Constitution.
2017 HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

- **HOW TO DECIDE A CASE WITH HON. DIANE SYKES**
  Stanford Law School, January 27
- **SAVING THE RULE OF LAW WITH HON. EDITH JONES**
  University of Chicago Law School, February 7
- **CELEBRATING JUSTICE THOMAS: 25 YEARS ON THE SUPREME COURT**
  Yale Law School, February 10
- **NATIONAL STUDENT SYMPOSIUM**
  Columbus Law School, March 3-4
- **ORIGINALISM & THE FEDERALIST SOCIETY WITH PROF. JEFFREY POJANOWSKI**
  Notre Dame Law School, August 29
- **MASTERPIECE CAKESHOP: A DEBATE BETWEEN TEXAS SOLICITOR GENERAL SCOTT KELLER AND PROF. LARRY SAGER**
  University of Texas School of Law, October 5
- **JUDICIAL ACTIVISM, RESTRAINT, & ENGAGEMENT: A DEBATE BETWEEN ROGER PILON AND PROF. ERIC SEGALL**
  Georgia State University College of Law, October 11
- **STOP SAYING THAT: DISSENT & DISAGREEMENT AT PENN LAW WITH PROF. AMY WAX**
  University of Pennsylvania Law School, October 11
- **PRACTICING BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT WITH KANNON SHANMUGAM & PROF. LINDA GREENHOUSE**
  Yale Law School, October 25
- **REDISTRICTING, GERRYMANDERING & DEMOCRACY: A DISCUSSION OF GILL V. WHITFORD WITH MISHA TSEYTLIN, SOLICITOR GENERAL OF WISCONSIN**
  Harvard Law School, November 27

Georgetown member Peter McGinley meets Hon. Thomas Hardiman on the Society’s rooftop.

Across the country, the Federalist Society continues to be the premier student organization on law school campuses. Thanks to generous donor funding, the Student Division has made a concerted effort to host debates at its chapters on the proper role of the courts, free speech and intellectual freedom, the burdens of the regulatory state through the Regulatory Transparency Project, the proper role of Congress through the Article I Initiative, as well as the necessary interplay between capitalism and the rule of law. These events contribute enormously to the quality and diversity of intellectual engagement on campus.

1,060

TOTAL EVENTS ORGANIZED
BY OUR 200+ STUDENT CHAPTERS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY
The Lawyers Chapters of the Federalist Society enjoyed their most productive year in the division’s history, with a record-setting pace of new membership, new chapters, and programming. Our 90+ lawyers chapters hosted over 400 programs throughout the year. Ten new lawyers chapters were launched.

Additionally, six state conferences were held in California, Florida, Ohio, Kentucky, Texas, and Pennsylvania. Several other chapters hosted annual dinners and other signature events, including anniversary programs. These programs serve as state-level versions of the National Lawyers Convention, gathering leading members of the bench and bar to promote fellowship and to expand the mission of the Society to new constituencies.

Local lawyers chapter programming focused on some of the most compelling topics in law and public policy. In particular, chapters focused on the nomination of Justice Neil Gorsuch, the legacy of Justice Scalia, the administrative state, religious liberty, gerrymandering, and executive branch overreach. A number of chapters also hosted events in partnership with the Federalist Society’s Article I Initiative and Regulatory Transparency Project.
The Federalist Society has also continued its outreach to a new generation of young lawyers, with vibrant young lawyers groups in both Washington, DC and New York City. Young lawyers outreach continues throughout the country, with special attention paid to summer associates and recent graduates in cities such as Atlanta, Houston, and St. Louis.

Several lawyers chapters alumni were nominated to the federal bench this year, and others were appointed to their state appellate and supreme courts. Others assumed leading positions in government. This demonstrates that lawyers chapter leadership is a critical credentialing qualification for positions of public service.

The Federalist Society Annual Report 2017
In 2017, the Faculty Division continued to provide important opportunities for faculty members, especially junior faculty, to gain recognition and produce outstanding scholarship, all as part of a broad suite of programming designed to foster dialogue and viewpoint diversity within the legal academy. These programs aim to:

1. Foster the exchange of ideas and build an academic community centered on discussion of important ideas.
2. Assist current junior faculty.
3. Identify aspiring conservative and libertarian law professors and support them in their efforts to join the academy.
4. Provide academic resources about the law to the public and press.

We are particularly pleased with our expanded series of monthly writing workshops, of which we have held more than a dozen over the past year. These workshops provide our fellows, along with like-minded fellows in other programs and academically inclined practitioners, the opportunity to present their papers and receive productive feedback from faculty members and each other. Although the workshops are held at the Federalist Society’s DC office, most attendees join remotely through video conferencing software. At a typical workshop, a fellow will either present his or her article at an early stage to gather feedback, or critique another fellow’s work-in-progress by presenting it with comments.
We also note an important symposium on intellectual diversity during the recent Annual Meeting of the Association of American Law Schools in San Diego, CA. During this half-day program, two panels of legal academics discussed “Why Intellectual Diversity Matters (and What is to be Done).” Data regarding underrepresentation of conservatives and libertarians in the legal academy was presented, and there was general agreement that a widespread failure to expose students to arguments and perspectives beyond prevailing orthodoxies impeded development of skills essential to good lawyering. Ideas for corrective steps were debated, and the audience participation was quite active. Importantly, this program was not part of the Federalist Society Faculty Conference but was instead competitively selected by AALS as the topic for its symposium. AALS also actively promoted the program. Video of the panels can be found at http://joshblackman.com/blog/2018/01/06/aals-2018-symposium-why-intellectual-diversity-matters-and-what-is-to-be-done/.

In addition, for the first time, at the AALS’s invitation, Federalist Society Faculty Conference events were integrated into other annual meeting programs in the main AALS hotel, making it easier for faculty members not involved in the Federalist Society to stop by. Both of these developments may suggest a growing recognition on the part of AALS leadership of the potential contributions of center-right faculty members to a vigorous academic enterprise.
The Federalist Society’s Practice Groups continue to grow in size and influence. With new volunteer leaders, we have been able to expand the breadth and frequency of our programming, from Teleforum calls and podcasts to in-person programming on topics like energy markets, corporate mergers, and occupational licensing. Earlier this year, Sen. Ted Cruz and Rep. Bob Goodlatte joined us for luncheon panels at the National Press Club. Besides the National Lawyers Convention and the Executive Branch Review Conference, the Federalist Society held three full-day conferences in 2017 on International Law in the Trump Era, Multidistrict Litigation, and Net Neutrality. We continued to provide CLE credit to our members through our conferences and a special hour-long Ethics CLE Teleforum.

The Practice Groups produce a large quantity of the scholarship and other content released by the Federalist Society. The FedSoc Blog continues to grow in influence, and is visited by lawyers and clerks alike.
2017 HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

• FIFTH ANNUAL EXECUTIVE BRANCH REVIEW CONFERENCE
The Mayflower Hotel, May 17

• HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AGENDA, FEATURING HON. BOB GOODLATTE
National Press Club, February 4

• ETHICS CLE TELEFORUM 2017: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IMPACTING THE ETHICAL PRACTICE OF LAW, FEATURING PROFS. W. WILLIAM HODES AND JOHN S. DZIENKOWSKI
September 29

• STATE “AROUND MARKET” ACTION AND FERC: THE END OF COMPETITIVE WHOLESALE ELECTRIC MARKETS?
National Press Club, April 18

• COURTHOUSE STEPS TELEFORUM: MASTERPIECE CAKE SHOP V. COLORADO CRC, FEAT. KIM COLBY
December 5

• BEYOND THE YATES MEMO: A NEW ERA OF ENFORCEMENT?
National Press Club, June 13

• WRITTEN OUT OF HISTORY: THE FORGOTTEN FOUNDERS WHO FOUGHT BIG GOVERNMENT TELEFORUM, FEATURING SEN. MIKE LEE
December 7

• THE ROLE OF ECONOMIC LIBERTY IN THE U.S.
National Press Club, March 28

• HILLBILLY ELEGY TELEFORUM, FEATURING J.D. VANCE AND ADAM J. WHITE
May 2

• MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION CONFERENCE
Kirkland & Ellis, October 18

Geoffrey Manne, Albert Foe, and Joshua Wright discuss recent developments in corporate mergers.

Hon. Richard Leon, Matthew Miner, George Terwilliger, and Alice Fisher explore “Beyond the Yates Memo.”

Dan Troy, Malini Hoorthty, Timothy Pratt, and Prof. Brian Fitzpatrick discuss “Are MDLs Working?” at Kirkland & Ellis.

FERC Commissioner Cheryl A. LaFleur discusses state “around market” action.

Attendees enjoy a presentation at the Fifth Annual Executive Branch Review Conference at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC.
The State Courts Project engages in a comprehensive effort to promote discussion of the legal culture in states across the country. This year, we both created new and reinvigorated old forms of programming to raise the profile of the impact courts have on state legal environments.

In 2017, we promoted state supreme court review events, which took place in eight states throughout the year: California, Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. These events not only go over the state docket, but also allow for critical commentary on the courts and how the justices are ruling. The attendance at and interest in our state supreme court review events have been phenomenal. Several additional states are planning review events for 2018, and we look forward to continued success with this series.

We also continue to publish State Court Docket Watch to highlight cases of interest that are being decided at the state court level. These articles are shorter, sharper, and posted live to our blog to capitalize on the timeliness of each case. Since July, we have produced a Docket Watch article each week, creating a tremendous amount of commentary on the state courts cases.

This year, we also renewed our focus on the debate over methods of judicial selection at the state level. Through the reintroduction of our Guide to Judicial Selection in State High Courts, the commissioning of a series of white papers on the topic, and the promotion of events through our lawyers chapters, we hope to foster discussion of methods of state judicial selection as the legal communities in states react to legislative proposals to reshape the way their judges are chosen. The discussion we have sparked on the issue of judicial selection continues to resonate around the country. This is just one of the many ways in which members of our network have shown increasing interest in serving on the state bench.
Captiol Hill

The Capitol Hill Project continues to educate members of Congress and their staffs about the relationship of important first principles—including the rule of law and limited, constitutional government—to issues they deal with every day.

Through these efforts, we also seek to build a network of staffers who appreciate the principles of limited, constitutional government.

We achieve these goals by sponsoring events, and networking opportunities, introducing staffers to subject-area experts, and exposing staffers to the content produced by the Society.

Through the incorporation of students, young lawyers, and alumni of the Hill into our events, we have created an extensive network that creates new opportunities in public service for the brightest young members of the Society.

State Attorneys General

Through its programming, publications, and personal relationships, the State AGs Project has conditioned the environment for an unprecedented level of discussion about the role state attorneys general should play in our form of government.

This year, the Society has seen a tremendous increase in involvement by AGs and their staff at chapter events across the country.

Additionally, this year we launched a new website specifically focused on State AGs—State Attorneys General Guide (StateAGs.com). Through the website, we hope to educate our membership and the general public on the current landscape of State AGs, provide information on the offices, and share information and commentary created by our experts.

2017 HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

- EXECUTIVE ORDERS, FEATURING PROF. JONATHAN TURLEY AND ADAM J. WHITE
  February 21
- INTERNATIONAL LAW, FEATURING PROF. JAMIL JAFFER AND HON. LAWRENCE KORB
  March 3
- THE FUTURE OF SCOTUS, FEATURING CARRIE SEVERINO, ED WHELAN, AND ILYA SHAPIRO
  April 11
- IMMIGRATION, FEATURING PROF. ILYA SOMIN AND HON. SCOTT KELLER
  April 25
- MENS REA, FEATURING JOHN MALCOLM AND TIMOTHY O’TOOLE
  May 22
- LAWYERING ON CAPITOL HILL, FEATURING ROBERT PARMITER, MEGAN LACY, WILLIAM PAYNE, AND PRERAK SHAH
  June 29
- SCOTUS REVIEW, FEATURING VIRGINIA SEITZ, BETH BRINKMANN, ERIN MURPHY, CARRIE SEVERINO, AND ILYA SHAPIRO
  July 14
- COMMERCIAL FREE SPEECH, FEATURING MEGAN BROWN, STEPHEN OBERMEIER, ERICA SMITH, KAREN HARNED, AND MARK CHENOWETH
  September 8
- THE ROLE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL, FEATURING HON. KENNETH T. STARR AND ADAM J. WHITE
  September 20
- REDISTRICTING, FEATURING MISHA TSEYTLIN AND ROBERT POPPER
  October 18
- ANTITRUST & INNOVATION, FEATURING JULIE CARLSON, DON ROSENBERG, ROB STEIN, TAD LIPSKY, AND HON. DOUGLAS GINSBURG
  October 24
- SCALIA SPEAKS, FEATURING ED WHELAN AND CHRISTOPHER SCALIA
  November 18

2017 HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

- SOLICITORS GENERAL IN AN AGE OF TRUMP, FEATURING SCOTT KELLER, LIZ MURRILL, AND LEE RUDOFSKY
  November 3
- LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SANCTUARY CITIES: ATTORNEY GENERAL JEFF LANDRY
  May 17
- LUNCHEON, FEATURING NEVADA ATTORNEY GENERAL ADAM LAXALT
  July 18
- LUNCH WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF GEORGIA, FEATURING CHRISTOPHER CARR AND RANDY BARNETT
  January 18
- STATE SOLICITORS GENERAL DISCUSSION, FEATURING LAWRENCE VAN DYKE, LEE RUDOFSKY, ANDREW BRASHER, MITHUN MASINGHANI, AND PAUL WATKINS
  March 23
- STATE EFFORTS TO REIN IN ADA LAWSUITS, FEATURING ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK BRNOVICH
  July 20
Alumni Relations capitalizes on the unique link between students and alumni of the same schools, connecting members from across the country. Over the past year, we have worked closely with local chapter leadership to identify opportunities to foster interaction between student and alumni networks. This effort has resulted in higher quality programming and has led to both record event attendance and greater overall interest in alumni programming.

2017 HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

- SUMMER RECEPTION WITH JUDGE THOMAS HARDIMAN
  Georgetown Alumni Chapter
- SUMMER RECEPTION WITH HON. RACHEL BRAND
  Harvard Alumni Chapter
- SUMMER RECEPTION WITH PRINCIPAL DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL JEFFREY WALL
  University of Virginia Alumni Chapter
- ANNUAL LUNCHEON WITH JUDGE BRETT KAVANAUGH
  Yale Alumni Chapter
- ANNUAL LUNCHEON WITH DON MCGAHN
  Notre Dame Alumni Chapter
- ANNUAL LUNCHEON WITH JUDGE RAYMOND KETHLEDGE AND PROF. DANIEL CRANE
  Michigan Alumni Chapter
- ANNUAL LUNCHEON WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL KEN PAXTON
  University of Virginia Alumni Chapter
- ANNUAL LUNCHEON WITH GREGORY GARRE, PARTNER, LATHAM & WATKINS, FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
  George Washington Alumni Chapter
- HARVARD ALUMNI SYMPOSIUM
  Harvard Alumni Chapter

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton addresses the University of Virginia Alumni Chapter.


Prof. Randy Barnett, Georgetown Law, and Mark Paoletta, General Counsel at Office of Management and Budget, enjoy a summer alumni reception held on the rooftop of the Federalist Society.

Megan Brown, Wiley Rein, leads a Q&A with Dean Martha Minow at the Harvard Alumni Symposium.

ATTENDEES OF ALUMNI LUNCHES AT THE NATIONAL LAWYERS CONVENTION

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Throughout 2017, the Federalist Society’s International Affairs Division continued to provide a platform for a robust conversation on the foundational principles of constitutional government, the rule of law, and freedom among key allies in Europe and North America, thus creating global support for and furthering the effectiveness of our programs in the United States.

In Central and Eastern Europe, we added new judges to our European Judicial Network and hosted our fourth European Judicial Network Conference in Vienna, Austria, to discuss shared judicial challenges and proposed responses related to judicial independence and free speech.

In the United Kingdom, through a coalition of lawyers, academics, and members of civil society, and through programs with a growing number of partner organizations, we continued to use the country’s focus on Brexit as an inflection point for an important discussion on the future of British institutions, including the judiciary, following the country’s departure from the European Union.

In France and Canada, we helped build new infrastructure on existing freedom movements dedicated to debates on Federalist Society principles such as national sovereignty, the rule of law, and the importance of separation of powers, working with budding student organizations on law school campuses across both countries.

In Belgium, we supported a discussion among civil society representatives from across Europe on how to promote the values of religious freedom in their home countries.

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Online, we continued to provide a steady stream of updates on the global governance movement and its broad environmental, economic, social, and cultural agenda on our website GlobalGovernanceWatch.org.

The work of the International Affairs Division is based on the important idea that the United States cannot stand alone in support of the values that underlie the un rivaled success of our country’s constitutional tradition. To this end, we will continue to amplify the voices of our allies in other countries who wish to join the exchange of ideas on how best to advance freedom and the rule of law around the world.

Stéphane Bonichot, Vergennes Institute, and Thibault Mercier and René Boustany of the Federalist Society’s partner organization for French students, the Law and Liberty Circle, at the Antonin Scalia Memorial Dinner.

The Federalist Society’s Fourth European Judicial Network Conference, where jurists from Central and Eastern Europe gathered in Vienna to discuss their approach to issues such as judicial independence and the freedom of expression.

2017 HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

- ATTENDED OPENING CEREMONY OF 2017 SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS
  Strasbourg, France, January
- LAUNCH EVENTS FOR FRENCH LAW AND LIBERTY CIRCLE
  Paris Nanterre University & Grenoble, March & November
- MEETING OF SEN. MIKE LEE WITH TOCQUEVILLE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
  Washington, DC, July
- SPONSORED CLASSES AT SUMMER SCHOOL HOSTED BY CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA
  Professor Nathan Sales, Syracuse University College of Law (now the U.S. State Department’s Ambassador-at-Large and Coordinator for Counterterrorism), and Jim Kelly, Director of International Affairs at the Federalist Society
  Tbilisi, Georgia, July
- FEDERALIST SOCIETY EUROPEAN JUDICIAL NETWORK CONFERENCE, 19 JUDICIAL ATTENDEES
  Vienna, Austria, September
- ATTENDED CONGRESS OF THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE
  Vilnius, Lithuania, September
- TALK ON ORIGINALISM AT RUNNYMEDE SOCIETY’S CHAPTER AT DALHOUSIE LAW SCHOOL
  Hon. Edith Jones, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit
  Halifax, Nova Scotia, September
  Lord Edward Faulks QC, Member of the European Parliament
  Nirj Deva, Martin Howe QC, and Managing Director in Public Affairs at FTI Consulting
  Manchester, U.K., October
- EVENT WITH POLITEIA ON BREXIT TRANSITION DEAL
  Martin Howe QC, London, U.K., October
- EUROPEAN ADVOCACY ACADEMY TRAINING SEMINAR
  Brussels, Belgium
NATIONAL LAWYERS CONVENTION

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES AND THE REGULATORY STATE
NOVEMBER 16-18, 2017 • WASHINGTON, DC

ATTENDEES OF THE ANTONIN SCALIA MEMORIAL DINNER
(A NEW RECORD)
2,180
The National Lawyers Convention attracted an unprecedented degree of participation from lawyers, government officials, judges, and policy leaders, as well as law school faculty and students.

Nearly 3,000 guests participated in the three-day event held at Washington, DC’s historic Mayflower Hotel to hear speakers and panelists discuss administrative agencies and the regulatory state. The three-day slate featured many high-profile speakers, including Sen. Tom Cotton, Attorney General Jeff Sessions, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, and U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Alex Acosta.

Guests enjoyed a special treat when White House Counsel Don McGahn shared background stories regarding the administration’s judicial selections at the 17th Annual Barbara K. Olson Memorial Lecture.

After a ten-year hiatus, the Antonin Scalia Memorial Dinner (formerly the Annual Dinner) returned to Washington’s Union Station for the banquet’s 35-year anniversary. The elegant hall was festively decorated with Federalist Society colors and our signature Madison head logo. Over 2,000 guests mingled with old friends, made new acquaintances, and heard Justice Neil Gorsuch share his thoughts on his eventful year and the future of the Supreme Court.

Hon. Jeff Sessions, Attorney General of the United States, speaks to a full house at the NLC.

Hon. Scott Pruitt, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, discusses regulatory clarity.

Roger Severino discusses religious freedom and the administrative state.

Hon. Jennifer Walker Elrod moderates a panel on public interest litigation.

Prof. Jennifer L. Mascott discusses agencies and the federal judiciary.

America was founded on the belief that people should be trusted to govern themselves.”

U.S. Department of Labor Secretary R. Alexander Acosta speaks on the need to deregulate for liberty’s sake.

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Attendees of the Tenth Annual Rosenkranz Debate were treated to a spirited discussion of Lochner v. New York.

Mr. Donald F. McGahn, II, White House Counsel, delivers the 17th Annual Barbara K. Olson Memorial Lecture.

22%

INCREASE IN REGISTRATION
FROM 2016 TO 2017

Hon. Ted Olson, Douglas Cox, George T. Conway, III, Hon. Edith Jones, and Hon. R. Alexander Acosta enjoy the Barbara K. Olson Memorial Lecture by Mr. Donald F. McGahn, II.
In the ultra-complex and interconnected digital age in which we live, government must issue and enforce regulations to protect public health and safety. However, despite the best of intentions, government regulation can fail, stifle innovation, foreclose opportunity, and harm the most vulnerable among us. It is for precisely these reasons that we must be diligent in reviewing how policies either succeed or fail, and think about how we might improve them.

Founded in 2016, the Federalist Society’s Regulatory Transparency Project aims to identify areas in which regulatory policies can be improved and to foster a national conversation on the potential harms that regulations can create when not reviewed with a critical eye. To this end, the Regulatory Transparency Project’s working groups have produced papers, videos, and Teleforum calls on various regulatory topics—all of which can be found on our website, RegProject.org. We invite you to join this examination and discussion and to share your stories if you have benefited or been adversely affected by regulation.
The Federalist Society

2017 HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

- **ARTICLE I INITIATIVE CONFERENCE**
  Capital Visitor Center, January 12
- **HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AGENDA WITH CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE**
  National Press Club, February 1
- **CAPITOL HILL PANEL DISCUSSION OF DC CONFIDENTIAL BY PROF. DAVID SCHOPENBROD**
  Rayburn House Office Building, April 19
- **CONGRESS AND EXECUTIVE BRANCH: THE FIFTH ANNUAL EXECUTIVE BRANCH REVIEW**
  (CO-SPONSORED WITH PRACTICE GROUPS)
  The Mayflower Hotel, May 17
- **DC SUMMER ASSOCIATE RECEPTION WITH SEN. MIKE LEE**
  (CO-SPONSORED WITH THE DC YOUNG LAWYERS CHAPTER)
  Jones Day, June 12
- **THE CONSTITUTIONAL WAR POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES**
  Russell Senate Office Building, July 7
- **FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT: THE BUDGET PROCESS AND OMNIBUS SPENDING BILLS**
  Rayburn House Office Building, September 22
- **DEBATE: STATUTORY AUTHORITY AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**
  George Washington Law School, October 4
- **CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING: GERRYMANDERING AND THE PEOPLE’S HOUSE**
  Rayburn House Office Building, November 27
- **CHECKING THE EXECUTIVE: THE IMPORTANCE OF CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT**
  Longworth House Office Building, December 15

This year, the Initiative more than doubled the number of Article I events it organized and facilitated on Capitol Hill and at our student and lawyers chapters across the country. To further support the Initiative’s efforts, we launched a podcast called “Necessary & Proper” and a writing contest dedicated to “Restoring the Constitutional Congress.”

We also worked with the Philadelphia Inquirer to publish a four-part series marking the 230th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. The series explored the separation of powers and the first three articles of our founding document and featured thoughts from Hans von Spakovsky, Hon. Christopher DeMuth, Prof. John Yoo, Prof. Saikrishna Prakash, and Prof. Michael McConnell. These programs contribute to our overall goal of igniting a discussion on the proper role of Congress.

To learn more about the Initiative and stay up-to-date, please visit fedsoc.org/articlei.
In 2017, FedSoc Digital produced 76 videos on Supreme Court cases, public policy topics, and Federalist Society events. With the addition of new talent to our team, we continued to increase the quality and reach of our videos. Our videos averaged 60,000 views in total (YouTube+Facebook), and four of our videos earned over 100,000 views. Google featured our “Why Can’t You Buy a Tesla in Utah?” video on their homepage, driving over 360,000 views. “Regulating Rideshare,” our documentary short on Uber and Lyft in Austin, TX, was accepted into the Anthem and Richmond International Film Festivals. Other video topics in 2017 included:

- Introduction to Common Law
- Why Read Tocqueville?
- Constitutional War Power: The Founders’ Framework
- Regulatory Takings Law: Exceptions to Penn Central
- and more…

FedSoc Digital not only creates new content but also serves the Society’s traditional programs through marketing, design, and multimedia production. Digital services include social media advertising, event recording, photography, podcast audio, and more.
2017 MOST-WATCHED VIDEOS

- CAPITALISM V. CRONYISM: WHY CAN’T YOU BUY A TESLA IN UTAH?
  Featuring Greg Beul, Institute for Justice
- WHAT IS BITCOIN MINING?
  Featuring Peter Van Valkenburgh, Coin Center
- INCOME INEQUALITY: IS IT FAIR OR UNFAIR?
  Featuring Daniel Markovitz, Yale Law School, and Yaron Brook, Ayn Rand Institute
- STUDYING THE COMMON LAW
  Featuring Richard Epstein, NYU School of Law
- CAN LAWS BE SIMPLE?
  Featuring Richard Epstein, NYU School of Law
- MASTERPIECE CAKESHOP V. COLORADO CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION
  Featuring Mark Mevenston, St. John’s University School of Law
- OK, GOOGLE: ARE YOU LISTENING?
  Featuring Ryan Radia, Competitive Enterprise Institute; Paul Rosenessery, The George Washington University Law School; and Ehsan Zaffar, American University Washington College of Law
- WHAT IS SELF-OWNERSHIP?
  Featuring Richard Epstein, NYU School of Law
- COMPLEX PROPERTY ARRANGEMENTS
  Featuring Richard Epstein, NYU School of Law
- DRIVERLESS CARS: INNOVATING REGULATION
  Featuring Victor Schwartz, Shook, Hardy & Bacon
- A CONVERSATION WITH SEN. RAND PAUL
  George Washington University Law School
- ADDRESS BY HON. JEFF SESSIONS
  2017 National Lawyers Convention
- INCOME INEQUALITY: IS IT FAIR OR UNFAIR?
  Yale Law School
- 2017 SUPREME COURT PREVIEW
  The Mayflower Hotel
- TENTH ANNUAL ROSENKRANZ DEBATE
  2017 National Lawyers Convention
- ADDRESS BY SEN. TOM COTTON
  2017 National Lawyers Convention
- ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES & THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY PANEL
  2017 National Lawyers Convention
- THE FREE SPEECH VERNACULAR
  University of Chicago Law School
- MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION CONFERENCE
  Kirkland & Ellis

2017 MOST-WATCHED LIVE STREAMS

- A CONVERSATION WITH SEN. RAND PAUL
  George Washington University Law School
- ADDRESS BY HON. JEFF SESSIONS
  2017 National Lawyers Convention
- INCOME INEQUALITY: IS IT FAIR OR UNFAIR?
  Yale Law School
- 2017 SUPREME COURT PREVIEW
  The Mayflower Hotel
- REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT MICHAEL R. PENCE
  Congress Hall, Philadelphia, PA
- TENTH ANNUAL ROSENKRANZ DEBATE
  2017 National Lawyers Convention
- ADDRESS BY SEN. TOM COTTON
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In 2017, a generous grant allowed us to purchase state-of-the-art video equipment and renovate our video studio.

Tagboards at major events increase engagement on social media. #FedSoc2017 was used 7,800+ times at the NLC.

In 2017, we live streamed 40 events, including 17 events at the National Lawyers Convention, averaging 400 viewers (214 on YouTube and 186 on Facebook).

On June 15, Scalia: Portrait of a Man & Jurist premiered exclusively on Hulu. The Washington Times said of the documentary, “The wide array of primary sources gives viewers new insight into Scalia, even if they are already intimately familiar with the justice’s life and work.” Justice Thomas, who appears in the documentary, said, “That was an incredibly touching video. It really got to me. A beautiful film.” Other interviews include Chief Justice Roberts, Justice Alito, Justice Kagan, Justice Ginsburg, Antonin Scalia’s family, and many legal experts. The documentary is available for free to our student and lawyers chapters to show at events.

Ryan Radia, Competitive Enterprise Institute, explains “Third-Party Doctrine” in a documentary short on digital privacy.

Sam Adkisson, Yale Student Chapter president, introduces Dr. Yaron Brook, Ayn Rand Institute, and Prof. Daniel Markovitz, Yale Law School, at a debate on income inequality. More than 1,200 people watched the live stream. The recording is available on YouTube and has over 250,000 views.

13K+
THE NUMBER OF HOURS OUR VIDEOS WERE WATCHED ON YOUTUBE IN 2017
The Federalist Society is our legal journal, featuring law review-style articles geared toward a non-academic audience of lawyers and law students. We published articles from Volume 18 of the Federalist Society Review throughout 2017, all of which can be found on our website and on Westlaw. Our most popular articles were Blaine Amendments and the Unconstitutionality of Excluding Religious Options From School Choice Programs, by Erica Smith, The Principled Scalia: A Liberal Friend on Scalia’s Liberal Opinions, by Stephen B. Presser, and Morally Innocent, Legally Guilty: The Case for Mens Rea Reform, by John G. Malcolm. We published articles on hot topics like net neutrality and voting rights, and on more obscure but no less important issues like Contract Clause jurisprudence and state non-compete laws. A federal judge shared his “modest proposal” for reducing the size of the federal judiciary, and we published five book reviews on a wide range of subjects. We hope you enjoy reading the Federalist Society Review, and we look forward to bringing you more excellent legal scholarship in Volume 19.

The FedSoc Blog is dedicated to disseminating intellectually diverse, high quality, and regular commentary developed by our experts. The platform serves the mission of the Society by acting as a source for open, fair, and serious discussion on contemporary legal issues. In 2017, we published 113 blog posts with topics spanning across all Federalist Society practice groups and divisions. The blog endeavors to continue to be a pulse for the legal world with its commitment to quality arguments and its characteristic FedSoc tone, style, and charm.

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Colm Watson*
Edward Wenger
Jason Wilson* 
Ben D. Wilson
William Way, Jr.
Charles Yates
Anonymous (1)

* Denotes individuals who are founding members of their respective clubs.

Peter K. Redpath, Federalist Society VP, and Richard Cleary at the Student Leadership Conference Reception.

Devon Westhill, Director of the Regulatory Transparency Project, and Dr. Roger D. Klein at the National Convention.


Lisa B. Ezell and C. David Smith, Federalist Society VPs.

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida addresses the Annual Florida Chapters Conference.

Gov. Matt Bevin, Kentucky, at the KY Chapters Conference.

Hon. Jerry Smith introduces Allyson Ho and Andre Segura at the Annual Texas Chapters Conference.

Hon. Raymond Kethledge at a DC Young Lawyers event.
The Federalist Society 
Annual Report 2017

Independent Audit and Photos

NOTE 9: FMV APPROXIMATIONS
Generally accepted accounting principles outline the use of fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability, in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Valuations for financial instruments are measured at fair value, and where available, the fair values are provided by independent, third-party valuation services. The fair values are subject to periodic review and adjustment based upon market conditions. The Financial Accounting Standards Board has established a fair value measurement framework that provides a single valuation framework for measuring fair value. The fair value measurement framework is based on an observability hierarchy that is significant to fair value measurement. The hierarchy is as follows:

Level 1: Valuation inputs are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 2: Valuation inputs are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the asset or liability, except that one input or more that is unobservable.

Level 3: Valuation inputs are unobservable for the asset or liability.

The fair value hierarchy requires the use of observable inputs whenever available and restricts the use of unobservable inputs. Further, to the extent that observable inputs are not available, the Financial Accounting Standards Board encourages the use of unobservable inputs that are consistent with market conditions. The fair value hierarchy also requires the use of observable inputs when such inputs reflect the current market price of an asset or liability, and the use of unobservable inputs when observable inputs do not reflect the current market price but rather represent management's estimate of the current valuation of the underlying asset or liability. The observable inputs used to measure fair value are classified into the following hierarchy:

Level 1: Prices (quotation) contained in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable inputs or market corroborated inputs for identical or similar assets or liabilities.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs that are not corroborated by market data.

The fair value hierarchy does not require the use of a specific hierarchy. However, the Financial Accounting Standards Board requires fair values to be measured at the lowest level of the fair value hierarchy that includes observable inputs. The fair value hierarchy does not require the use of a specific hierarchy. However, the Financial Accounting Standards Board requires fair values to be measured at the lowest level of the fair value hierarchy that includes observable inputs.

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Justice Clarence Thomas laughs during his interview for Scalia: Portrait of a Man & Jurist.

Justice Samuel A. Alito and Martha-Ann Bomgardner Alito at the Antonin Scalia Memorial Dinner.

Justice President Michael R. Pence speaks to members of the Federalist Society at Congress Hall in Philadelphia, PA.

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“ADVANCEMENT & DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE IS THE ONLY GUARDIAN OF TRUE LIBERTY.”

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