

SANTA CLARA LAW POLICY ON CURBING ALCOHOL USE AT LAW SCHOOL EVENTS

At Santa Clara Law, Wellness Matters. Inspired by the Jesuit value of *cura personalis* or “care of the whole person,” Santa Clara Law is committed to the active process of developing the potential of all members of its community in each of these eight pillars of wellness – physical, social, emotional, occupational, financial, spiritual, intellectual, and environmental.

Of particular concern within the legal community is the prevalence of substance abuse issues. The ABA’s National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being, in their recent report *The Path to Lawyer Well-Being: Practical Recommendations for Positive Change*, noted that

- “...a law school sends a strong message when alcohol-related events are held or publicized with regularity.
- Students in recovery and those thinking about it may feel that the law school does not take the matter seriously and may be less likely to seek assistance or resources.
- Events at which alcohol is not the primary focus should be encouraged and supported.
- Law school faculty should refrain from drinking alcohol at law school social events.”

In reviewing our policies and assumptions around the use of alcohol, we have come to the conclusion that any institutional actions that reinforce or normalize the concept of a “work hard, play hard” legal community are contrary to our wellness mission. We understand that this might seem drastic to some members of our community, but we are committed to being leaders in the national efforts to prioritize the well-being of our students.

1. General Policies

- a. The Alcohol Agreement Form needs to be filled out and approved by the Dean of Students, Law School Dean, or designee prior to any event where alcohol will be served.
- b. No Open Bars or Cash Bars will be allowed. If alcohol is permitted, it will be limited to beer and wine.
- c. Alcohol consumption will be monitored through the use of Wristbands with a limit of two attached drink tickets per attendee. Additional tickets will not be made available.
- d. Alcohol service will end at least 30 minutes before the scheduled ending time of the event.
- e. All events with alcohol must include food and non-alcoholic beverages.
- f. No pitcher, keg or bottle service will be available.
- g. Alcohol may not be the primary focus of the event and may not be used as an inducement to participate in the event.

- h. Serving donated alcohol must be approved by the Dean of Students or Law School Dean prior to being served.
- i. Advertising for the event may not portray symbols of alcohol or alcohol consumption, may not include any form of excessive alcohol consumption (i.e. drink specials, drinking contests or competitions), and may not emphasize frequency or quantity of alcohol consumption.
- j. All advertising of SCU sponsored events should include the following statement, "At Santa Clara Law, Wellness Matters. In solidarity with our wellness efforts, this event (a) does not include alcoholic beverages or (b) will have limited alcohol available."

2. Additional Policies Governing Student Sponsored Events

- a. School funds may not be used to purchase alcohol.
- b. All LSO officers present at the event will act as hosts at all times during the event.
- c. LSO officers and host volunteers may not consume alcohol before or during the event.
- d. Hosts must attend Sober Monitor Training (information forthcoming)
- e. Students may not sign any contracts with food or beverage providers. All contracts must be reviewed and signed by the office of the Senior Assistant Dean for Law Administration. Alcohol must be listed as a separate line item on contracts and invoices.
- f. Banquet Security Requirements:
 - i. If event venue does not provide security, LSO's must hire trained security personnel. One security guard should be hired for every 50 attendees.
 - ii. Security to police all entrances and exits.
 - iii. Security to deny entrance to any guests who are intoxicated.
 - iv. All law students attending must sign Moral Character Memorandums of Understanding.
 - v. All law students attending must register and provide contact information for any non-affiliated guests.
 - vi. The number of guests must not exceed the recommended space capacity.
 - vii. Law students and guests must show identification when entering the venue.
 - viii. Four hours is the maximum length of an event.
 - ix. LSO must ensure that the food service provider or designated licensed agent will check for proper identification.
- g. Barristers Ball:
 - i. Ticket sales to be limited to graduating students and their one guest only. Exceptions will be made for the SBA Board.
 - ii. The SBA Board each year will include a Risk Manager position beginning in the 19/20 academic year, who will work with Student Services and University personnel to ensure the event is safe.

- iii. An area will be set aside with food and non-alcoholic beverages for intoxicated students to rest before leaving the venue. A member of the SBA Board will staff this area and ensure that intoxicated students have a “buddy” who is sober and who will see them safely home.

3. For further information on the Substance Abuse Problems in the Legal Profession

- a. The Path to Lawyer Well-Being Report, 2017:
<https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/images/abanews/ThePathToLawyerWellBeingReportRevFINAL.pdf>, Page 40 Recommendations for Law Schools , #34. Discourage Alcohol-Centered Social Events.
- b. Suffering in Silence:
<https://jle.aals.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1370&context=home>