

# Constitution of OutLaws

*Drafted: 8/27/2004 by Cherish L. Cronmiller, Amanda Oberholtzer, The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, Class of 2006; Last amended: 7/25/2021.*

## Article I: Purposes

The purposes of OutLaws are to:

1. Educate students, faculty and staff of The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law regarding issues concerning Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) people.
2. Develop law student interest and learning regarding LGBTQ+ legal issues through educational programs.
3. Serve the greater Columbus, Ohio community by organizing and promoting philanthropic endeavors.
4. Perform outreach to promote The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law through communication with LGBTQ+ graduate and undergraduate organizations.
5. Foster the ideals of tolerance, respect, understanding, and equality in the community regarding the legal rights and privileges of all people, notably those individuals who identify as LGBTQ+.
6. To provide a forum where students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni may come together to express themselves and discuss legal issues relevant to LGBTQ+ people.
7. To encourage and support agencies that work towards meeting the needs of the LGBTQ+ community; and to function as a supportive and educational organization for the entire community, especially the law school community.

## Article II: Membership

1. Membership in OutLaws is open to all students, faculty and staff, their partners and friends at The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law who support, believe in, and openly embrace the purposes and missions of OutLaws.
2. Voting membership should be limited to currently enrolled Ohio State students. Others such as faculty, alumni, and professionals are encouraged to become members but as non-voting associate or honorary members. Voting membership in OutLaws shall terminate upon separation from the school due to graduation, withdrawal or dismissal.

## Article III: Non-Discrimination Statement

Neither membership in OutLaws, nor participation in any of its programs, is restricted 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 most recent Ohio State Student Organization Guidelines.

## Article IV: Officers and Succession

1. *Co-Chairs.* The OutLaws Co-Chairs shall be elected during the spring semester by a majority of the members present at the meeting. They shall serve as spokespersons for the organization and are responsible for facilitating implementation of the goals in Article I. They shall also be responsible for calling meetings and spring elections. The Co-Chairs are responsible for planning and executing both

social and academic programs, and coordinating fundraising activities and special events. The Co-Chairs will be responsible for publicizing events, reserving rooms, placing events on the Law School's events calendar, sending event announcements to the SBA secretary for their inclusion in Events emails, and sending events emails to other LGBTQ+ groups at the University. The Professional and Community Information Chairperson shall also remain informed throughout the year of the activities and events being conducted by other Ohio State University LGBTQ+ organizations in order to relay that information to OutLaws members. Communication with other organizations, however, remains within the duties of the Co-Chairs.

2. *Treasurer*. The OutLaws Treasurer shall be elected during the spring semester by a majority of the members present at the meeting. They shall, with the assistance of the Co-Chairs, prepare the annual budget and shall disburse funds as authorized by the Co-Chairs.
3. *Professional and Community Information Chairperson*. The Professional and Community Information Chairperson shall be elected during the spring semester by a majority of the members present at the meeting. They shall be responsible for maintaining an alumni database and network of former OutLaws members and allies. They shall also maintain all recruiting materials from law firms or other legal organizations.
4. *Secretary*. The Secretary shall be elected during the spring semester by a majority of the members present at the meeting. They will be responsible for taking the minutes of both general body meetings and officers meetings and reporting those minutes to all OutLaws members present via electronic mail. This officer will also assist the Co-Chairs with the hard-copy publicity in the law school for events, including placing fliers in student mail boxes and posters advertising events around the Moritz College of Law grounds.
9. *Other Officers*. By a majority vote of the members present, OutLaws may create other officers to conduct the business of the organization and elect persons to fill those offices as necessary.
10. *Succession*. If any other office is vacated, a new officer will be elected at the next meeting by a majority of the members present.

#### **Article V: Meetings**

OutLaws shall hold meetings of the membership not less than three times during any semester.

#### **Article VI: Amendments**

The OutLaws may call a meeting for the purpose of voting on an Amendment to this Constitution. The Amendment will take effect upon a two-thirds majority vote of the members present. Votes can be submitted electronically, but must be verified in person by an OutLaws officer within a week of the vote.

Elected Officers will have a majority veto power. This power should only be used if the mission and purposes of this original constitution of the organization are threatened by persons seeking to harm the group structure such that the organization could not fulfill its purposes and missions.

#### **Article VII. Removal of Officers or Members**

General members and elected or appointed leaders should be expected to meet certain standards and conduct themselves in a way that reflects well on the organization. In the event that a member or leader does not meet those expectations, that person shall be subject to removal. An officer of the organization may petition for removal of any other officer or any member. Such a petition must specify the grounds for removal. The officers (excluding an officer whose own removal is sought) shall review the complaint, make findings, and vote on whether removal is justified. If a majority of the officers find removal is justified, a general meeting of the membership shall be called and removal shall occur upon a majority vote of the membership to remove the member or the officer. Nothing in this Article shall be interpreted to abrogate the protections in Article III.