

From: Sueoka, Sam [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Petition to remove a student organization

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Date: February 4, 2021 at 2:24 PM

To: Simantov, Amanda [REDACTED]

Cc: Watrin, Colin [REDACTED]; Tatum, Ean [REDACTED]; Wilson, Jamie [REDACTED]; Gregson, Afton [REDACTED]; Mintz-Gentz, Samantha [REDACTED]; DiBiase, Kristin [REDACTED]

Hello Amanda,

Thank you for sharing with me this information. No further action will be pursued at this time regarding this matter. However, I will take this opportunity to put Afton Gregson and other Fed Soc members on notice, that further action will be pursued next semester with the new SBA representatives. A group of students and I plan on lobbying candidates who will commit to having **every** student organization make a formal commitment to condemning white supremacy, anti-blackness, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, racism, sexism, and ableism.

Thank you Sam Mintz-Gentz for taking the time to write up the Parli Response, I will save it for future reference. If any of you are running for re-election I look forward to working with you regarding this matter in the near future.

Best,

Sam Sueoka

J.D. Candidate 2022

Seattle University School of Law

Vice President | Seattle University National Lawyers Guild Chapter

Seattle Journal for Social Justice Staff

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Pronouns: he, him, his

From: Simantov, Amanda [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 7:54 AM

To: Sueoka, Sam [REDACTED]

Cc: Watrin, Colin [REDACTED]; Tatum, Ean [REDACTED]; Wilson, Jamie [REDACTED]; Gregson, Afton [REDACTED];

Mintz-Gentz, Samantha [REDACTED]; DiBiase, Kristin [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Petition to remove a student organization

Good morning, Sam.

I am in receipt of your email to Dean DiBiase and her subsequent response to you. Dean DiBiase is correct. We are not the appropriate forum for this matter and the SBA Executive Board recommends that your concern be sent to the Judicial Board. Our Parliamentarian, Sam Mintz-Gentz, has drafted a response to further support this recommendation. You will find the document attached. The document includes contact information for the Chief Justice of the Judicial Board, Christopher "Mike" Davis.

I hope you are staying well

I hope you are staying well.

Amanda Simantov
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
Seattle University School of Law
Class of 2021
Student Bar Association | President

SBA Office Hours (Spring 2021):
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am-1pm

From: DiBiase, Kristin [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 7:05 PM
To: Sueoka, Sam [REDACTED]
Cc: Watrin, Colin [REDACTED], Simantov, Amanda [REDACTED], Tatum, Ean [REDACTED], Wilson, Jamie [REDACTED] >, Gregson, Afton [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Petition to remove a student organization

Hi, Sam--

As members of the Federalist Society have mentioned, the official stance of the national organization, and by extension, the Seattle U chapter, is not to take public policy positions or participate in activism.

In reality, however, many individuals affiliated with the national organization and its various chapters across the country have actively engaged in activism and actions designed to impact public policy over the years. In the aggregate, the actions of those individuals have permanently shaped the American public's general perception of the Federalist Society: what it stands for, what its members believe, and how united they are in those beliefs. As a result, the executive board members of the SU chapter are the face of the organization in our law school's community and carry the weight of that reputation. I don't consider it unreasonable or unexpected that controversial actions taken by prominent individuals who count themselves among FedSoc membership would trigger criticism of the organization from people who are opposed to those actions.

As you noted, we are a law school known for its emphasis on social justice; but first and foremost, we are a law school. While I do believe that individuals have the right to zealously and respectfully challenge opposing views, I find the desire to take action against a student organization in these circumstances troubling. The concept of a free exchange of ideas is a bedrock principle in American jurisprudence, and as a representative of an institution of higher learning and more specifically, a law school, in the absence of activity that violates student conduct regulations, I strongly support their right to exist as an organization.

That said, however, the decision on your request is not mine to make. Colin and I have reviewed the SBA bylaws, and it does not appear to us that such a process exists within them as far as this situation is concerned. It seems more likely that this would be a student organization complaint of the sort that is under the jurisdiction of the Judicial Board, but I will leave that determination to the SBA executive board (copied). For that reason hv way of this message I am forwarding this request to them to review and

reason, by way of this message, I am not making any request to them to refer and determine whether they are an appropriate forum; and if they believe they are not, to refer your request to the Judicial Board. I have also copied Afton Gregson, the president of the SU chapter of FedSoc.

As one final note: I recently saw comments that you and other students made on the FedSoc Facebook page. In my estimation, those comments did not appear to rise to the level of harassment; however, in the event that a complaint of that nature is pursued, the arbiter of that determination would be not me, but the office of the Dean of Students for the entire campus. Reasonable minds can disagree, and if that office has a different opinion, that opinion would prevail.

Best,
Dean DiBiase

Kristin N. DiBiase, JD (she/her/hers)

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

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// AT THE HEART OF LAW

From: Sueoka, Sam [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2021 12:09 PM
To: DiBiase, Kristin [REDACTED]
Cc: Watrin, Colin [REDACTED]
Subject: Petition to remove a student organization

Hello Dean DiBiase,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to reach out to you to start a conversation about the harm that the Federalist Society causes to our legal community. As you might already know, the Federalist Society is a nationally recognized organization that has a large membership of over 10,000 law students. The Federalist Society is a conservative project that was created in response to the lack of a conservative presence in academia. This has resulted in the proliferation of conservative judges in both State and Federal courts across the country. The Federalist Society's ideological project has also resulted in the legitimization of bigotry, racism, sexism, transphobia, and homophobia by disguising it as academia. This is completely counter to the mission of SU law school and how it advertises itself to other students as well as faculty members and administrators.

There has been a growing concern about the presence of the Federalist Society at the Seattle University campus because of its contradictory message to SU's focus on social justice and race equity. Last semester the Federalist Society hosted an event titled "The Feminist Case Against Abortion," where the speaker selectively used data and pushed the rhetoric that if a woman were to get pregnant, they should just carry the baby to term regardless of whether they have a job or not. This event was strongly opposed by the majority of the student body so much so that a counter-event was planned by a group of organizations that focused on

people's lived experience with abortion access and advocacy. Again in 2018, the SU Federalist Society hosted an event on August 28th, "Why Judge Kavanaugh Will Be Good for Environmental Law." Judge Kavanaugh was confirmed a few days later by the Senate on September 4, 2018. For thousands of people, Kavanaugh's hearing was traumatizing because of the serious rape allegations, yet the SU Federalist Society decided to gaslight those emotions and focus on environmental law. Again in 2017, the SU Federalist Society hosted an event titled "Let's Take a Break from the National Conversation About Race."


Currently, the student body has asked the SU Federalist Society to condemn the actions of Sen. Josh Hawley's involvement in the white supremacist insurrection. We asked them to condemn those actions in light of the fact that they are a part of a robust community that cares about social justice and racial justice issues. The attack on the capital was reminiscent of lynchings, Nazi flags were being flown, a noose was erected, and media members were brutally attacked. This very serious attack on the American democratic process was in part incited by Sen. Josh Hawley a Federalist Society member. Josh Hawley was also the president of Yale Law School's Federalist Society and is one of many examples of how dangerous the Federalist Society's project and ideology is. In response to many student's requests to condemn what happened the SU Federalist Society's President and VP said that the federalist society does not comment on policy or politics.

For many people at Seattle U, the presence of the Fed Soc is painful and triggering. I would like to work with you about the possible procedures and avenues to remove a Student org from campus. I don't believe that SU can in good conscious host an event with Dr. Angela Davis, calling for radical change within the legal system while also hosting Fed Soc events that are asking us to take a break from the conversation on race.

I look forward to hearing your response and working together throughout this process.

Thank you,

Sam Sueoka
J.D. Candidate 2022
Seattle University School of Law
Vice President | Seattle University National Lawyers Guild Chapter
Seattle Journal for Social Justice Staff


Pronouns: he, him, his