



THE FEDERALIST SOCIETY
for Law & Public Policy Studies

**THE FEDERALIST SOCIETY
AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
MORITZ COLLEGE OF LAW**

STUDENT CHAPTER CONSTITUTION

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Preamble:

Founded in 1982, the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies is a group of conservatives and libertarians dedicated to reforming the legal order. The Federalist Society at The Ohio State University (“The Society”) is an organization interested in free thought and debate on the current state of the legal order. The Society is founded on the principles that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to the Constitution of the United States of America, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is—not what it should be.

The purpose of The Society is to promote an awareness of these principles and to further their application through its activities. This requires restoring the recognition of the importance of norms that place a premium on individual liberty, traditional values, and the rule of law among law students, professors, lawyers, and judges. In working to achieve these goals, The Society will work to create an intellectual network that extends to all levels of the legal community.

The Federalist Society at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law honors, respects, and supports the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Ohio.

Article I: Name & Definitions

The official name of the organization shall be The Federalist Society at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. The organization may also be referred to as:

- The Federalist Society at The Ohio State University
- The Ohio State Student Chapter of The Federalist Society
- Moritz Federalist Society
- FedSoc

The following terms shall be defined as follows:

“Dues-Paying Member” – students, faculty, or administration members at the Moritz College of Law who that are current dues-paying members on record

“General Member” – students, faculty, or administration members at the Moritz College of Law who are subscribed to chapter communications

“Executive Board” – the four Executive Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer

“Leadership Team” – the Executive Board, plus all Non-Officer positions created and appointed by the President

Article II: Membership

While overall The Society believes in the conservative and libertarian principles of limited government, its members are diverse and often hold conflicting views on a broad range of issues. Membership in The Federalist Society at The Ohio State University is open to any student at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, as well as any faculty, or administration member at the Moritz College of Law.

The Society is an organization of Ohio State law students established in accordance with the regulations of The Ohio State University and the Moritz College of Law. Membership and activities are open to all currently enrolled law students, regardless of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment. This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

A majority vote of Executive Board Officers, a majority vote of Dues-Paying Members, and the approval of the Faculty Advisor(s) are required to remove a member from The Society.

Article III: General Meetings

General Meetings, which shall include all available members, shall be held as indicated in The Society’s Bylaws. Quorum requirements and rules of procedure shall be specified in The Society’s Bylaws.

Article IV: Executive Board and Officers

Section I: Executive Board Officer Positions and Creation of Non-Officer Positions

The Society shall have the following Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The members of the Executive Board shall be The Society’s four Officers. Non-Officer positions may

be created by the President and may be formally specified in The Society's Bylaws. All positions within The Society shall be held by students at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Section II: Officer Elections and Term

All Officers except the Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of Dues-Paying Members during the first full week of April. If approved and disseminated to the Dues-Paying Members of The Society sixty calendar days before the election date, the Executive Board may choose a different date for the election. The Treasurer shall be directly appointed by the President-elect during the week following the Dues-Paying Member elections.

If the incumbent President is not running for an elected position, the President shall oversee the April Dues-Paying Member election. If the President is running for an elected position, the Faculty Advisor(s) shall oversee the April Dues-Paying Member election. The election may be held online or in-person, but the Executive Board and Faculty Advisor(s) shall certify the results. All candidates for elected positions shall provide the President with a short statement of interest, to be shared with all Dues-Paying Members, in order to be listed on the ballot. No write-in candidates shall be allowed.

All Officers shall serve for a term of one year, beginning June 1 of the election year. All Officers shall be Dues-Paying Members during the elected term.

A majority vote of the Officers and Faculty Advisor(s) is needed to remove an Officer. If an Officer is removed or a vacancy arises, a replacement Officer may be nominated by the highest remaining Officer and confirmed by a unanimous vote of the remaining Officers and Faculty Advisor(s). If the Vice President is the highest remaining Executive Officer, the Vice President may appoint themselves to the President. No person shall hold two Officer positions, except temporarily in the case of Officer vacancy self-appointments.

Additional rules governing the election of Officers and the procedures for filling vacancies may be specified in The Society's Bylaws.

Section III: Officer Duties

Officers shall have the duties described below and any other duties that the President shall from time to time deem expedient for The Society. The organizational structure and duties of each Officer may be specified in The Society's Bylaws. At least once per elected term, the

President shall call an Executive Board Meeting, consisting of at least all Officers, to give information of the State of The Society.

(1) President – The President shall be the chief executive of The Society. The President shall call and preside over all General Meetings and Executive Board Meetings. The President shall supervise all club activities, schedule speakers and Events, and have final say over all expenditures of The Society. The President shall serve as a liaison to any such other organizations as the Executive Board deems necessary.

A newly elected President shall appoint a Treasurer the week following the election and shall have the power to appoint any such assistants to the Leadership Team as the President deems necessary to assist in fulfilling the duties of the office. The President may require statements of interest and other application materials from potential appointees as deemed necessary.

While not required, this position is usually held by a third-year student.

(2) Vice President – The Vice President shall assist the President as necessary and shall preside in case of the President's absence or disability. The Vice President shall rule on all matters of parliamentary procedure. The Vice President shall maintain all official records of The Society.

(3) Secretary – The Secretary shall take minutes of all Society meetings, maintain official Society correspondence, and notify all members of upcoming General Meetings. The Secretary shall assist the President and Vice President as they deem necessary.

The Secretary shall focus on actively recruiting new members and making recently added members feel welcome. The Secretary shall oversee 1L Representatives and serve as a liaison between the Executive Board and first-year students.

While not required, this position is usually held by a second-year student.

(4) Treasurer – The Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of The Society and shall present and supervise the budget. The Treasurer shall be responsible for submitting reimbursements to the National Organization. The Treasurer shall be responsible for any fund-raising activities and for overseeing dues-paying processes and matters.

During the April Dues-Paying Member election, the Treasurer shall verify that each person desiring a ballot is a Dues-Paying Member,

whose dues are current; no proxy votes shall be allowed. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President-elect.

Article V: Faculty Advisors

The Faculty Advisor(s) of The Society shall be qualified faculty member(s) of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, selected by Dues-Paying Members of The Society. In the absence or unavailability of a suitable faculty member, The Society may select a suitable member of the legal profession outside The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Nominations for Faculty Advisor may be made by any Dues-Paying Member of the organization at an Executive Meeting and is subject to the approval of a majority vote of Dues-Paying Members.

Article VI: Finances

Membership Dues, as required to become a “Dues-Paying Member” shall be specified in The Society’s Bylaws.

Article VII: Amendments

Any Dues-Paying Member may propose amendments to this Constitution. After earning approval by a majority of the Executive Board, proposed amendments shall be put before a vote of Dues-Paying Members. Amendments shall take effect upon ratification by two-thirds of the Dues-Paying Members.

Article VIII: Bylaws

The Society’s Bylaws may specify and clarify the procedures and rules necessary for the organization to properly function. Any Dues-Paying Member may propose bylaws to this Constitution. After earning approval by a majority of the Executive Board, proposed amendments shall be put before a vote of Dues-Paying Members. Bylaws shall take effect upon approval of a majority of the Dues-Paying Members.

Article IX: Interpretation

This Constitution shall be interpreted based upon its original public meaning.

Article X: Disposition of Funds and Records

The Society shall dispose of its assets upon dissolution by giving them to a law student attending the Moritz College of Law in the form of a

scholarship. The Society shall dispose of its records upon dissolution by giving them to the Moritz College of Law special collections.



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Membership Bylaw

Dues-Paying Members. In order to be a “Dues-Paying Member,” chapter members must be current on their dues to the national Federalist Society organization. Anyone needing assistance should ask any Executive Board Member for help. The Federalist Society at The Ohio State University, itself, does not collect dues; all payments are to be made to the national organization.

General Meeting Bylaw

General Meetings. General Meetings may be called by the President, but the President must provide at least 7 calendar days’ notice to members. A quorum shall require the presence of 3/4 of Executive Board Officers, plus 2 other Dues-Paying Members. The Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern all General Meetings.

Officers Bylaw

President. The President shall aspire for The Society to win the James Madison Chapter of the Year Award.

The President may appoint members to Non-Officer positions within the Leadership Team as the President sees fit. All Non-Officer Leadership Team members shall report to the President. Any Non-Officer Leadership Team member may be removed by the President for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office. Such Non-Officer positions may include:

- *Executive Academic Director* – shall coordinate with the President to put together timely Events and compile academic articles to prepare members for all Events.
- *Social Director* – shall regularly put together social events to encourage a sense of community among chapter members and may coordinate with other organizations as necessary, such as other student organizations at the Moritz College of Law and the Columbus Federalist Society Lawyers Chapter.
- *Marketing Director* – shall aspire for The Society to win the Thomas Paine Award for Creative Publicity, and shall publicize The Society’s Events, social gatherings, and other activities.

Vice President. The Vice President shall aspire for The Society to win the Alexander Hamilton Most Improved Chapter Award.

The Vice President shall be the primary contact with the Columbus Federalist Society Lawyers Chapter, informing The Society of the Columbus Chapter’s upcoming meetings and Events.

Secretary. The Secretary shall aspire for The Society to win the Samuel Adams Award for Membership Growth.

Treasurer. In verifying that each member wishing to vote is a Dues-Paying Member, the Treasurer shall do all that is reasonably possible to verify that a member is able to vote. Such steps may include, but are not limited to, cross-referencing membership enrollment data and asking for online verification, such as screenshots, of individual membership status.

Election Bylaw

The election for the 2021-22 academic year shall take place on Thursday, April 8, 2021.

Disclaimer Bylaw

The Society is about ideas. It does not lobby for legislation, take policy positions, or sponsor or endorse nominees and candidates for public service. It does not endorse viewpoints expressed by an invited speaker and should not be construed as condoning any individual statement made by an invited speaker at an event hosted or co-sponsored by The Society.