Alcohol Policy for Student-Sponsored Events and Activities

The purpose and goal of this alcohol policy is to foster alcohol awareness and responsible drinking practices and to promote the health and safety of the members of the law school community. Florida Coastal seeks to encourage a professional social life that limits the role of alcoholic beverages in student events and activities. We are committed to the ongoing development of a community based on respect for the individual and compliance with the policies of the school and the laws of our community, state, and nation. Within our school community, Florida Coastal will take reasonable steps to insure that no illegal or excessive consumption of alcohol occurs on school property or at its institutionally-sponsored activities. One’s presence at the law school, or any function associated therewith, requires compliance with applicable laws and standards of behavior of the school community. Only the Dean of the law school may grant exceptions to this policy for special occasions.

A. Alcohol Funding

1. Florida Coastal School of Law does not allow the use of any student funding for the purchase of alcohol. Student funding is defined as monies derived from the Student Bar Association (SBA) or any other type of student organization, group, or cause.

2. The SBA and other student organizations are permitted to host events at off-campus establishments where alcohol is served, and they may fund the purchase of food or non-alcoholic beverages at those events. Students desiring alcoholic beverages at such events must purchase their own drinks with private funds.

B. Advertising

1. A student organization may post advertising on the law school campus for an off-campus event it is sponsoring, but if alcoholic beverages will be available at the event, the advertising must conspicuously state that Florida Coastal School of Law is not sponsoring or providing security for the event. Any publicity or advertising for such events must be devoid of any reference to alcohol, alcohol price, or alcohol price advantage (ex. “drink specials,” “happy hour,” “two-for-one,” etc.).

2. Student organizations desiring to host events such as wine or beer “tastings” held off-campus in accordance with the aforementioned funding policy, may advertise for such events after obtaining special permission for their written advertisement through the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.

3. Advertising on campus must be handled in accordance with the Florida Coastal School of Law Flyer Policy.
C. Alcohol Use on Campus

It is the policy of the law school that alcohol will not be served or offered at any student-sponsored or student-organized event held on campus.

D. Exceptions to Funding and Campus Use Policies

1. Student organizations may petition for an exception to the policies involving student funding for alcohol and/or alcohol use on campus. Exceptions to those prohibitions may be approved under rare circumstances, but only after written approval is granted by the Dean or the Dean’s designee after specific requirements for the event are agreed upon as described below (see D.3).

2. Requests for exceptions to the alcohol policy must be made in writing to the Dean or the Dean’s designee thirty (30) days prior to the proposed event. The student organization must provide all relevant details for the proposed event, including estimated breakdown on how the funds will be spent. The Dean may approve or deny the request, or at his or her discretion, he or she may limit the amount of alcohol purchased for the event, restrict the location of the event, or restrict the time and/or manner in which the alcohol is served.

3. At all events where an exception is granted to the aforementioned policies involving alcohol funding and/or alcohol use on campus, the following conditional requirements must be accepted and adhered to by the sponsoring organization(s) for the duration of the event:

   (a) Non-alcoholic beverages must be available at the same location as the alcoholic beverages. If beverages are sold at the event, non-alcoholic drinks must be sold at the same price or for less/no charge compared with alcohol-containing drinks.

   (b) Substantial food items must be provided by the sponsoring groups and available when the alcohol is served. When the food runs out, the serving of alcohol must cease.

   (c) Alcoholic beverages served are restricted to beer and wine.

   (d) Bartenders/servers who are licensed, insured, and professionally-trained must serve the alcohol.

   (e) Organizations may serve only two alcoholic beverages to each individual. Each glass of beer served must be 12 ounces or less; each glass of wine served must be 5 ounces or less. Appropriately sized cups must be used. Organizations must provide a pre-approved system for distribution of alcoholic beverages, such as tickets or stamping of hands.

   (f) The Assistant Dean of Student Affairs must approve the amount of alcohol purchased for each event.

   (g) Two non-drinking representatives of the organization must be present where the alcohol is being served at all times.

   (h) Competitions and contests that involve alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited.

   (i) Alcoholic beverages shall not be used as prizes or awards for any student event.
(j) Attendance at events is limited to Florida Coastal students, faculty, staff and their escorted guests with proper identification. The sponsoring organization shall be responsible for the behavior of all admitted guests.

(k) A list of the names of officers of the sponsoring group and their non-drinking representatives must be provided to the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs two weeks before the scheduled event. These individuals will be responsible for upholding state laws and school policies. The sponsoring group shall have its advisor or pre-approved replacement at the function.

(l) No person under the age of 21 may be served alcoholic beverages.

(m) Appropriate steps must be taken for event advertisement (see Advertising).

(n) The service and sale of alcohol must cease at least one hour before the advertised end of the event. The service and sale of alcohol shall not continue after 1:00 a.m. at any off-campus event when the venue is rented by the school.

(o) The sponsoring group is responsible for clean-up of the area.

(p) The sponsoring group and its officers will be held responsible for damages to physical facilities incurred as a result of the event.

(q) Only approved vendors and/or authorized organization representatives may enter and/or leave event premises with alcoholic beverages and/or setups.

(r) The sponsoring group is responsible for denying entrance to any student or guest who arrives at the event in a visibly intoxicated state. Likewise, the sponsoring group is responsible for denying service to any student or guest who is visibly intoxicated or whose behavior at the event warrants the refusal of service. The sponsoring group should involve event security in the denial of entrance or service or in the removal of students/guests for intoxication or conduct. The sponsoring group must also report all offending parties to the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.

(s) The sponsoring group is responsible for compliance with all above requirements. Violation of any of the above stipulations will subject the sponsoring group and its members to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct, including, but not limited to, the loss of privileges to the sponsoring group, or suspension or expulsion of individual members.

4. The law school strongly recommends that all student groups hosting off-campus social events adopt and enforce the applicable safeguards outlined above, even when students purchase their own alcohol.

E. Conduct Code and Legal Responsibility

1. Any incident of intoxication and/or misconduct at any event or activity associated with the school is subject to disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct (Conduct Code). This provision covers events and activities that are held on or off-campus. Legal infractions and conduct-related incidents that are linked to alcohol use may result in enhanced sanctions under the Conduct Code.

2. Students are expected to comply with municipal, state, and federal laws pertaining to the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages. Any violation of these laws may result in disciplinary action under the Conduct Code including, but not limited to,
suspension or expulsion from the school. Proceedings under the Conduct Code may be carried out prior to, simultaneous with, or following any civil or criminal proceedings.

3. The law school will cooperate fully with law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of any legal offense involving members of the school community.

4. As outlined in the Conduct Code and the Student Handbook, students who are arrested or charged in association with any legal offense outside of the law school have an affirmative duty to disclose this information to the school in a timely fashion. Specifically, the disclosure of any legal offense must be made to the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs within fourteen (14) days of receipt of said charge or arrest. Failure to comply with disclosure requirements will be cause for additional sanctions under the Conduct Code.

5. When a student is found responsible for a Conduct Code violation, a written determination is placed in the student’s permanent academic file and is accessible to state bar examiners during subsequent character and fitness assessments.