

**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/>
- 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](mailto:langleycj@vcu.edu)
- Deputy Chief Justice Josh Luss: [lussjj@vcu.edu](mailto:lussjj@vcu.edu)
- Assoc. Justice Vincent Ryan: [ryanvi@vcu.edu](mailto:ryanvi@vcu.edu)
- Assoc. Justice Annie Haden: [hadena@vcu.edu](mailto:hadena@vcu.edu)
- Assoc. Justice Agne Mohan: [mohana@vcu.edu](mailto:mohana@vcu.edu)

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