

About The Student Legal Aid office



University of Maryland Undergraduate Student Legal Aid Office

Adele H. Stamp Student Union

Room 1235

University of Maryland

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www.studentorg.umd.edu/legalaid/

UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND
COLLEGE PARK

STUDENT LEGAL AID
OFFICE



The Undergraduate Legal Aid Office at the University of Maryland was established by the Student Government Association in 1976 to help students who either have personal legal problems or who have been charged by the University by providing legal advice, assistance, and education to undergraduate students.

Student Defender Program



Student Defenders are undergraduate students attending the University of Maryland. The Student Defenders provide assistance and representation at campus judicial board hearings and residential conferences for students accused of violating provisions set forth in the *Code of Academic Integrity*, *Code of Student Conduct*, and *Resident Life Rights and Responsibilities*. Student Defenders are hand-picked from a select group of students who previously completed an internship with the Student Legal Aid Office.

The Student Defenders in the Student Legal Aid Office will be responsible for assisting the Respondent in preparing for the hearing, acting as the Respondent's advocate at the hearing, and assisting the Respondent with any appeals, if necessary. While Student Defenders can provide advice to students

who have been asked to attend a preliminary interview, they do not provide representation at the preliminary interview. Student Defenders will maintain a strict level of confidentiality concerning the Respondent's case.

Undergraduate students are eligible to get assistance of a Student Defender if they are charged with a violation of the *Code of Academic Integrity*, the *Code of Student Conduct*, or *Resident Life's Rights and Responsibilities*.

The *Code of Academic Integrity* is “designed to ensure that the principle of academic honesty is upheld.” Academic dishonesty can occur when a student is intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise; intentionally falsifying or inventing any information or citation in an academic exercise; intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another violate any provision of the Code; or intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise. The standard sanction for violating the *Code* is the grade of XF.

The *Code of Student Conduct* is “designed for the imposition of discipline in the University setting to protect the campus community”. Any misconduct listed in the *Code* is subject to disciplinary action. The sanctions for violation of disciplinary regulations could be restitution, disciplinary reprimand, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion.

The Resident Life *Rights and Responsibilities* purpose is to serve as a “set of guidelines to foster responsibility, respect, and consideration and to assure a safe, secure, nurturing environment.” The sanctions for violating policies or rules set out in the *Resident Life Rights and Responsibilities* are a warning letter, administrative housing probation, community service projects, and administrative housing termination. In addition, any of the sanctions for violating the *Code of Student Conduct* can be imposed.

Opening a case at the Student Legal Aid Office can be done without an appointment. The walk-in hours are from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters. Winter and Summer session hours vary, so please call in advance. Please bring in all documents related to your case along with proper student identification.



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