

Birmingham School of Law Chapter -
Black Law Student Association



Applicant: Devin Palmer

When it comes to taking the steps necessary toward a more perfect union, our priority should be our perspective. Not only our perspective of ourselves but of others as well. In a political climate that is far from bipartisan, it is important to recognize our true intentions, as well as our true ideals. What makes the U.S. Constitution so great is its open-ended structure. It was created to be changed, and our founding fathers were completely aware of and prepared for those changes. Fast forward two hundred and forty - six years and the world is a little different. We deal in absolutes as we debate right from wrong as we see it, with little attention to the middle ground. We function off of wins and losses, with little desire for compromise. We are quick to decide punishments with little thought behind the implications of the choices we make. In all, we are far too busy living with the Constitution, rather than living through it. We often forget the intentions laid for us and the foundation that we have built this nation upon. As it stands now, the union is in a nearly unrecognizable state, second only to the ideological schism we know as the American Civil War. In an effort to avoid a similar or worse outcome, I suggest a change in the way we approach the law. An approach that focuses on the citizens that it protects, rather than the social and economic structures that it upholds. If we prioritize the citizens of the United States, I think that the union will progress into something much more faceted. If we can provide our citizens a respite from the uncertainties of the world, then we can create a union that is worth the trust of its people.