

President's Welcome to 1L's

As President of the NSU Federalist Society, I personally would like to welcome you to the Shepard Broad College of Law. Over the next three years you will be trying to learn how our legal system works and what the law is. You may also learn how much you did not know about our federal system of government and its Constitutional underpinnings (what 8th grade civics never taught you).

Unfortunately, some instructors may focus on how they think the law ought to be. This may be understandable in a university environment where practicality gives way to theory. However, theirs is not the only view of the world of law and that is one reason for The Federalist Society.

The Society seeks to broaden the debate and provide an alternative view to that often encountered in law schools across the nation. To quote from The Federalist Society's statement of 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."

Not all learning can be had from books. Much is learned in law school through contact with thinkers, judges, and civic leaders, but even more valuable is thoughtful debate between you and your friends and colleagues. The Federalist Society, by broadening the law school debate with its publications and invited speakers, provides a forum for a fuller inquiry into today's legal issues than you will receive from your textbooks.

I encourage you to participate in Federalist Society activities and invite you to join at www.fedsoc.org/membership

Chloe Leedom
President, NSU Federalist Society