

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER POLICY ON PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND LOBBYING

Purpose

The Georgetown University Law Center encourages and supports the free exchange of ideas and political viewpoints. However, as a non-profit institution of higher education whose activities are regulated in part by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, Georgetown University and the Law Center are generally restricted when engaging in partisan political campaign activity and must place limits on the use of University resources in support of such activity.

The following rules govern the use of Law Center facilities and resources for partisan political activity and lobbying:

Students, Staff, and Faculty

Students, staff and faculty are encouraged to participate in the political process and are free and encouraged to express their individual and collective political views. When doing so, individuals should make clear that the views they express are their own, and should not suggest or imply that they are speaking for or in the name of Georgetown University or Georgetown University Law Center. Individuals may not use the Georgetown name, insignia or seal on material that is used or intended for partisan political campaign or lobbying purposes.

Use of Georgetown University Law Center Facilities and Resources

Recognized student organizations and individual members of the Law Center community that wish to engage in partisan political activities, including supporting or opposing candidates for election to public office, may reserve a table on the first floor of McDonough Hall pursuant to the Tabling Procedures. Once approved to table pursuant to those procedures, they must comply with all other terms of the Tabling Procedures. (All uses of Law Center property, including tabling, are subject to all university policies that establish time, place, and manner restrictions.) Subject to other University requirements, display of campaign materials, including posters, stickers or emblems, is allowed on the person or personal property of individual community members and at tables reserved pursuant to the Tabling Procedures.

Students, faculty, staff, student organizations, and departments may use campus communications to announce political forums and discussions that are sponsored by officially recognized campus organizations. They generally may not use University-supported resources, including Georgetown's phone system, email lists, computer networks or servers, or postal service, for partisan political campaign activity. Individuals in the university community and University-recognized student organizations wishing to engage in partisan political activities other than tabling using Law Center facilities or resources must obtain advanced approval from the Office of Student Life. Requests should be submitted to the Office of Student Life at least one week in advance of a planned activity to facilitate review and approval using the Partisan Political Activity Request Form on Org Sync.

Using Law Center resources other than those addressed or approved through the processes described above or the Georgetown name to fund or support a political campaign or political action group or committee is prohibited, as is the use of the University's tax-exempt number for purchase of anything associated with partisan political campaign activity. Law Center facilities and services may not be used by or on behalf of an outside organization or outside individual whose purpose is to further the cause of a particular political party or candidate.

Lobbying

Student organizations that wish to engage in lobbying in connection with or support of a particular cause may do so in some instances, but only with advance consultation with and approval from the Office of Federal Relations. Student organizations interested in such cause-related activities may contact the Office of Federal Relations at 202-687-3455 or by e-mail to ssf2@georgetown.edu. Of course, individual students are always free to advocate on areas of personal interest before Congress or any other governmental entity without involving the University provided that University resources are not utilized in that regard.

Candidate Speakers and Campaigning

Candidates for public office may appear on campus for an educational or informational talk to the Law Center community, but such appearances must be sponsored by a recognized Law Center organization and approved by the University. Student organizations may not sponsor candidates whose appearance is for fundraising or other purely campaign related purposes and should make clear to speakers who are candidates for political office that they cannot engage in political campaign activity such as fundraising, solicitation, or rallies while on campus. Student organizations must secure approval for such events from the Office of Student Life at least two weeks in advance.

Campaigning and solicitation by candidates or their campaign organizations, including transmission of campaign materials over the internet, leaflet distribution, and display of posters, is not allowed anywhere on Law Center property or using University servers or equipment.

Nonpartisan Political Activities

The University encourages nonpartisan political activities, such as properly organized voter registration activities, voter education programs and candidate debates, that do not evidence a preference for or opposition to a political party or to candidates who have taken a particular position and which provide an equal forum for opposing parties and candidates. In order to ensure that all legal and university requirements are followed, advance approval for these events must be obtained from (and all materials must be reviewed by) the Office of Student Life.