Student Organizations and Activities

The University of Chicago Law Review, founded in 1933 and published by the School, is written and managed by students. Students who submit promising work in an annual writing competition, as well as students who rank highest in scholarship upon completion of their first year, are invited to become members of the Review staff. In recent years, about 20 percent of the students in each first-year class have been invited to participate on the Review. From these groups, the managing board and associate editors are chosen. Students who are not invited at the end of the first year but who later write comments that are accepted for publication in the Review may be asked to join the staff.

The Hinton Moot Court Competition, founded in 1954, and named for Judge Edward W. Hinton (Professor of Law, 1913–36), is open to all second- and third-year students. The competition builds upon the work of the first-year tutorial program in developing skills in appellate advocacy. The focus of the preliminary fall round is on oral argument. After studying the briefs and record of an actual case and participating in several practice arguments with student judges, each competitor must argue both sides of the case to panels of Chicago alumni. Twelve students advance to the semifinal round, where they work in teams to brief and argue another case. A panel of faculty members hears the semifinal arguments and selects the four best advocates. In the spring, the four finalists again work in teams on yet another case. The briefs produced in the final round are printed and distributed to the Law School community. A panel of distinguished judges presides at the final argument, which is one of the highlights of the academic year. The competition is conducted by third-year students who comprise the Hinton Moot Court Committee, with the assistance of a faculty adviser and an alumni adviser.

The Mandel Legal Aid Association is the student organization associated with the work of the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic. The Mandel Clinic, housed in the Law School, operates as an office of the Legal Aid Bureau of Chicago. It is directed by Gary H. Palm, Professor in the Law School. The attorneys are Clinical Fellows in the Law School. The clinical program is described more fully elsewhere in these Announcements.

The Law Student Association is the student government organization. Its president and five representatives from each class are elected annually by the student body. The Association organizes social and other extracurricular activities during the academic year and, through its officers and committees, serves as a means of communicating student opinion on academic and other matters. The Association sponsors the weekly Wine Mess for students and faculty, a traditional feature of social life in the School, and arranges for faculty-student meetings, speaker programs, and Law School parties. The Association is responsible for funding a wide variety of student groups at the School, including BALSA, a local chapter of a national organization concerned with the interests of black students in law schools; the Law Women's Caucus, a group concerned with the role of women in the legal profession; Phi Delta Phi, a national legal fraternity; the Law School Film Society; the International and Comparative Law Society; the Chicago Law Foundation, a nonprofit organization which provides funds for law school students to work on public interest legal projects; and the Federalist Society, organized to promote discussion of political issues from a conservative perspective.