

Georgetown Law Student Bar Association Term 2008-2009



September 1, 2008

Dear 1L, Transfer and LLM Students,

The elections to select your delegates to the Student Bar Association (SBA) will take place from Wednesday, September 10 to Friday, September 12. We encourage everyone to consider running for a position in the SBA House of Delegates. Students have substantial opportunities to shape the Georgetown Law experience and this is one of the best ways to become involved.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

Eligibility is as stated in the SBA Constitution. Any duly registered student of Georgetown University Law Center is eligible to run for a position of his/her respective section in the House of Delegates. The following positions will be elected this fall:

- 1L STUDENTS: Three delegates will be elected from each first year section.
- TRANSFER STUDENTS: One delegate will be elected from amongst transfer students.
- GRADUATE/LLM STUDENTS: Three delegates will be elected from amongst the graduate division.

All delegates will be elected by plurality vote which is conducted electronically through the secured Georgetown Law website.

NOMINATION PROCESS

All candidates must be nominated to run for a particular office in order to appear on the electronic ballot. Students may nominate themselves or one of their peers to stand for election.

In order to make a nomination, send an e-mail stating the nominee's full name and the position for which he or she is being nominated (e.g., John Doe for 1L Section 2 Delegate) to <mailto:sba@law.georgetown.edu?subject=Nomination> (or email sba@law.georgetown.edu with the subject line "Nomination"). In addition, the SBA will have a nomination sign-up sheet on Wednesday Wind Down (Sept. 3rd) from 3:30-5:30pm on Tower Green. Students may also declare their nomination there.

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

Candidates have the option to include a **100-word campaign statement** with their nomination to be published in the *Law Weekly* on Tuesday, September 9 and posted on the SBA website. Nominees wishing to have their statements published in the *Law Weekly* must submit their 100-word statements by Friday, September 5 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

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VOTING

Electronic voting will take place from Wednesday, September 10 through Friday, September 12. All candidates will be listed on the ballot and voters may also write-in candidates in the appropriate location on the electronic ballot.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the SBA Elections Committee by e-mailing sba@law.georgetown.edu?subject=Elections%20Question.

CAMPAIGNING

Please review the campaign rules closely before engaging in any activities designed to promote any candidate.

Email confirmation: All candidates will receive complete instructions and campaign rules in a confirmation e-mail by Friday, September 5 at 7:00 p.m. Receipt of the email is confirmation that a student is officially registered as a candidate.

Timing: Candidates may begin campaigning immediately and may continue campaigning through the close of elections on **Friday, September 12th, 2008, at 11:59pm**. Run-off elections, if required, will occur between **12:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 17th and midnight Thursday, September 18th**. Candidates must clean up all election materials within 48 hours of the close of their respective elections.

Spending Limits: Each Delegate candidate shall be limited to \$50.00 USD in campaign expenditures for Spring 2008 Elections. If multiple candidates choose to run as a "ticket," each ticket shall be limited to \$50.00 USD per ticket candidate in campaign expenditures. These amounts are inclusive of goods, services, or gifts in-kind, and also include any campaign social events held on or off campus. If a run-off campaign is required, each run-off candidate may spend an additional \$25.00 USD in promoting his or her candidacy in the run-off election. Candidates must submit any and all receipts and financial records related to campaigning by filling out the Elections Spending Limits form and placing it in the envelope attached to the door of McDonough Rm. 208-J by Friday, September 12th, 5pm. The forms may be found near the entrance to McDonough Rm. 208-J.

Content/Method of Campaign Messages: Students may campaign in (but are not limited to) the following ways:

- ❖ Flyers/Quarter sheets
- ❖ Posters
- ❖ Buttons
- ❖ Stickers
- ❖ Candy
- ❖ T-Shirts

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Internet Advertisement: If students wish to use the internet (i.e. web pages or emails) to help with their campaign they are free to, provided none of their campaign materials have anything relating to the school on them. More specifically, ***the schools name and/or logo may not appear anywhere on the website or in the message.*** There really isn't any content regulation as to the message of the advertisement so long as the flyers do not attack another candidate personally nor contain any inappropriate material (photographs or vulgarity). Students may collect email addresses from friends and classmates, but they may not use any school-distributed email list for electioneering. All candidate e-mails must include an opt-out statement which instructs the recipients to e-mail the sender if they wish to stop receiving e-mails. Candidates must honor any such opt-out requests; **spamming is strictly prohibited and the Elections Committee will take seriously any violations of this e-mail policy.** Students may also collect their classmates' phone numbers, or use previously collected phone numbers, only, to make campaign phone calls.

In-class announcements: Students are also free to make announcements in class, but of course only with the professor's permission. Anything written on chalkboards is subject to be erased at the discretion of the professor.

Social Events: Candidates may hold social events on or off campus to promote their campaigns, subject to the campaign budget policies outlined above. If candidates hold social events on campus, the Elections Committee will hold candidates responsible for clean-up immediately following their events. Candidates may not reserve a room on campus for campaign events.

Flyers: If students make flyers to post around the school, the Office of Student Life must approve every flyer they post *prior* to posting. **Each advertisement regardless of form must contain the words "SBA ELECTIONS" followed by the date. Contact info must be on each flyer. Candidates can't use the word "Georgetown" on any campaign websites. Each advertisement must abide by all OSL guidelines. When campaigning in Gewirz Residence Hall, each candidate must also abide by the Department of Residence Life guidelines. This includes no door-to-door solicitations of Gewirz residents.**

No computer voting-stations allowed: During the hours of voting, candidates **may not** set up any type of computer station dedicated to voting. This includes setting up personal computers, as well as commandeering public computer terminals for the purposes of procuring votes.

PROBLEMS / COMPLAINTS

Any contestant may demand a recount of their position within 24 hours of certification. The Elections Committee solely handles problems with recounts. The results of the elections are suspended until a recount has taken place. Any contestant may demand a meeting with the election chair within 48 hours of the election if the candidate has a problem with how the election was conducted.

All complaints must be submitted in writing to the SBA at sba@law.georgetown.edu. Any member of the Georgetown community may file a complaint during elections.

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The Elections Committee retains sole authority to resolve disputes concerning any campaign violations prior to certification of the election results. If candidates wish to register a complaint for any reason prior to certification, candidates must submit their complaint in writing to the SBA. The Elections Committee will respond to complaints at its discretion, with responses including the following (listed in order of severity):

1. Warning letter;
2. Suspension of candidate's campaign privileges;
3. Removal of candidate from ballot.

Suspension of campaign privileges is within the sole discretion of the Elections Committee and may not be appealed to the SBA Judiciary Committee. Should the Elections Committee remove a candidate from the ballot, the candidate may immediately appeal to the SBA Judiciary Committee. Even if the candidate appeals, the candidate still may not campaign pending the Judiciary Committee's resolution of the complaint.

If the Elections Committee receives written notice of a complaint regarding the election following the certification of election results, the Elections Committee shall immediately refer the matter to the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee shall, within 48 hours, gather evidence regarding the complaint, give fair hearing to any and all persons requesting an audience, and issue a written majority vote opinion, either upholding the result of the election as certified by the Elections Committee, or else requesting that a new election be held immediately. Candidates may only contest their respective election results.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Conduct during the election is the full responsibility of the SBA Elections Committee. The Elections Committee will take all necessary action not prohibited by these rules, and the SBA Constitution to ensure fair proceedings. Any candidate may direct questions to any member of the Elections Committee. Questions of interpretation will be determined solely by the Elections Committee. The Chairperson may be reached at 302-521-0959 or by placing messages in the SBA box (located in Room 208J).

Best regards,

SBA Elections Committee
Ryan McCauley 3L (Co-Chair)
Caleb Griffin 3L (Co-Chair)
Bill Durkin 2L
Brandon White 2L
Justin Williams 2L