

Women's Legal Society Constitution & Bylaws

Originally drafted Spring 2016

Reviewed and revised Spring 2021

Article I- Miscellaneous

§1. Name: The Women's Legal Society at Moritz College of Law

§2. Purpose: Women's Legal Society is a community space for women law students and our allies, committed to providing community events, panels, and networking opportunities. Women's Legal Society is dedicated to education and advocacy work that promotes intersectional justice at Moritz, in the legal community, and beyond.

§3. Non-Discrimination Policy:

Women's Legal Society strives to be an inclusive organization and encourages our members to hold us accountable for this goal. We welcome members of diverse identities and viewpoints and believe sharing experiences adds value to our organization.

The Women's Legal Society and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) on the basis 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 basis in accordance with [the guidelines](#).

Article II- Membership

§1. Voting Membership: Voting membership shall be defined as any student enrolled in The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

§2. Non-Voting Membership: Professors, alumni, non-Moritz students, and professionals are encouraged to become members of the Women's Legal Society, but shall be classified as non-voting associate members.

Article III- Officers

§1. Executive Board: The Executive Board represents the general membership, conducts Women's Legal Society business between general meetings, and reports its actions at the general meetings of the membership. The Women's Legal Society Executive Board shall consist of the following offices: President, Vice President, Treasurer, VP of Communication, and Diversity and Inclusion Chair.

§2. Duties: The abovementioned Executive Board offices shall have the following duties

A. President shall be responsible for the oversight and supervision of all Women's Legal Society activities. The President must make sure that the other Executive Board officers are performing their duties in accordance with this Constitution. The President must lead general meetings and cater to the needs of any guest speakers, which includes securing travel and lodging arrangements if necessary.

B. Vice President shall be responsible for interacting with WLS members to see where their interests are, as well as assisting in planning events and communicating with other organizations at Moritz on behalf of WLS. The Vice President may also assist the President with any of their duties.

C. Vice President of Communication shall be responsible for maintaining bulletin boards, advertising events appropriately, and updating the organization's social media pages.

D. Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining an active bank account in which to keep Women's Legal Society funds. The Treasurer shall pursue all potential avenues of funding for guest speakers and other events. The Treasurer must conduct all audits required by The Ohio State University.

E. Diversity and Inclusion Chair shall be responsible for maintaining connections with other affinity groups, planning intersectional programming, considering necessary accommodations for all events, and overseeing intersectionality and diversity in group discussions and events.

§3. Term Lengths: All officers of WLS shall serve a term of 1 (one) calendar year. New officers shall begin their term on May 1 of each year. There are no term limits, and an officer may be re-elected as many times as WLS members see fit. All officers must be students enrolled in the Moritz College of Law.

§4. Elections: All vacancies on the Executive Board shall be filled by an election, except as stated in the By-Laws. All voting members in good standing are eligible to run and cast a ballot in the election.

Article IV- Adviser

§1. Qualifications: WLS's adviser must be a full-time member of the Moritz College of Law faculty, with a demonstrated commitment to women's issues.

Article V- Meetings

§1. Frequency: WLS must hold at least two general meetings per academic semester. No meetings will be held when classes are not in session or during the summer term.

§2. Executive Board Frequency: The Executive Board shall meet as often as needed in order to carry out the purpose of WLS.

Article VI- Amending the Constitution

§1. Proposed Amendments: Shall be in writing and read at a general meeting of WLS members. The proposed amendment shall be read again and voted on at the following general meeting.

§2. Voting on Proposed Amendments: Any proposed amendment must gain approval from two thirds of the entire voting membership, present or not.

By-Laws

Article I- Parliamentary Authority

§1. Robert's Rule of Order shall govern WLS in all situations where they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the By-Laws of this organization.

Article II- Membership

§1. Becoming a Member: Attending one general meeting or helping with a fundraising event is the only requirement for becoming a member of WLS.

§2. Member in Good Standing: A member in good standing must attend at least two general meetings or fundraising events per academic semester.

§3. Dues: WLS does not require its members to pay dues.

Article III- Elections

§1. Eligibility: Any Moritz student who wishes to run for an Executive Board position may do so.

§2. Nominating: A Moritz student may be nominated for an Executive Board position by any WLS member, voting or non-voting. Additionally, Moritz students can nominate themselves for an elected position, and submit a written statement for why they would like the position.

§3. Voting: A member can be elected to an Executive Board position by securing a simple majority of support from those voting members participating in the election.

§4. Timing: Elections shall be held once per year in the Spring semester for the following school year.

§5. Interim Appointments: Any Executive Board vacancy that occurs between elections shall be filled by an appointment of the President. If the President's office is vacated in the interim, the Vice President shall assume presidential duties until the next election.

§6. Appointments by the President: If the active membership of WLS ever falls to five or fewer people, the President can appoint members to Executive Board positions without holding an election. If membership falls to one person, that person shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the President.

Article IV- Meeting Requirements

§1. Quorum: A quorum for any issue placed before the general membership, except elections, shall be one-third of all voting members in good standing.

§2. Executive Board Decision Making: Each Executive Board member shall have one vote when making a decision, except for the President who will receive two votes (for tie-breaking purposes).

Article V- Amending the By-Laws

§1. Proposed Amendments: Shall be proposed in writing to the WLS members. The proposed amendments shall be voted on by the voting members of WLS.

§2. Voting on Proposed Amendments: Any proposed amendment must gain approval from two thirds of the membership participating in the vote.

Article VI – Method of Selecting and/or Removing Officers and Members.

§1. In the event that a member or leader does not meet the expectations set forth in Articles II or III of the Constitution, any officer or member (with support of 2 additional members) may request a panel review to determine whether the officer should be removed from office or whether the officer or member should be removed from the organization. No review may be conducted on the basis of a protected status under Article I §3 of the Constitution, above.

§2. The panel shall consist of all executive board members in good standing and three general members. No member of the panel may be a review requesting or reviewed party in the current dispute. General members sitting on the panel shall consist of one first year student, one second year student, and one third year student. In the event this cannot be accomplished, additional available students from the highest class level may sit on the panel.

§3. The panel will allow 15 minutes for the requesting party to state the reasons for requesting review. The reviewed party will also have 15 minutes to respond to the requesting party and to state any additional relevant information. The panel will make its findings of fact as well as recommendation and submit them to all members.

§4. Members will vote on the removal of the reviewed part after reviewing the findings of fact and the panel's recommendation. To remove or put the reviewed party in probationary status, a two-thirds vote of voting members in good standing will be required.

Article VII - 1L Representatives

§1. 1L Representatives: The organization may elect or appoint 1L representatives based on the needs and interest of the membership in a particular school year. 1L representatives are responsible for facilitating communication between the Executive Board and their respective 1L sections. They may also help plan events, attend executive board meetings, or assume other duties as is best suited to aid the organization.