



## **Planning a Virtual Pre-Law Chapter Initiation Ceremony**

While an Initiation Ceremony is always intended to be in person, occasions arise where an in-person ceremony is impossible. In these instances, a virtual ceremony may be substituted, and this amended version of the Initiation Ritual may be used.

Please use this guide in conjunction with the Ritual Handbook when planning your ceremony. If you need assistance, please contact the P.A.D. Executive Office ([prelaw@pad.org](mailto:prelaw@pad.org), 410-347-3118).

### **In Advance of the Ceremony**

As with any initiation ceremony, prior planning and preparation is important for a virtual initiation ceremony. It is recommended that you schedule a run through with your chapter officers so everyone is aware of their roles during the ceremony (which may differ from their roles during an in-person ceremony).

There are some elements of the in-person ceremony that cannot be replicated virtually. These include the table of initiation materials and the display of the coat of arms. The Treasurer should share their screen to show members these items at the appropriate times using the Executive Office provided images.

The Secretary, with the assistance of the Treasurer, should provide an up-to-date list of the members eligible for initiation. This final list should be provided to the Treasurer before the ceremony begins to ensure those members are admitted to the virtual initiation setting and for the Treasurer to read the names of the initiates.

### **General Notes and Suggestions**

- It is suggested you use a platform that includes a waiting room (Zoom is the most popular platform for this). This ensures only the officers enter at first, which is the same procedure as an in-person ceremony.

- The Treasurer should take care to practice the pronunciation of the initiates' names. If there are a large number of initiates, a video or slideshow of names can be substituted for the reading of the names.
- The Treasurer should monitor the Zoom connection, waiting room, etc. throughout the ceremony.
- If there is a virtual social element after the ceremony concludes, it is suggested that it begins immediately after adjournment.

## **Ceremony Script – Edited for Virtual Purposes**

*After the virtual settling has been properly prepared and the administering officers are ready, the Treasurer should admit the new members and screen share the picture of the initiation table.*

**PRESIDENT:** Thank you all for being here.

The purpose of this special meeting of the (name of school) Pre-Law Chapter, is the initiation of new members into our chapter. The chapter is now in session for that purpose.

*The President should feel free to add any other words of welcome or explanation on the procedure of the ceremony. When that is complete, the Treasurer will stop the screen share of the table and shall then address the Chapter President as follows:*

**TREASURER:**

President (last name), I present these candidates for membership into the (name of school) Pre-Law Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International. I certify that each has completed and submitted an official membership application, has fulfilled their financial obligations and met all other requirements of membership. I ask that they be admitted into membership.

*The Treasurer will read all names aloud.*

**PRESIDENT:**

The fact that you are here together with us is symbolic of our Fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International. Our Fraternity is composed of pre-law, law student and alumni members who have a common purpose, seek similar goals, and are united by the bond of fraternalism which is the essence of Phi Alpha Delta.

Phi Alpha Delta offers you an opportunity to translate an ideal into the practical side of your professional life. It offers you an opportunity to assume obligations and to loyally fulfill them to the best of your abilities. To build and maintain our Fraternity, which is a real living force in safeguarding the highest ethics of the legal profession, is a task worthy of your best endeavors.

So that you may understand your obligations as a Pre-Law Member of this Fraternity, I request your earnest consideration of the following principles of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International.

*Addressing the new members, the Vice President shall say:*

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

Phi Alpha Delta was founded and exists to provide a strong bond among persons involved in the legal profession: students, teachers, lawyers, judges, and other members of the legal profession. This bond is designed to advance the ideals of liberty and equal justice under law, to foster personal integrity and professional competence, and to promote the welfare of its members so that they may enjoy a lifetime of honorable professional service.

Phi Alpha Delta is dedicated to promoting ethical conduct and professionalism within the legal profession, a goal that cannot be achieved without self-sacrifice and the devotion of our members. This Fraternity is not an end which may be achieved by merely becoming a member. As a pre-law member, you must devote your time and talents to enable Phi Alpha Delta to accomplish its goals and to pass on the principles and ideals of Phi Alpha Delta to those who follow you.

*Addressing the new members, the Secretary shall say:*

**SECRETARY:**

In 1897, a group of law students in Chicago formed the Law Student League to protect their rights to enter into the legal profession. This organization resulted in a strong bond among these students, and thus, one year later, they founded the Lambda Epsilon Law Fraternity, Lambda standing for "Law" and Epsilon standing for "Equity."

It soon became apparent to the founding members that their local fraternity had broad appeal to law students much beyond the confines of their locale. Accordingly, in 1902, Lambda Epsilon was dissolved and Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity was founded to provide a professional organization for the entire legal community. Within a month of its founding, four law school chapters were chartered. By 1910, the number of law school chapters had increased to twenty-three.

The following year, 1911, the first alumni chapters, in Chicago and New York City, were installed. Subsequently, Phi Alpha Delta, secure in its principles and purposes, has proceeded along a steady policy of expansion. Today, chapters are chartered at almost every accredited law school in the United States. We also have chartered chapters in Puerto Rico, Mexico and Canada.

Continuing its goal to provide a professional forum in all aspects of the legal profession, the International Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta, in 1980 at the 43rd Biennial Convention held in Hot Springs, Arkansas, authorized the establishment of the Pre-Law Program of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International.

The first Pre-Law Chapters were established the following year. Within three years, 32 pre-law chapters were chartered in 18 states, indicating a widespread interest in this new program. Today P.A.D. Pre-Law Chapters are chartered at over 300 Universities and Colleges throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

*Addressing the new members, the Treasurer shall say:*

**TREASURER:**

Every organized association has adopted certain insignia by which it may be identified. Commercial organizations utilize public relations firms to design their logos and other recognizable symbols. Fraternal organizations borrow heavily from the ancient art of heraldry in the design of their identifying insignia. Thus, we of Phi Alpha Delta have adopted a Coat-of-Arms which contains a number of symbols representing the law in its various aspects. We have also adopted a fraternity pin, official colors, a flower, song, and flag, among other identifying insignia, which have particular significance to our members.

*The Treasurer shall screen share an image of the Coat of Arms.*

Our Coat-of-Arms consists of a shield divided vertically into two parts. On the right side appears the Book of Law and on the left the Scales of Justice. Above the shield is the Lamp of Learning surrounded by the Wreath of Victory. Below the shield is the Scroll which bears our name, Phi Alpha Delta.

Sustaining and supporting all is the Column. If you have assumed that the Lamp merely signifies that it is students of the law who are initiated into this Fraternity; that the Book signifies no more than that lawyers must know the law; that the Scales simply mean that the law represents Justice; that the Scroll is but to bear our name, a mere sign over the door; then you are incorrect. You have not, if such is your belief, given the Founders of this Fraternity credit for their understanding of the needs of those who associated together during their school life and will one day go out into the world to join the noble profession of Law.

The Column, as you observe, supports and sustains all the other symbols on the Coat-of-Arms. This Column represents you, whose duty from now on will be to labor so that the principles of Phi Alpha Delta shall be maintained, clear and unsullied, through the years. May your strength be equal to the task, and as the Column may you ever sustain it. The Book represents far more than the mere letter of the law. It typifies that immortal and undying spirit, which is in truth, the law. To those deep-seated and eternal verities all precedents must bow, and all rules conform. May your studies in that Book inspire you ever to teach an abiding faith in the American system of jurisprudence. Consider now the Lamp of Learning. It tells you that great learning is only accomplished through great industry. The day is all too short for us to amass learning to fit us for our life work. We must light the lamp and study on through the hours of the night. Neither is learning to be acquired only during the bright days of our youth. We must continue to learn throughout the years of our adulthood, so that in old age the light of our studies may brighten the lives of all we meet.

The Scales are the instrument by which one acknowledges the incompetence of their own judgment and surrenders it so that justice may be done. Justice gives to everyone their due without distinction, and one is not just, who cannot judge with impartiality, and having judged, have the strength to execute that judgment. Lastly, the Scroll. It contains only the name of our Fraternity, Phi Alpha Delta, which connotes the Greek phrase “Philos Adelfhos Dikaios” (fe-los uh-del-fos duh-ki-ose). Translated into our contemporary language, “Philos Adelfhos Dikaios” stands for “Justice is a Dear Brother,” and in another translation, “Love of Humanity and Justice for all.” Thus, our name signifies the two basic precepts upon which our Fraternity is founded: Fraternalism and Justice. So, practice the ideals of Phi Alpha Delta wherever you travel, and in the end you too will wear a Wreath, the symbol that you have conquered in that greatest of all struggles whose goal is to make the world a better habitat for all.

*The Treasurer shall stop screen sharing the image of the Coat of Arms.*

#### **VICE PRESIDENT:**

The official colors of the Fraternity are gold, the most precious of metals, and purple, the richest of colors. The official flower is the red carnation, red being the color most closely associated with the legal profession.

The official song is “Phi Alpha Delta Song”, composed in 1911 by Frank R. Hurlbutt, then Vice Justice of Calhoun Chapter at Yale University.

The Fraternity flag consists of the Coat-of-Arms appearing in gold on a solid field of purple, surrounded by a gold fringe.

The pre-law membership pin is keystone in shape and purple in color. The Greek letters of Phi Alpha Delta appear in gold upon the purple background. Above the letters appear the year of the founding of Phi Alpha Delta, 1902. Below the letters appear the words “Pre-Law” and the year 1980, indicating the establishment of the Pre-Law Program.

A unique handshake is used as a sign of recognition between members of Phi Alpha Delta. This consists of a normal handshake with the index finger of each member extending along the wrist of the other member, touching the pulse.

The proper use of these insignia will identify you as a member of Phi Alpha Delta and allow you to recognize others as members of Phi Alpha Delta.

#### **PRESIDENT:**

Having heard the basic principles and ideals of Phi Alpha Delta, you are now invited to subscribe with us to those principles and ideals and to make a personal commitment to join the (name of school) Pre-Law Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International. To signify your acceptance of the ideals and principles as your own, I will now administer the pre-law oath of membership in Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International.

Please raise your right hand. I will now read the Oath of Membership in its entirety.

I do solemnly and sincerely affirm ... that I will support ... the laws and legal precepts of my country ... that I will be just and honorable ... in all my activities ... and that I will support ... the Fraternity Policy, Rules and Principles ... of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International, ... insofar as they do not conflict ... with my religious or civil duties.

I will now ask that you all unmute yourselves (*it is suggested you pause a moment to allow everyone to unmute themselves*). I will then ask, "Do you so promise and swear" and you will all answer "Yes".

So, with everyone unmuted – Do you so promise and swear?

**MEMBERS: YES!**

**PRESIDENT:**

Thank you.

In this virtual world, there is not an Official Roll of the Chapter for you to sign. Normally, this would signify your formal entry into the membership of this chapter. Instead, your names will be virtually entered into the roll of Phi Alpha Delta and your respective chapters.

I now declare you to be duly and lawfully inducted into the (name of school) Pre-Law Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International.

Your induction into this chapter of Phi Alpha Delta is now completed. I charge each of you to hold foremost in mind the principles and ideals to which you have subscribed today. With your help, our chapter can remain a real living force in Phi Alpha Delta and in the legal profession. On behalf of all members, I congratulate you and welcome you as members of this Pre-Law Chapter.

*Here the President may add such additional words of welcome or announcements as are appropriate.*

**PRESIDENT:**

The purpose of this special meeting of the (name of school) Pre-Law Chapter having been accomplished, I now declare this meeting adjourned.

*The President shall sound the gavel twice.*