

BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL

STATEMENT ON RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ISSUING AUTHORITY: Office of the President and Dean of
Brooklyn Law School

DATE REISSUED: July 27, 2015

INTRODUCTION

The central functions of any academic community are learning, teaching, research and scholarship. By accepting membership in the Law School, an individual joins a community ideally characterized by free expression, free inquiry, intellectual honesty, respect for the dignity of others and openness to constructive change. The rights and responsibilities exercised within the community must be compatible with these qualities.

The rights of members of the Law School are not fundamentally different from those of other members of society. The Law School, however, has a special autonomy and reasoned dissent plays a particularly vital part in its existence. All members of the Law School have the right to press for action on matters of concern by any appropriate means. The Law School must affirm, assure and protect the rights of its members to organize and join associations, and to convene and conduct meetings and public events in an orderly fashion.

The Law School places special emphasis, as well, upon certain values which are essential to its nature as an academic community. Among these are freedom of speech and academic freedom, freedom from personal force and violence and freedom of movement. Interference with any of these freedoms must be regarded as a serious violation of the personal rights upon which the community is based. Thus, members of the community have the right to hold, promote and vigorously defend their opinions. Respect for this right requires that the members of the community tolerate the expression of opinions with which they disagree.

Furthermore, although the administrative process and activities of the Law School cannot be ends in themselves, such functions are vital to the orderly pursuit of the work of all members of the Law School. Therefore, interference with members of the Law School in performance of their normal duties and

activities must be regarded as unacceptable obstruction of the essential processes of the Law School. Theft or willful destruction of the property of the Law School or its members must also be considered an unacceptable violation of the rights of individuals and of the community as a whole.

Moreover, it is the responsibility of all members of the academic community to maintain an atmosphere in which violations of rights are unlikely to occur and to develop processes by which these rights are fully assured. In particular, it is the responsibility of officers of administration and instruction to be alert to the needs of the Law School community, to give full and fair hearing to reasoned expressions of grievances and to respond promptly and in good faith to such expressions and to widely expressed needs for change. No violation of the rights of members of the Law School, nor any failure to meet responsibilities, should be interpreted as justifying any violation of the rights of members of the Law School. All members of the community -students and officers alike - should uphold the rights and responsibilities expressed in this Statement if the Law School is to be characterized by mutual respect and trust.

In accordance with our policy on academic freedom, a professor's class may not be taped or otherwise recorded, unless the professor has been asked for consent at least one day prior to the class and such consent has been affirmatively given.

It is implicit in the language of the Statement on Rights and Responsibilities that intense personal harassment of a character as to amount to grave disrespect for the dignity of others be regarded as an unacceptable violation of the personal rights on which the Law School is based.

The Law School reserves the right to: 1. change its tuition and fees schedule; 2. amend the academic calendar when deemed necessary or desirable; 3. change instructors or withdraw, cancel, reschedule or change any course or program of study and related requirements; 4. limit the number of students who may attend any class; and 5. change any regulation affecting students. Notices affecting students are posted on the Law School Web site and may be posted on lobby bulletin boards and/or sent via email to students' Law School email accounts. Students are responsible for checking each of these locations for notices.

The Dean of the Law School is the final arbiter of questions concerning these regulations.

