



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 is 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

For the purposes of this Constitution and Bylaws:

“*Dues-Paying Member*” means students, faculty, or administration members at the Moritz College of Law who are on record to be current on their dues, as determined by the Bylaws.

“*Executive Board*” means the four Officers: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Events, and Treasurer.

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

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“*Leadership Team*” means the *Executive Board*, plus all Chair 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 will 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 all Faculty Advisors are required to remove a member from The Society.

ARTICLE III: GENERAL MEETINGS

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

ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BOARD AND OFFICERS

Section I: Executive Board Officer Positions and Creation of Chair Positions

The Society will have the following Officers: President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Events, and Treasurer. The members of the *Executive Board* will be The Society’s four Officers. Chair positions may be created by the President and may be formally specified in The Society’s Bylaws. All positions within The Society must be held by students at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

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Section II: Officer Elections and Term

All Officers except the Treasurer must be elected by a 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 must be 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 must oversee the April *Dues-Paying Member* election. If the incumbent President is running for an elected position, the Faculty Advisor(s) must oversee the April *Dues-Paying Member* election. The election may be held online or in-person, but the *Executive Board* and Faculty Advisor(s) must certify the results. In order to be listed on the ballot, all candidates for elected positions must provide the President a short statement of interest, to be shared with all *Dues-Paying Members*. No write-in candidates may be allowed.

All Officers will serve for a term of one year, beginning June 1 of the election year. All Officers and Chairs must 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). The order of Officer positions is President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Events, then Treasurer. If the Presidency is vacant, the highest remaining Officer may appoint himself President. No person may 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 will have the duties described below and any other duties that the President may 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 must call an *Executive Board Meeting*, consisting of at least all Officers, to give information of the State of The Society.

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(1) **President.** The President is the chief executive of The Society. The President will call and preside over all General Meetings and *Executive Board* Meetings, notifying *Dues-Paying Members* or *General Members* as appropriate. The President will supervise all club activities, maintain official Society correspondence, help the Vice President for Events schedule speakers and plan Events, and have final say over all expenditures of The Society. The President will serve as a liaison to any such other organizations as the *Executive Board* deems necessary. The President must maintain all official records of The Society.

The week following the election, the President-elect must appoint a Treasurer. The President will have the power to appoint Chairs to the *Leadership Team* as the President deems necessary to assist in fulfilling the duties of The Society. The President may require statements of interest and other application materials from potential appointees as deemed necessary.

While not required, this position should be held by a third-year student.

(2) **Executive Vice President.** The Executive Vice President will lead chapter membership efforts and will be involved to a lesser extent in all other operations of The Society.

This position should be held by a second-year student. As the only Officer position specifically designated for second-year students, the Executive Vice President must work closely with the President to learn how The Society functions. The Executive Vice President should be in some way involved in The Society's Event-planning process; if the President and Vice President for Events require assistance in planning Events, the Executive Vice President should be their first resource.

The Executive Vice President will plan social gatherings and other informal events, actively recruit new members, and make new members feel welcome. The Executive Vice President must oversee 1L Representatives and serve as a liaison between the *Executive Board* and first-year students. The Executive Vice President must oversee a program designed to mentor first-year members.

During Society meetings, the Executive Vice President must act as secretary and take meeting minutes.

(3) **Vice President for Events.** The Vice President for Events will be in charge of scheduling speakers and planning Events for The Society. In

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coordinating such Events, the Vice President for Events must consider the wishes of the President.

The Vice President for Events will assist the President as necessary and will preside in case of the President's absence or disability. The Vice President for Events will rule on all matters of parliamentary procedure.

(4) **Treasurer.** The Treasurer will be responsible for the finances of The Society and must present and supervise the budget. The Treasurer will be responsible for submitting receipts to and receiving reimbursements from the National Organization, as informed and instructed by the President. The Treasurer will be responsible for any fund-raising activities and for overseeing dues-paying processes and matters.

During the April *Dues-Paying Member* election, the Treasurer must verify that each person desiring a ballot is a *Dues-Paying Member*, whose dues are current; no proxy votes may be allowed. The Treasurer will be appointed by the President-elect.

ARTICLE V: FACULTY ADVISORS

The Faculty Advisor(s) of The Society must 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 are 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*" will be specified in The Society's Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

Any *Dues-Paying Member* may propose amendments to this Constitution. If a proposed amendment earns the approval of a majority of the *Executive Board*, proposed amendments must be put before a vote of *Dues-Paying Members*. Amendments will take effect upon ratification by two-thirds of the *Dues-Paying Members*.

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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 must be put before a vote of *Dues-Paying Members*. Bylaws must take effect upon approval of a majority of the *Dues-Paying Members*.

ARTICLE IX: INTERPRETATION

This Constitution must be interpreted based upon its original public meaning. The *Executive Board* will be the final arbiter of disputes regarding the interpretation of the Constitution or Bylaws.

ARTICLE X: DISPOSITION OF FUNDS AND RECORDS

Upon dissolution, The Society must dispose of its assets by giving them to a law student attending the Moritz College of Law in the form of a scholarship. Upon dissolution, The Society must dispose of its records 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 may be called by the President, but the President must provide at least seven calendar days’ notice to members. A quorum requires the presence of three-fourths of *Executive Board* Officers, plus two other *Dues-Paying Members*. The Robert’s Rules of Order must govern all General Meetings.

OFFICERS BYLAW

President. The President will aspire for The Society to win the James Madison Chapter of the Year Award, the Alexander Hamilton Most Improved Chapter Award, and the Samuel Adams Award for Membership Growth.

The President will be the primary contact with the Columbus Federalist Society Lawyers Chapter and will inform The Society of the Columbus Chapter’s upcoming meetings and Events.

The President may appoint members to Chair positions within the *Leadership Team* as the President sees fit. All Chair *Leadership Team* members will report to the President. Any Chair on the *Leadership Team* may be removed by the President for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.

Such Chair positions may include:

- *Fellowship Chair* – will coordinate with the Executive Vice President to put together regular social gatherings that promote a sense of community among chapter members. The Fellowship Chair should coordinate gatherings with other organizations, such as other student organizations at the Moritz College of Law and the Columbus Federalist Society Lawyers Chapter.
- *Marketing Chair* – will aspire for The Society to win the Thomas Paine Award for Creative Publicity and will

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publicize The Society's Events, social gatherings, and other activities.

- *Academic Chair* – will coordinate with the President to compile academic articles to prepare members for all Events.

Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President will aspire for The Society to win the James Madison Chapter of the Year Award and the Samuel Adams Award for Membership Growth.

Vice President for Events. The Vice President for Events will aspire for The Society to win the Alexander Hamilton Most Improved Chapter Award and the Thomas Paine Award for Creative Publicity.

Treasurer. In verifying that each member wishing to vote is a *Dues-Paying Member*, the Treasurer must 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.

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.

SPEAKER BYLAW

Because The Society's membership consists of law students, The Society should avoid sponsoring or cosponsoring Events that feature speaker(s) without at least a graduate-level degree or the equivalent. If The Society does provide sponsorship to such an Event, a majority of the *Leadership Team* should, but is not required to, approve of the Event beforehand. Any questions of degree equivalency will be determined by the President.