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University of Virginia School of Law



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Overview⁵

Founded by Thomas Jefferson in 1819, the University Of Virginia School Of Law is a world-renowned training ground for distinguished lawyers and public servants. Consistently ranked among the top law schools in the nation, Virginia has educated generations of lawyers, instilling in them a commitment to leadership, integrity and community service.

Virginia is justly famous for its collegial environment that bonds students and faculty, and student satisfaction is consistently cited as among the highest in American law schools. At Virginia, law students share their experiences in a cooperative spirit, both in and out of the classroom, and build a network that lasts well beyond their three years here.

Student-Faculty Ratio⁶

11.3:1

Admission Criteria⁷

	LSAT	GPA
25th-75th Percentile	164-170	3.52-3.94
Median*	169	3.87

Law School Admissions details based on 2013 data.

*Medians have been calculated by averaging the 25th- and 75th-percentile values released by the law schools and have been rounded up to the nearest whole number for LSAT scores and to the nearest one-hundredth for GPAs.

Admission Statistics⁷

Approximate number of applications	6048
Number accepted	1071
Acceptance rate	17.7%

The above admission details are based on 2013 data.

Class Ranking and Grades⁸⁻¹⁰

The Law School does not use or disclose class rank except for limited purposes, such as determination of specific academic awards. Grades in each course are awarded to an enforced mean. Instructors ensure that grades have an adequate distribution around this mean.

Under the current grading system, there are 10 possible grades that can be used by the faculty in evaluating performance in courses and seminars: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D and F. In a few select courses, the grades S (Satisfactory) and U (Unsatisfactory), or CR (Credit) and NC (No Credit) are awarded. No credit is awarded for a course in which a student receives an F, NC, U, W (Withdrawn) or WF (Withdrawn Failing) grade. The grades U and NC are treated as F grades for all purposes.

The numerical grade point values for letter grades are as follows:

Letter Grade	Value
A+	4.3
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
D	1.0
F	0.0

Candidates for the J.D. degree must accumulate 86 credits while satisfying two conditions: a student must maintain a minimum grade point average of C+ (2.3) and accumulate fewer than three exclusion points at the conclusion of each academic year. A grade of D carries one exclusion point and a grade of F carries two exclusion points. It is the intent of the faculty that, for the purpose of allocating grades in a course or seminar and to assist in achieving grade uniformity, the mean grade for each course and seminar will be a 3.3. However, there is no particular grading curve to which a faculty member must adhere. Thus, the mean can be achieved either by averaging relatively high and low grades or by having most grades grouped more closely around the B+ (3.3) mean.

Awards¹¹

Name of Award	Awarded for/to
Bracewell & Giuliani Oral Advocacy Awards	Established by the Houston firm in 1988 for one student from each first-year small section for his or her outstanding appellate brief and one student from each first-year small section for outstanding oral advocacy.
Mortimer Caplin Public Service Award	Established in 1992 by Mortimer Caplin, '40, the commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service under President John F. Kennedy, for a graduating student who is entering a career in the public service sector and who demonstrates the qualities of leadership, integrity and service to others.
Mortimer Caplin Public Service Fellowship	For exceptional law students who accept low-paying or unpaid public service internships during the summer.
Edwin S. Cohen Tax Prize	For the graduating student who has demonstrated superior scholarship in the tax area.
Claire Corcoran Award	For one or two second-year students who have demonstrated the most commitment to public interest work.
Hardy Cross Dillard Prize	Established in honor of Hardy Cross Dillard, retired judge of the International Court of Justice and former dean and James Monroe Professor of Law, for the best student note in a current volume of the Virginia Journal of International Law.
Hardy Cross Dillard Scholarships	For exceptional members of the entering class based on – in addition to financial need – prior academic achievement, leadership, integrity, service to others, success in endeavors outside the classroom and maturity.
Faculty Award for Academic Excellence	For the most outstanding academic record during the three years in the Law School.
Linda Fairstein Public Service Fellowship	For exceptional law students who accept low-paying or unpaid public service internships during the summer.
Carl M. Franklin Prize	Established at his 50th reunion in 1998 by Dr. Carl M. Franklin '48 for the highest grade point average at the end of the first year of law school.
Robert E. Goldsten ('40) Award	Established by Robert E. Goldsten for the student who has contributed the most to classroom participation.
Eppa Hunton IV Memorial Book Award	Established in 1977 by the Richmond, Va., law firm Hunton & Williams, in honor of Eppa Hunton IV '27, for a third-year student who has demonstrated unusual aptitude in litigation courses and shown a keen awareness and understanding of the lawyer's ethical and professional responsibility.

Margaret G. Hyde Award	Established in 1930 by Forrest J. Hyde Jr. '15 for an outstanding member of the graduating class whose scholarship, character, personality, activities in the affairs of the school and promise of efficiency have entitled him or her to special recognition.
Jackson Walker LLP Award	For the highest grade point average after four semesters.
Herbert L. Kramer/Herbert Bangel Community Service Award	Established in 1989 by Herbert Kramer '52 for a third-year student who has contributed the most to the community during law school.
Law School Alumni Association Best Note Award	For the best note in a current issue of a Law School publication.
Thomas Marshall Miller Prize	Established by Emily Miller Danton in 1982 in memory of her father, Thomas Marshall Miller, who attended the Law School, for an outstanding and deserving member of the graduating class.
Monroe Leigh Fellowship in International Law	This fellowship was established in honor of Monroe Leigh '47 for one or two students to pursue a public international law project of their own choosing during the summer following their first, second or third year.
National Association of Women Lawyers Award	For an outstanding woman in the graduating class.
Norton Rose Fulbright Best Memorandum Award	Established in 2005 for one student from each first-year small section for his or her outstanding major memorandum of law submitted at the end of the student's fall semester.
John M. Olin Prize in Law and Economics	For outstanding work in the field of law and economics.
Powell Fellowship in Legal Services	Established in honor of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell Jr. for a graduating student or judicial clerk to work in public interest law and to enhance the delivery of legal services to the poor under the sponsorship of a public interest organization.
Pro Bono Award	For extraordinary commitment to pro bono legal service during Law School.
Pro Bono Service Awards	For graduates who have successfully fulfilled the requirements of the Law School's Pro Bono Program.
Mary Claiborne and Roy H. Ritter Prizes	Four prizes for character, honor and integrity, established in 1985 by C. Willis Ritter '65 to honor his parents.
Rosenbloom Award	Established by Daniel Rosenbloom '54 for a student with a strong academic record who has significantly enhanced the academic experience of other law students by volunteering support and assistance to them.
Shannon Award	Established by the Z Society to encourage outstanding scholarship at the University for the highest academic record after five semesters.

Earle K. Shawe Labor Relations Award	Established in honor of the late Hardy C. Dillard by Earle K. Shawe '34 for the graduating student who shows the greatest promise of becoming a successful practitioner in the field of labor relations.
James M. Shoemaker, Jr., Moot Court Awards	For the final-round participants in the William Minor Lile Moot Court competition.
James C. Slaughter Honor Award	Established by the Textile Veterans Association in honor of James C. Slaughter '51 for an outstanding member of the graduating class.
Stephen Pierre Traynor Award	Established in 1970 by the late Roger J. Traynor, former chief justice of the California Supreme Court, in memory of his son, for excellence in appellate advocacy.
Roger and Madeleine Traynor Prize	Established in 1980 by a gift from retired Chief Justice and Mrs. Traynor of California for the best written work by two graduating students.
Trial Advocacy Award	For a graduating student who best exemplifies the attributes of an effective trial lawyer.
Virginia State Bar Family Law Book Award	Established by the Family Law Section of the Virginia State Bar and the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers for the graduating student who has demonstrated the most promise and potential for the practice of family law.

Journals¹²

The **Journal of Law & Politics** is the first and only nonpartisan publication devoted exclusively to examining the interaction between law and politics. Founded in 1982 under the guidance of then-Circuit Judge Antonin Scalia, this interdisciplinary publication consists of articles, essays, and commentaries by scholars, practitioners and national political leaders.

The **Virginia Journal of Criminal Law**, created in 2010, publishes scholarly articles on criminal law and procedure twice yearly. The Journal also sponsors legal symposia and conferences.

The **Virginia Environmental Law Journal** is dedicated to providing a national forum for research and discussion in the areas of environmental and natural resource law. Published quarterly by Law School students, the Journal includes articles by scholars, practitioners and environmental professionals, as well as student notes, on a broad array of topics from environmental justice to corporate liability.

The **Virginia Journal of International Law** is the oldest continuously published, student-edited law review in the United States devoted exclusively to the fields of public and private international law. The Journal is considered by many to be the finest and most authoritative journal of its kind.

The **Virginia Journal of Law & Technology** is UVA Law's only e-journal. VJoLT provides a forum for students, professors and practitioners to discuss emerging issues at the intersection of law and technology. Recent issues have included articles on biotechnology, telecommunications, e-commerce, Internet privacy and encryption.

The **Virginia Journal of Social Policy & the Law** is a student-edited law journal which publishes articles exploring the intersection of law and social policy issues. Recognizing the significance of the law and legal institutions on social conditions, the Journal provides a forum in which to examine

contending legal, judicial and political perspectives. Among the issues the Journal addresses are: health care policy, welfare reform, criminal justice, voting rights, civil rights, family law, employment law, gender issues, education and critical race theory.

The **Virginia Law & Business Review** is a premier journal of business law scholarship. It is published three times a year by law students of the University of Virginia. The student-editors are members of the Virginia Law & Business Review Association, a not-for-profit corporation chartered in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Journal addresses accounting, antitrust law, bankruptcy law, commercial law, corporations law, corporate finance, corporate governance, employment law, mergers and acquisitions, real estate law, securities regulation, secured transactions, takeover litigation, venture capital financing and other corporate law subjects.

The **Virginia Law Review** is a journal of general legal scholarship that publishes eight times a year.

The **Virginia Sports & Entertainment Law Journal** focuses on all aspects of both sports and entertainment law. Published biannually by the students and the law school, the Journal features articles written by sports and entertainment law professors, as well as those written by experienced practitioners in the sports and entertainment law fields.

The **Virginia Tax Review** is published four times each year and focuses primarily on federal and international taxation, as well as pure business legal issues. Founded in 1980, it is one of the oldest student-run law journals at the University Of Virginia School Of Law and is regarded as a top tax specialty journal.

Moot Court¹³

Students compete in appellate moot court and trial advocacy competitions nationwide, and the law school also is home to one of the most famous moot court competitions.

William Minor Lile Moot Court Competition

About 80 second-year students, competing in two-person teams, hone their oral argument skills in the annual William Minor Lile Moot Court Competition. Distinguished federal and state judges preside in the semifinal and final rounds. Winners receive a cash prize and their names are inscribed on a plaque located outside the three moot courtrooms. Teams of students chosen from among those entered in the competition may represent the law school in the national Moot Court Competition and other extramural competitions nationwide.

Extramural Moot Court

Extramural Moot Court is part of the William Minor Lile Moot Court program. Students from all years are welcome to try out for Extramural Moot Court.

Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Team

Each year law students compete in the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition, the largest moot court competition in the world, with over 100 countries and 500 law schools participating. The competition simulates a dispute before the International Court of Justice and participating students gain expertise in both public and private international law. Selection for the Jessup Team is based upon a formal tryout and an interview.

Clinical Programs^{14, 15}

The **Appellate Litigation Clinic** is a yearlong clinic allows 12 students to engage in the hands-on practice of appellate litigation through actual cases before various federal circuit and/or state courts of appeals. The students are teamed up and assigned to handle primary responsibility for work on at least one appellate case during the course of the year.

The **Child Advocacy Clinic** includes two semesters of supervised legal representation of children, supported by a weekly clinical seminar that meets during the fall semester. The majority of legal work involves the representation of clients in the juvenile justice system or children being denied legally mandated educational opportunities, but students may also represent children in cases involving immigration, services for incarcerated children, mental health and developmental disabilities law, and foster care and social services law. All students have the opportunity to work on policy issues affecting children.

The **Consumer Law Clinic** requires students to participate in case work in both the fall and spring semesters. In addition, in the fall, students meet once a week in a seminar to learn basic information about various consumer protection statutes while doing exercises covering the entire range of client representation. They also learn about the role of the recently created Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, a federal agency set up to help protect consumers. In the seminar, students hear from guest speakers on problems that consumers face and practical suggestions for ways they can protect consumers' rights. Finally, students are given the chance to identify ways that the rules affecting consumers should be changed and to work on making such changes happen.

The **Criminal Defense Clinic** represents defendants in actual criminal cases pending in the local courts under the direct supervision of an experienced local criminal defense attorney. The students themselves – not their supervising attorneys – perform all of the lawyering functions associated with their cases, including interviewing, investigation, research, plea negotiation and courtroom advocacy. In regular conferences, supervising attorneys guide the students' case preparation, give practical advice and help develop defense strategies. The full clinic meets twice weekly in seminar sessions where substantive areas of criminal defense practice are covered, including client management, evidentiary issues, criminal procedure, sentencing options and ethical responsibilities. At the conclusion of each case the student prepares a brief memorandum reciting the narrative of the case and making critical reflections on the decisions made during the representation that affected the outcome.

The **Employment Law Clinic** enables students, in cooperation with the Legal Aid Justice Center and local attorneys, to participate throughout the year in litigating actual employment cases. These cases may include wrongful discharge actions, unemployment compensation claims, employment discrimination charges or any other claims arising out of the employment relationship. Specific assignments vary but students generally conduct client interviews, participate in discovery, draft motions and assist with trial preparation. Students also may argue some motions (with appropriate Third Year Practice Certification); 2Ls may provide direct representation in Unemployment Insurance Hearings.

The **Entrepreneurial Law Clinic** focuses on advising startup companies. Students participate in a series of class sessions over the first half of the semester covering the topics most frequently encountered by startup businesses, including pre-venture counseling, entity choice, formation documents, shareholder agreements, IP protection, etc. Then, students receive first-hand experience in working with real startup companies under the supervision of the course instructor and supervisor.

The students take the lead role in working with the entrepreneurs, including conducting interviews, performing research, providing a legal plan for the business, identifying documents to be drafted and drafting documents.

The **Environmental Law and Conservation Clinic** enables students to represent environmental nonprofits, citizens' groups and other community organizations seeking to protect and restore the environment of Virginia and other parts of the country. The clinic works closely with lawyers at the Southern Environmental Law Center, a preeminent environmental public interest law firm headquartered in Charlottesville. Students participate in a range of activities on environmental matters. They comment on administrative rules, participate in permitting proceedings, advocate before state administrative agencies and boards, and contribute to factual investigations and litigation. The clinic explores the limits of the law in protecting natural resources and examines cooperative and innovative ways of protecting and restoring the environment.

The **Family Alternative Dispute Resolution Clinic** allows students to serve not as attorneys representing clients, but as mediators assisting the parties to develop mutually agreeable resolutions to their disputes. Students learn about the differences between litigation and mediation while enhancing their negotiation skills—skills that are important in many different substantive law areas. In addition, students gain a solid understanding of mediation ethics, creative problem-solving and the role of neutral facilitator versus that of advocate.

The **First Amendment Clinic** is supervised by the legal staff of the Thomas Jefferson Center and attorneys from Baker Hostetler. Students work as a team in conducting legal research, meeting with clients and co-counsel, and drafting legal memoranda and briefs. Assignments involve both appellate-level and trial-level litigation, but more frequently the former including the U.S. Supreme Court.

The **Health Law Clinic** addresses systemic issues related to the provision of community-based services, the rights of the institutionalized, and the interface between the civil and criminal justice systems. Instruction in the substantive law of these areas will be provided in a classroom component throughout the clinic as dictated by the needs of the clients. The classroom component provides a forum for students to learn mental health, disability law, and elder law pertinent to the cases they are handling, as well as for the discussion of practice and ethical issues arising in those cases. Topics relating to the nature of psychiatric diagnosis and mental disorders, client competence and surrogate decision-making for incompetent clients and competence and autonomy issues involving mentally ill and elderly clients also are addressed.

The **Immigration Law Clinic** allows students to help clients from diverse backgrounds with diverse legal cases. Students are expected to work with the clients and understand what they want and what can be pursued for them through available legal mechanisms. Women victims of violence are a priority with the clinic and can qualify for asylum and other special remedies such as through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and U visa petitions. The clinic currently has several so-called gang asylum cases from Central America. Other categories of cases include clients appealing denials of applications for status, clients appealing for special categorization or procedures and clients who have cases complicated by past criminal or immigration history.

The **Innocence Project at the UVA School of Law** focuses on the problem of wrongful convictions. Preliminary cases are assigned to individual clinic students for factual development and evaluation to determine whether or not the clinic should accept the case. The decision to accept or decline representation is made by the full clinic with the final decision being made by Professor Deirdre Enright. Students work in teams of 3-4 to investigate and litigate the cases that are accepted. The

clinic includes a mandatory classroom component but most time is devoted to casework – interviewing potential clients and witnesses, general investigation, reviewing case files, collecting records, searching court files and drafting pleadings. Students visit inmates at correctional centers and conduct investigation in a wide variety of socioeconomic settings accompanied by a clinic professor, private investigator or, in some instances, another student.

The **International Human Rights Law Clinic** is geared to build the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective human rights lawyer; to integrate the theory and practice of human rights; and to expose students to a range of human rights issues. There is no direct client representation in this clinic. Students collaborate on two or more projects in small teams, and have direct contact with the partner-clients. Some travel may be involved. Class discussions focus on human rights norms and institutions of implementation/enforcement, dilemmas in advocacy, and the legal, strategic, ethical and theoretical issues raised by the project work. The clinic provides substantial opportunity to develop international law research and writing skills, and to network with human rights practitioners.

The **Litigation and Housing Law Clinic** includes both a one-semester seminar to teach basic substantive housing law and yearlong supervised client representation in housing-related cases and matters. The caseload includes trials, administrative proceedings and interaction with low-income clients. Students handle eviction cases, rent escrow cases, grievance hearings, abatement of substandard building conditions and other enforcement of residents' rights. Under the supervision of an attorney, students perform all the lawyer functions associated with their cases, including client and witness interviews, factual development, legal research, preparation of pleadings and negotiation. Issues arise under private landlord-tenant contracts, federally subsidized rental programs and anti-discrimination statutes such as the Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The **Nonprofit Clinic** examines corporate law and governance principles through the lens of Virginia state and local laws applied to clients' issues. Check-in sessions support practical work for clients. Client communication, organization and document-editing skills are key to success in the course.

The **Patent and Licensing Clinic** covers evaluation of inventions and computer software for patentability and commercial value; counseling of UVA faculty inventors regarding patentability, inventorship and the patenting process; preparing, filing and prosecuting provisional U.S. patent applications; dealing with patent examiners; and researching current issues in the fields of intellectual property and technology transfer. Some exposure to international patent applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty may be possible. Students help resolve disputes with licensees and possible infringers where appropriate.

The **Prosecution Clinic** involves a combination of classroom lectures and discussions, readings, guest speakers and a field placement in one of several local participating prosecutors' offices. Students explore a range of practical, ethical and intellectual issues involved in the discharge of a prosecutor's duties and responsibilities, including the exercise of discretion in the decision to initiate, prosecute, reduce or drop charges, and sentencing; interaction between prosecutors and investigative agencies and law enforcement personnel; dealing with victims and other witnesses; and relationships with defense counsel. Ethical issues addressed may include: exculpatory evidence, duty not to prosecute on less than probable cause, cross-warrant situations, witness recantation and preparation, and improper argument at trial.

The **Supreme Court Litigation Clinic** allows students to handle actual cases related to Supreme Court litigation, from the seeking of Supreme Court review to briefing on the merits. Classes meet every week to discuss drafts of briefs and other papers students have prepared for submission to the court.

Students are expected to identify candidates for Supreme Court review; draft petitions for certiorari, amicus merits briefs and party merits briefs; and attend Supreme Court arguments.

Placement Facts¹⁶

Starting Salaries (2011 Graduates Employed Full-Time)

Private sector (25th-75th percentile)	\$135,000- \$160,000
Private sector - Median	\$160,000
Public service - Median	\$53,000

Employment Details

Graduates known to be employed at graduation	97.5%
Graduates known to be employed nine months after graduation	97.3%

Areas of Legal Practice

Graduates Employed	Percentage
Law Firms	56.9%
Business and Industry	3.6%
Government	10.1%
Public Interest Organizations	10.1%
Judicial Clerkships	18.8%
Academia	0.6%
Unknown	0.0%

Externships/Internships

Externships¹⁷

UVA Law's externships program allows students to make connections between legal theory and practice during their second and third years of law school. Through the program students can earn academic credit while working in the public sector under the supervision of a lawyer. The program includes three options: UVA Law in DC, Part-Time Externships, and Full-Time Externships.

UVA Law in DC

UVA Law in DC is a curricular offering requiring 35 hours per week of work at the host organization, which must be a government office or agency or a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization. Students participate in a weekly seminar in Washington, complete directed reading and writing assignments, and write a research paper on an approved topic relevant to the host organization's work.

Part-Time Externships

Part-time externships are primarily local and require students to work 10 hours per week for the host organization, as well as complete reading and short writing assignments.

Full-Time Externships

Full-time externships may be local, national or international, and require 35 hours per week of work at the host organization. Students must design a course of study and work under the supervision of a faculty member to complete directed readings and academic writing assignments, including a substantial research paper on an approved topic relevant to the host organization's work.

Internships¹⁸

Judicial Internship

Students can participate in judicial internships - unpaid summer positions in which law students act as quasi-law clerks to judges. Judges use interns in different ways, but many assign them tasks similar to those that their law clerks perform. Interns attend judicial proceedings, hone legal research and writing skills by crafting bench memos or even drafts of opinions, and have the opportunity to discuss legal issues with the judge and his or her law clerks.

Student Organizations²¹

- A Cappellate Opinions
- Action for a Better Living Environment (ABLE)
- Advocates for Life at Virginia Law (AFL)
- American Constitution Society for Law and Policy
- The Aristotle Society
- Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)
- Black Law Students Association (BLSA)
- Child Advocacy Research and Education (CARE)
- Conference on Public Service and the Law
- Domestic Violence Project
- Extramural Moot Court
- Federalist Society
- Feminist Legal Forum
- First Year Council (FYC)
- Graduate Law Students (GLSA)
- Honor Committee
- Health Law Association
- Human Rights Study Project, Cowan Fellows
- JD/MBA Society
- Jean Pictet Society for International Humanitarian Law
- Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA)
- John Bassett Moore Society of International Law (J.B. Moore)
- Korean American Law Student Association (KALSA)
- Lambda Law Alliance
- Latin American Law Organization (LALO; formally Voz Latina)
- Law Christian Fellowship (LCF)
- Law School Football League (LSFL)
- Law Student Advocacy Project (LSAP) (part of VELLA)
- Legal Advisory Workshops for Undergraduate Students (LAW for US)
- The Libel Show
- Migrant Farmworker Project (Part of LALO)

- Moot Court Board
- National Lawyers Guild
- National Trial Advocacy Team
- Native American Law Students Association (NALSA)
- North Grounds Softball League (NGSL)
- Outdoors at VA Law
- Peer Advisor Program
- Phi Delta Phi International Legal Honor Society - Minor Inn
- Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Team
- Public Interest Law Association (PILA)
- Rex E. Lee Law Society (RELLS)
- Rivanna Investments
- Secular Legal Society
- St. Thomas More Society
- Street Law
- Student Bar Association (SBA)
- Student Legal Forum (SLF)
- Virginia Animal Law Society (VALS)
- Virginia Employment and Labor Law Association (VELLA)
- Virginia Entrepreneurial Society
- Virginia Environmental Law Forum (VELF)
- Virginia Law & Business Society
- Virginia Law Democrats
- Virginia Law Families
- Virginia Law Rod & Gun Club
- Virginia Law Students for Reproductive Justice
- Virginia Law Veterans
- Virginia Law Weekly (newspaper)
- Virginia Law Wine Society
- Virginia Law Women (VLW)
- Virginia Society of Law & Technology (VSLAT)
- Virginia Sports Law Society
- Volunteer Income Tax Association (VITA)
- West Coast Wahoos
- Women of Color

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