

## **Guidelines for Law Student Chapters of the Republican National Lawyers Association**

The national office of the Republican National Lawyers Association (RNLA) will approve the formation of law school chapters and recognize the chapter on its “law students” page at [www.rnla.org](http://www.rnla.org).

Questions about student chapters can be sent to Membership Director Anna Dean at [dean@republicanlawyer.net](mailto:dean@republicanlawyer.net).

### **Chapter Membership**

- Law school chapters should follow all applicable rules and regulations set forth for student groups by the law school.
- All officers of the chapter must be national law student members of the RNLA. Chapter leaders should encourage students to join the RNLA as law student members. National law student member dues are only \$10 per year.
- Chapter leadership should send a chapter update at minimum three times per year to RNLA staff: at the beginning of the fall semester, in between the fall and spring semesters, and at the end of the spring semester (or at an equivalent time for schools on a quarterly schedule). These updates should include a leadership contact list, current membership list, and a brief summary of activities that the chapter participated in since the previous update.
- Chapter leadership should notify RNLA of any changes to its executive board in between normal updates in a timely manner.
- All internal chapter governance matters should be handled internally.
- RNLA does not approve or sign off on local chapter charters, constitutions, or bylaws. However, official RNLA chapters must include the following clause in their constitution:

*[Organization name] is an official student chapter of the Republican National Lawyers Association and will comply with all guidelines for student chapters set forth by the national organization.*

- Furthermore, RNLA does not control or intervene in the election of officers; intervene in internal chapter disputes; or intervene in disputes between the chapter and its law school. RNLA requests that at least one officer be a first or second year student.
- RNLA law school chapters should host at least one executive board meeting each fall semester and each spring semester (or similarly timed meetings for schools with a quarterly schedule). This can be in conjunction with a general body meeting.

- RNLA law school chapters should host at least one general body meeting each spring semester and each fall semester.
- RNLA law school chapters will be recognized on the RNLA website once they are approved as a registered student organization by their law school. (Approval of chapters not officially recognized by a law school will be considered on a case-by-case basis.)
- Law school chapter leaders should strive to act in a professional, lawful, and ethical manner as representatives not only of the RNLA but of the Republican Party and its ideals. In particular, all election-related activities of the chapter should seek to promote open, fair, and honest elections at all levels of American society in a non-discriminatory manner and to provide access to the polls to all qualified and eligible voters.
- RNLA abides by President Ronald Reagan's Eleventh Commandment: "Thou shalt not speak ill of any fellow Republican." As such, no RNLA student chapter is permitted to endorse candidates during primaries. Furthermore, attacking other Republicans will not be tolerated. (This restriction is only regarding endorsements by the Chapter or with an officer title. Individuals can endorse a candidate.)
- Law school chapters may not hold candidate fundraisers, without regard to what is permitted by state law. They may not conduct any activity that would be considered an electioneering communication, independent expenditure, or similar campaign activity that would trigger disclosure, disclaimer, registration or reporting requirements with a campaign finance regulatory body.
- All chapter leaders are prohibited from issuing press releases in their role as chapter leader without pre-approval from RNLA national, by its Executive Director. Chapter leaders are welcome to talk to the media in their individual capacities; however, all media requests for comments on behalf of RNLA on RNLA national matters shall be directed to the RNLA National Executive Director.

### **Funding**

- A limited amount of funding is available from the RNLA national office to reimburse event costs, and these funds are distributed at the sole discretion of the RNLA Executive Director or Deputy Director.
  - If a law student chapter would like to apply for funding towards event costs, the chapter leader or liaison must submit a written request to the RNLA national office prior to the event, and the request must be approved in writing before any reimbursement will be issued.

- Expenses that have been pre-approved will only be reimbursed when receipts have been sent to Membership Director Anna Dean at dean@republicanlawyer.net.
- Expense reimbursement will only be issued for expenses related to hosting the event, such as refreshments or printing promotional signs. The RNLA does not cover the cost of speakers such as travel expenses or honoraria.
- Preference for reimbursement of event expenses will be given to chapters with a large number of national RNLA law student members and chapters in target (or swing) states for federal elections.
- The RNLA can hold funds for law student chapters. This money will be segregated and held only for that chapter. Alternatively, law student chapters can maintain their own accounts if they are receiving funds from the school and are required to have separate accounts. All student chapters should carefully review their law school's requirements for the management of chapter funds.
- All chapter funds must be used only for chapter events and other chapter activities. They cannot be donated to candidates or political party committees or used for any non-chapter purpose.

### **Priority for National Opportunities**

- Law school chapter members receive priority for volunteer opportunities at national RNLA events and for receiving Robert J. Horn Law Student Fund scholarships to attend RNLA national events.
- Law school chapter members applying to work as RNLA's law clerk will receive priority consideration.
  - RNLA has a part-time remote law clerk during the fall and spring semesters who can be located anywhere in the United States.
  - RNLA has a full-time remote law clerk during the summer semester who must be located in the Washington D.C. area.

### **RNLA National Law Student Chair**

- There can be an RNLA National Law Student Chair. He or she will work with the RNLA national staff and board of governors on all law student affairs.
- The RNLA National Law Student Chair will be appointed by the Executive Director or Deputy Director for a one-year non-renewable term.

- The RNLA National Law Student Chair must be a member of a law student chapter as well as a national member.
- The National Law Student Chair must be a law student. Upon graduation, he or she will surrender the title.