



## Drug and Alcohol Policy

New York Law School is committed to a learning environment free from the deleterious influences of drugs and alcohol. While recognizing that students age 21 and older are legally permitted to consume alcoholic beverages, the Law School requires students (as well as all employees, including faculty and staff) to do so responsibly and in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws, as well as the New York Law School alcohol policy outlined below. New York Law School has zero tolerance for the use of illegal drugs, or the abuse of alcohol or drugs that may be legal, on campus or in connection with Law School-related events. Equally important, the Law School is committed to assisting, to the extent possible, students, faculty, and staff who may be living with substance abuse issues.

Drug and alcohol abuse can impair academic and professional performance, and can lead to severe and even life-threatening health problems. Potential adverse health consequences of alcohol abuse include, but are not limited to, liver and heart disease, cancer, stroke, high blood pressure and a higher incidence of birth defects. Drinking alcohol also can increase anxiety and depression and have other adverse mental health consequences. Different drugs are associated with different health risks. For example, the use of cocaine is associated with a higher risk of cardiac arrest; opioid abuse can stop a person's breathing, leading to death or permanent brain damage. Persons who inject drugs run a greater risk of contracting HIV or hepatitis C from contaminated needles.

Drug and alcohol abuse also may be a factor in domestic violence and others forms of abusive behavior. The Law School encourages all members of the NYLS community experiencing problems with drug or alcohol abuse to seek confidential help. Any student having such problems should contact the Office of Student Life (5th Floor E building, 212-431-2851) or the confidential student counseling service at 1-866-486-4334 for information about treatment programs and/or self-help groups. Faculty and staff should contact the Office of Human Resources at 212-431-2131. The services listed below also can provide valuable assistance:

- Alcoholics Anonymous: 212.647.1680 and 212/870.3400
- Narcotics Anonymous: 212.929.6262
- Al-Anon Family Group Meeting Information Line: 1.800.356.9996 and 1.800.344.2666
- New York City Lawyers Assistance Program: 212.302.5787

### Section I: Illegal Drugs

In accordance with federal law and state laws, no one may possess, use, or distribute any illegal drug on New York Law School premises or at official Law School functions. (Please see Title 21 of the United States code and articles 220 and 221 of the New York Penal Code.) Any instances of illegal drug distribution, possession, or possession for distribution, will be referred to the appropriate law enforcement authorities for possible prosecution. If a student is convicted of a drug-related offense, a permanent notation will be placed in the student's file and will be forwarded to the appropriate Bar Certification Committee. Students convicted of possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs also may be subject to disciplinary action by the Academic Responsibility Committee. These actions include expulsion, suspension, reprimand, and permanent notation on the record of the violator. If a member of the faculty or a staff member is convicted of a drug-related offense, a notation will be placed in the individual's personnel file and the person will be subject to adverse employment actions up to and including termination.

## Section II: Alcohol

The consumption of alcohol at law school events may be permitted upon request and approval of the Office of Student Life for both on New York Law School premises or at official Law School functions off-premises. The Office of Student Life has broad discretion to approve or deny such requests. Failure to notify the Office of Student Life of an occasion where alcohol will be served at a student-event can result in discipline.

Any approval of a request shall be in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. No person under 21 years of age may be served, or serve to others, an alcoholic beverage.
2. No visibly intoxicated person may be served an alcoholic beverage. Staff serving alcohol is encouraged to err on the side of caution.
3. At each student-sponsored event at which alcohol is served, the sponsoring students or student organization must designate one or more students as responsible for the enforcement of this Policy and inform the Office of Student Life at least three (3) business days prior to the event of the identity of such "responsible student(s)," as well as the number of guests expected and the amount of alcohol to be purchased. A member of the Office of Student Life staff will meet with the responsible student(s) before each event where alcohol is to be served to ensure that such responsible student(s) understand this Policy. The Office of Student Life reserves the right to limit the amount of alcohol purchased for an event. For planning purposes generally, alcohol is limited to two drinks per person.
4. Food and non-alcoholic beverages must be served at any event at which alcoholic beverages will be served.
5. Alcoholic beverages may only be consumed on the Law School premises when an event is hosted by the Law School and approved to serve alcoholic beverages.
6. Alcoholic beverages may not be stored in Journal offices, Center offices, Clinic offices, Moot Court offices, or student organization offices.
7. Advertisements should not promote the availability or encourage the use of alcohol and if necessary such materials will be removed from Law School property where they appear.

Students found to be in violation of this Policy will be referred to the Academic Responsibility Committee for disciplinary action in accordance with that committee's procedures. These actions include but are not limited to one or more of the following: expulsion, suspension, reprimand, and permanent notation on the record of the violator. Student organizations found to have been involved in violation of this Policy are also subject to appropriate sanctions, such as rescission of permission to operate on campus, loss of funding, and loss of office space.

## Section III: Forced Alcohol or Drug Consumption

Forced alcohol or drug consumption for initiation into or affiliation with any organization is strictly prohibited.

Students found to be in violation of this Section will be referred to the Academic Responsibility Committee for disciplinary action in accordance with that committee's procedures. Possible sanctions include but are not limited to one or more of the following: expulsion, suspension, reprimand, and permanent notation on the record of the violator. Possible sanctions for student organizations include rescission of permission to operate on campus, loss of funding, and loss of office space.

## Section IV: Amnesty for Alcohol and/or Drug Use

The health and safety of every student and employee of New York Law School is of utmost importance. New York Law School recognizes that individuals who have been drinking and/or using drugs (whether such use is voluntary or involuntary) at the time that violence – including but not limited to domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault – occurs may be hesitant to report such incidents due to fear of potential consequences for their own conduct.

New York Law School strongly encourages members of the community to report domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault to Law School officials and local law enforcement. A bystander acting in good faith who discloses any incident of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault to New York Law School officials or law enforcement will not be subject to New York Law School's code of conduct action for violations of alcohol and/or drug use policies occurring at or near the time of the commission of the domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault.

## Section V: Suggested Actions for Handling Impairment at an NYLS Event

1. If a community member observes that another individual is impaired by the use of drugs or alcohol at a New York Law School event, that community member should bring the matter to the attention of the student(s) responsible for the event at which alcohol is served or to a member of the New York Law School staff.
2. No impaired individual should be allowed to leave the Law School premises (or whatever location a Law School-sponsored event may be taking place) by themselves. If no funds for a taxi or car service are available, the responsible student(s) should contact an officer at the security desk (X2123) who will make arrangements to handle the matter. Under no circumstances should an impaired individual be allowed to drive.
3. If an individual is impaired to the point where medical attention may be required, the responsible student(s) should contact an officer at the security desk (X2123) to request they call for an ambulance, or call 911.

## Section VI: Alcohol Guidelines for All NYLS Events

In general, events sponsored by faculty, campus centers, or non-student run organizations should endeavor to follow the same guidelines.