Dear Members of the Class of 2019 and Incoming Transfer Students:

Welcome to the University of Alabama School of Law! On behalf of the Student Bar Association (SBA), congratulations on your acceptance and decision to attend UA Law. Our school has earned a reputation for producing exceptional lawyers and leaders, and we are thrilled that you have chosen to participate in this tradition.

Embarking on the law school journey inevitably means making adjustments. As a first year law student, you’ll be striving to find your personal equation for success. You’ll do a lot of studying and will likely spend more time prepping for classes than ever before. These rigorous academic demands will need to be balanced with other fulfilling pursuits. Consider the SBA a resource for helping you find that balance.

The SBA is the governing body of our student population. We facilitate the connections between students, faculty, and administrators to communicate the concerns of the student body. We also serve as an umbrella organization for all active student organizations at the law school. Finally, we plan and offer a full social calendar that we know you will enjoy.

In order to keep the SBA running, all incoming students pay SBA dues. Incoming 1Ls pay $450, and transfer students pay $300. We understand that is a lot of money, and are willing to work with you in any way we can to help finance your membership. Your membership dues cover a portion of the expenses for orientation, a full slate of social events, our renown intramural teams, your class composite, a graduation party to celebrate the culmination of this three-year adventure, and even the American flag that flies above our building. Your contribution also helps fund our many student organizations throughout your entire time at UA Law. You only pay SBA dues once, and you’ll reap the rewards of that payment for the next three years. SBA dues also allow you to run for officer positions in the SBA along with other student organizations funded by the SBA. Feel free to contact the SBA Treasurer, Raul Gonzalez, if you have questions about dues.
The SBA encourages participation in a student organization, and it is a great way to learn about specific areas of law, network with attorneys and fellow students, and serve the community. You’ll have the opportunity to learn more about the specific organizations by speaking to their members at “Get on Board” Day in a few weeks. Judging from previous honors and activities, we know campus involvement is a priority you all share so membership in a student organization is an opportunity you won’t want to miss.

The SBA also offers a few other ways to get connected and stay plugged in at UA Law. The social calendar we offer includes a bowling party, Bar Reviews, Tailgates, Service Projects, Cocktail Party, Homecoming Week festivities, Law Week programming, and our annual Barrister’s Ball. These events are planned by the Vice President, Brandon Meyers, and are always memorable serving as a great forum for relaxing while getting to know your peers outside of the classroom. Find us on Facebook (Bama Law SBA) and stay tuned for e-mails from our secretary, Liesel Carmen-Burks, containing the weekly digest as the events approach.

To strengthen bonds between your incoming class and our current students as early as possible, the SBA organizes a mentoring program. In this packet, you’ll find a letter from Tori McCarthy, Mentor Program Chair, with specifics. This is an opportunity to get to know upper level students right away and get advice on how to navigate law school.

Finally, if the SBA’s responsibilities sound like something you want to get involved with, you should consider running for office when 1L Senate elections approach in a few weeks after the fall semester begins. Four SBA Senators and two Career Service Board Representatives will be elected. There will be more information coming your way soon about these roles.

We’re proud and excited to have you here, and I look forward to meeting each of you soon. If I can ever be of assistance, don’t hesitate to contact me directly by e-mail (Kelsie.mattox@law.ua.edu) or phone (404-376-8082).

Best Regards,

Kelsie J. Mattox
SBA President 2016-2017