A Senator’s Guide to the Judicial Brief

By the Judiciary Committee

*This PowerPoint is available on Blackboard*
The Judiciary Committee

- Consists of five members, each appointed by the Student Body President; confirmed by the Senate
  - There is a Chief Justice, Deputy Chief Justice, and three Associate Justices

- Four main jurisdictions:
  - Cases involving interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws
  - Conflicts between student organizations
  - Alleged campaign violations in SGA elections
  - Investigation of impeachment proceedings
What is a Judicial Brief and When Should it be Used?

• Form that members of the SGA and the student body can use to contact the Judicial Branch

• Used under 3 primary circumstances:
  1. Grievances and Interpretations
  2. Elections violations
  3. Impeachments
What Information is Needed?

• **Name and contact information:** of yourself and other relevant parties (the accused/witnesses)

• **Background information:** a brief description of the issue to familiarize Judicial with your concern

• **Evidences/References:** anything that would support your argument
  – excerpts from Documents highlighting what rules or responsibilities you believe to have been violated
  – Could also attach emails or other records

*this information is not made publically available*
Where can Judicial Briefs be found?

• Online
  – Our website: [http://wp.vcu.edu/sga/judicial/resources/](http://wp.vcu.edu/sga/judicial/resources/)
  – On Blackboard: under the “Legislative” tab

• In the Office
  – Stacks of judicial briefs are available in the SGA Office

Judicial briefs should be filled out and submitted to the Chief Justice either via email ([sgajud@vcu.edu](mailto:sgajud@vcu.edu)) or physically in their SGA office mailbox
What is a Grievance?

- “A supported cause for complaint”

- Anytime that you are unsure of the constitutionality or validity of an SGA member’s actions a judicial brief should be filled out
  - Must be filed within 30 days of the action being challenged
  - Any student can file a grievance at any time
How are Election Violations dealt with?

• Can be done by any student if an election rule is broken using the judicial brief

• a violation can be brought to the Judiciary Committee anytime from the first day of official campaigning to seventy-two (72) hours after polls have closed
What Happens After a Grievance/Election Violation is Filed?

• You will receive an emailed receipt regarding the status of your case
  – Must pass the Rule of Two

• If necessary, a hearing would be scheduled for a time agreeable to all parties in order to establish the facts before making any decisions

• Judicial would deliberate after reviewing all of the given information and make a decision
  – Decision would be made public and in writing
What Happens after an Impeachment Initiation is Filed?

• “Any officer of SGA who knowingly evades his or her duties as set down by the Constitution or these Bylaws… is subject to impeachment.”
  – Article IX, Section 2 of the Bylaws

• Anyone can initiate an impeachment
  – Submit brief detailing charges

• Judgments could not extend beyond removal from office and the disqualification to hold any future office within the VCU SGA
Why is it important that Judicial Briefs are filled out?

• Hold your peers and leaders accountable to their expected duties and responsibilities

• Ensure that the Governing Documents are followed

• Make SGA more efficient at meeting the concerns of the students
Judicial Resources

• Chief Justice Carley Langley: langleycj@vcu.edu
• Deputy Chief Justice Josh Luss: lussjj@vcu.edu
• Assoc. Justice Vincent Ryan: ryanvi@vcu.edu
• Assoc. Justice Annie Haden: hadena@vcu.edu
• Assoc. Justice Agne Mohan: mohana@vcu.edu

A permanent record of all past Judicial interpretations and opinions is available under the “Judiciary” tab of the SGA Blackboard page.