

# Constitution of the National Lawyers Guild Student Chapter at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law

## ARTICLE I - GENERAL

Section 1: The official name of this organization shall be The National Lawyers Guild at Ohio State.

Section 2: The organization shall be an affiliate of the National Lawyers Guild and Columbus NLG.

Section 3: The organization shall not operate for profit.

## ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1: The National Lawyers Guild at Ohio State is an association dedicated to the need for basic change in the structure of our political and economic system. We are anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, and anti-racist and we strive to bring in anti-oppressive practices to all aspects of our organization. We strive to bring together all those who regard social transformation as more important than legal precedent, and to be with one another in a community where we can work to forward our shared commitments.

Section 2: The objectives of the organization shall be:

- a. To aid in making the United States, State Constitutions, law, and the administrative and judicial agencies of government responsive to the will of its people;
- b. To protect and foster our democratic institutions and civil rights and liberties of all people;
- c. To aid in the establishment of governmental and professional agencies to supply adequate legal services to all who are in need and cannot obtain it;
- d. To promote justice in the administration of the law;
- e. To aid in the adoption of laws for the economic and social welfare of the people;
- f. To keep the people informed upon legal matters affecting the public interest;
- g. To encourage change in the practices, pedagogy, and expectations of law school in order to transform the culture of legal education to serve the public interest;
- h. To improve the ethical standards which must guide the lawyer in the performance of their professional and social duties; and
- i. Any other purposes adopted into the Constitution of the National Lawyers Guild to be found at <http://www.nlg.org/member/bylaws-resolutions>.

## ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP/REMOVAL

Section 1: Membership is open to all in the Ohio State University community who agree with the statement of purpose in Article II.

- a. A member shall be any individual who....
  - i. Shows up at meetings and in working groups in whatever capacity they are able to
  - ii. Respects and supports all of their fellow members
  - iii. Is involved in at least one working group per academic year
  - iv. Attends one meeting per semester
  - v. Is an incoming or current student at Ohio State.
- b. There shall be no application process to join the organization. Membership shall be formally recognized as adding one's name to the NLG contact sheet.

Section 2: Membership is open to all students, faculty and staff at The Ohio State University.

Section 3: Membership is open to all students, and this organization does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, age, veteran/military status, creed, marital status, public assistance status, sexual orientation, gender

identity, social class, political beliefs, immigration status, HIV/AIDS status, genetic information, ancestry, or any other identity, status, or bases under the law in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

Section 4: Members of the Student Chapter are encouraged to join the NLG Columbus chapter.

#### ARTICLE IV - BOARD MEMBERS

Section 1: The organization does not utilize a hierarchical authority structure. All members shall share cooperative responsibility for the official duties of the organization.

Section 2: New board members shall be appointed by acting board members upon acting members' graduation, lack of capacity to continue serving, or another members interest in fulfilling relevant duties.

Section 3: Appointments, while at the discretion of acting board members, shall be discussed and confirmed by a consensus of members present at a weekly meeting when appointment becomes necessary or appropriate. If a weekly meeting is not being held, a consensus may also be reached in the NLG Slack or GroupMe.

Section 4: While board members serve the essential functions of meeting all university mandated requirements for student organizations, they will maintain their commitment to a non-hierarchical organization. Board members shall bear no weight on the function of the organization or the responsibilities of individual members, and have no greater say in organizational affairs than any other member.

#### ARTICLE V – WORKING GROUPS

Section 1: Permanent and temporary working groups shall be established by members of the organization. Any member may join any working group, and each group shall cooperatively determine how to participate in specific tasks, discussions, and work.

#### ARTICLE VI – MEETING

Section 1: Regular meetings of the organization shall be held at least once each semester at a time to be determined by the members who have taken on the task of scheduling the meeting.

Section 2: The duties of facilitating meetings, setting the agenda, and taking minutes of meetings shall be performed by any member who volunteers each week so as to follow our non-hierarchical organizational structure.

Section 3: A consensus of members present will provide the parliamentary authority governing any one particular meeting, with all members consenting to make decisions in accordance with the purposes and values stated in Article II.

Section 4: In general, meetings occur weekly. The frequency, time, and location of the meetings is open to adjustments as members see fit.

#### ARTICLE VII - FINANCIAL MATTERS

Section 1: The club shall not provide monetary gain, incidentally or otherwise to its membership.

Section 2: If the organization is dissolved at any time, funds from OSU will be returned and any other residual assets shall be donated to NLG.

Section 3: A spreadsheet will be made available to all NLG members which accounts for all funds raised and expended, to be updated and maintained as necessary by the treasurer.

Section 4: The treasurer will facilitate spending on programming and operating costs which NLG members propose and ensure that all OSU funds are spent in accordance with OSU guidelines, including collecting all necessary financial documentation to complete OSU audits.

#### ARTICLE VIII - BY-LAWS

Section 1: By-Laws may be proposed by the membership and may be adopted by a majority vote of those present at the meeting when a quorum is present.

#### ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This Constitution can be amended at any regular meeting of the organization with a consensus of the members present. Written notification will be provided to all members prior to voting on the proposed amendment, which may be accomplished via group email.

#### ARTICLE X - FACULTY ADVISOR

Section 1: The faculty advisor shall be a full-time member of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. Preferably this faculty member will also be a member of NLG. The sole responsibility of the faculty advisor shall be to fulfill the university requirement of having a faculty advisor.