

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL BAR ASSOCIATION
AKRON LAW STUDENT DIVISION**

Article I: Name, Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Governance, And Objectives

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization “Federal Bar Association Akron Law Student Division” (hereinafter referred to as the “Division”).

Section 2. Mission Statement. The mission of the Division shall be to further the objectives of the Federal Bar Association (hereinafter referred to as the “Association”), to represent the Association to law students, to conduct programs of interest and value to law students, and to support the interests and need of Akron Law students aspiring to Federal practice, both public and private, as well as to strengthen student interest and knowledge of the Federal legal system.

Section 3. Vision Statement. The Division will be recognized as the premier Akron student organization supporting the aspiring Federal practitioner and serve as the representative of the Federal legal profession among Akron’s student body.

Section 4. Governance. The governance of the Division is as follows:

(a) The Division is established under the express authorization of the Federal Bar Association Cleveland Chapter (“Local Chapter”) and subject to the rules and regulations of the Federal Bar Association (“Association”).

(b) In addition to this Constitution, the rules and regulations of the Association, the Local Chapter, the University of Akron, The University of Akron School of Law, and the Akron Law Student Bar Association are hereby adopted and incorporated herein by reference insofar as they

may be applicable to the business of the Division and shall prevail over this Constitution in the event of conflict herewith.

Section 5. General Objectives. The general objectives of the Division are as follows:

- (a) To keep Akron Law students informed of and connected to the affairs of the Local Chapter and the Association;**
- (b) To educate Akron Law students on the array and depth of Federal practice areas, whether solo or in partnership with the Local Chapter, the Association, and fellow Akron Law student organizations;**
- (c) To promote interaction and learning between Akron Law students, Federal judges, and Federal Practitioners;**
- (d) To promote high standards of professional competence and ethical conduct in the Federal legal profession; and**
- (e) To promote the sound administration of justice and the integrity, quality, and independence of the Federal judiciary.**

Article II: Membership

Section 1. Any law student attending Akron Law in good standing is eligible for membership in the Division.

Section 2. So as to maximize the relationships with Local Chapter and the Association, all members of the Division are encouraged to become members of the Association.

Section 3. In compliance with the policy of Akron Law, the Division shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, age, sexual orientation, or marital status. This nondiscrimination policy also covers membership selection, activities, policies, and practices of the Division.

Article III: Leadership

Section 1. Election Officers. The officers set forth in this section shall be elected from the membership of this Division.

Section 2. Executive Committee. The executive committee shall be as follows:

(a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the Elected Officers.

(b) The Executive Committee shall also include, subject to a majority vote of the Elected Officers, any chairs or directors of standing or special committees, as decided by the Executive Committee.

(c) The Executive Committee shall meet on the call of the President or any two of its members.

A quorum shall consist of a majority of recognized Executive Committee members.

(d) The Executive Committee may perform such Division business not requiring a vote of the membership, as shall be in the best interests of the Division.

Section 3. Duties of Elected Officers

(a) President duties are as follows:

(i) The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Division and shall perform such duties as may be required by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Division.

(ii) The President shall represent the Division at all non-Division meetings, functions, and events, including those of the local chapter and the Association.

(iii) The President shall call order and lead all meetings of the Division, or choose a representative to run the meeting in case of the President's absence and Vice President's inability to be the representative.

(iv) The President shall establish the strategic direction of the of the Division in consultation with the Executive Committee.

(v) The President shall appoint standing or special committees as necessary and appropriate to the Division business, including, but not limited to, a Program Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Nominations and Elections Committee, Membership Committee, and Publicity and Public Relations Committee.

(vi) The President may appoint one (1) Class Representative per class (1L, 2L) as the President finds necessary and appropriate. The Class Representative(s) shall represent the collective interest of their cohort, work closely with the Officers, and perform such duties as may be required by the President.

(b) Vice President duties are as follows:

(i) The Vice President shall be responsible for coordinating the preparation of Division meeting, functions, and events.

(ii) The Vice President shall closely advise the President to all matters concerning and/or pertaining the Division.

(iii) The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the event of absence or inability of the President to discharge the duties pertaining to that office, and shall perform such duties as may be required by the President.

(c) Secretary duties are as follows:

(i) The Secretary shall conduct the general correspondence of the Division and keep the Local Chapter and National Association notified as necessary.

(ii) The Secretary shall give notice to the Division of all meetings as may be required by Article IV hereto.

(iii) The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the meeting of the Division.

(iv) The Secretary shall keep a roster of the membership, denoting both active and inactive status of all members.

(v) The Secretary shall perform such other duties as properly pertain to this office, including, but not limited to, keeping minutes of all Executive Committee meetings, and sending the minutes to the Executive Committee within three (3) days of the meeting.

(vi) The secretary shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the absence or inability of the President and/or the Vice President to discharge the duties pertaining to that office, and shall perform such duties as may be required by the President.

(d) Treasurer duties are as follows:

- (i) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due to the Division and serve as the expert for all Division financial matters.**
- (ii) The Treasurer shall make disbursements therefrom only as authorized by two officers of the Division or a majority vote of the active members present at any Division meeting.**
- (iii) The Treasurer shall develop a budget for the Division in consultation with the President and shall keep the Executive Committee informed of the financial standing of the Division.**
- (iv) The Treasurer shall keep an itemized record of all monies received and disbursed by or to who paid and for what purpose; shall submit to the Division membership, when requested, and at the end of the calendar year, a report in writing itemizing the receipts and disbursements for the year; shall keep all books, vouchers and records available for audit; shall work with Akron Law's Administration to obtain funding and using the p-card for purchases for lunches and events, and submit all receipts to the office after an order is placed; and shall perform such other duties as properly pertain to the office.**
- (v) The Treasurer may work with the local chapter or Association to receive grants, funding or other monies to further the Mission and/or Objectives of the Division.**
- (v) The Treasurer shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the absence or inability of the President, Vice President, and/or Secretary to discharge the duties pertaining to that office, and shall perform such duties as may be required by the President.**

(e) The Publications and Events Director (Director) duties are as follows:

(i) The Director shall work closely with other Officers of the Division, the Local Chapter, and/or the Association to promote and plan events for Members, and shall keep the Executive Committee informed on the status of these events.

(ii) The Director shall work with Members and Officers on issues of publication of material, whether it be for the Division, Local Chapter, and/or Association, and shall keep the Executive Committee informed on the status of the material.

(iii) The Director shall, when able, attend the annual Association Conference with the President and available Officers of the Division, and assist with the planning of the attendance of the Conference and/or other out-of-state events.

(iv) The Director shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the absence or inability of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and/or Treasurer to discharge the duties pertaining to that office, and shall perform such duties as may be required by the President.

Section 4. General Elections and Terms

(a) The orderly transfer of institutional knowledge being necessary for a well-run organization, the election of Officers shall take place annually during a meeting of the general membership on the month of *March* or *April* on a *date set by the Executive committee* that will general the most participation by the general membership.

(b) The Secretary shall take steps in a timely manner to publicize the elections to the general membership so as to attract the maximum number of thoughtful and motivated candidates and to promote civil debate among the general membership.

(c) Each candidate shall have an allotted amount of time, decided by the Executive Committee prior to election day, to give a speech to the general membership prior to voting by the Members.

(d) The election of Officers shall be by secret ballot, on paper or virtually, or by voice vote if there is no objection from the general Members.

(e) For each position, the candidate with the most votes shall be the winner of that office.

(f) In the event of a tie, a run-off election shall be held between the tied candidates. The candidate with the most votes in the run-off shall be the winner. In the event of a tie in the run-off election, the Executive Committee, shall select the winner among the tied candidates by majority vote. In the event of a split vote by the Executive Committee, there shall be a revote, with the addition of the Faculty Advisor, and the winner shall be chosen by a majority vote.

(g) Any candidate who wishes to contest the results of any election must inform a member of the Executive Committee, which shall convene along with the Faculty Advisor. The outcome of the challenge shall be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and the Faculty Advisor, which may rule to uphold or overturn the results. If the results are overturned, a new election for the position in question shall take place at the earliest possible meeting of the general membership.

(h) Upon election, Elected Officers Shall assume the duties of their respective offices on the *last day of classes for the Spring Semester*.

Section 5. Removal From Office

(a) An Officer may be removed from office for delinquency in attendance, inefficiency, neglect of duty, violation of appropriate standards of conduct and ethics, violation of any provision of the Division's Constitution or Bylaws, or for other causes detrimental to the Division, only upon

three-fourths of members' vote at a general membership meeting called for such purpose by the Executive Committee.

(b) In case the President is removed from office under the procedures of this section, the individual shall not be recognized as a member of the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Vacancies of Office

(a) In case of death, resignation, unenrollment from Akron Law, or removal of the President, the Vice President shall succeed to office of President.

(b) In cases of the death, resignation, unenrollment from Akron Law, or removal of any other officer, the vacancy shall be filled by special election by the general membership. In case of such vacancy, the Secretary shall immediately take steps to publicize the special election to the general membership so as to attract the maximum number of thoughtful and motivated candidates and to promote civil debate among the general membership.

(c) The winner of the special election shall assume the duties of the office immediately following the election for a term expiring on the same last day of the other Officers on the Executive Committee, *the last day of the Spring Semester*.

Article IV: General Membership Meetings

Section 1. A well-informed general membership being necessary for a successful student organization, the President shall call at least one general membership meeting each semester.

Section 2. A quorum shall consist of a majority of Executive Committee members.

Article V: Amendments

Section 1. Initiation of Amendment. A proposal to amend this Constitution may be initiated in any one of the following ways:

(a) Subject to quorum requirements of the Executive Committee, a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

(b) Subject to quorum requirements of a general membership meeting, a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a meeting of the general membership.

Section 2. Adoption of Amendment. A successfully initiated proposal to amend this Constitution shall be adopted under the following procedure:

(a) The Secretary shall notify the general membership of the proposed amendment and the date and time upon which such amendment shall be considered.

(b) At such a general membership meeting, the proposed amendment shall be ratified only by two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

Article VI: Bylaws

Section 1. Purpose. The Bylaws of the Division shall serve to facilitate the just and efficient operation of the division to further the mission, principles, and other provisions set forth in this Constitution.

Section 2. Annual Executive Committee Review. Upon assumption of each new annual Executive Committee, the Officers shall review and propose any changes to the existing Bylaws.

Section 3. Change to Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall implement any procedure it sees fit for the initiation of any change to the Bylaws. Adoption of such change shall be sufficient under any of the following procedures:

(a) Subject to quorum requirements of the Executive Committee, a simple majority vote of those present and voting at the meeting of the Executive Committee shall be sufficient to adopt any change to the Bylaws.

(b) Subject to quorum requirements of a general membership meeting, a simple majority vote of those present and voting at a meeting of the general membership shall be sufficient to adopt any change to the Bylaws.

Section 4. Announcement of Changes. Any change to the Bylaws shall be announced by the Secretary to the general membership.

Section 5. Supremacy of the Constitution. This constitution shall prevail in the event of any conflict between a provision of the Constitution and the Bylaws.

Article VII: Nondiscrimination Clause

Section 1. It is the policy of this Institution that there shall be no unlawful discrimination against any individual in employment or in its programs or activities at the University of Akron because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, status as a parent during pregnancy and immediately after the birth of a child, status as a parent of a young child, status as a foster parent, military status, genetic information, or status as a veteran. The University of Akron prohibits sexual harassment of any form in all aspects of employment and in its programs and activities and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual and racial or ethnic orientation in employment and admissions.