

# **Real Estate Law Association**

## **Constitution and By-Laws**

### **Article I - Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.**

#### **Section 1 - Name:**

Real Estate Law Association

#### **Section 2 - Purpose:**

The purpose of the Real Estate Law Association (RELA) is to serve as a premier platform dedicated to advancing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and promoting excellence in the dynamic realm of real estate law. With a commitment to facilitating comprehensive understanding, we unite legal professionals, students, and industry experts to navigate the intricate landscapes of real estate transactions, regulations, and disputes.

We strive to be the epicenter of cutting-edge knowledge in real estate law, offering a space for our members to continuously learn, grow, and stay updated on the latest legal developments through guest speakers, networking events, and access to various publications. We strive to empower our members to navigate the evolving legal frameworks that govern the vast world of real estate.

In essence, the Real Estate Law Association stands as a beacon of excellence, uniting legal professionals, students, and experts in a collaborative pursuit of knowledge, ethics, and progress within the dynamic landscape of real estate law. Through knowledge sharing, ethical advocacy, and community engagement, we aim to shape a more just, transparent, and resilient real estate sector for all.

#### **Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy:**

This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons 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 Student Organization Registration and Funding Guidelines..

### **Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership.**

Voting membership is limited only to students of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Any interested individuals who are not students, such as faculty, alumni, professionals, etc., are encouraged to become non-voting associate or honorary members.

#### **Article II(A) – Termination of Membership**

(1) Membership can be terminated only after a hearing and majority vote by the Officers.

- (2) If the majority of Officers agree after the hearing that the membership should be terminated, then members will vote. If 50% of the members vote in favor of termination, then the member will be removed.
- (3) Any member can request that a member be reviewed for termination if their conduct runs counter to the purpose of the organization.

### **Article III - Organization Leadership: Titles, terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the leaders.**

Organization leaders are elected or appointed from the organization's voting membership. RELA's executive board consists of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Each position is elected in April of each year, and serves for a one year term. Each position is elected by a majority vote of the quorum present.

For an election to proceed, a quorum must be established, achievable through in-person presence or email participation. A quorum constitutes a majority of the organization's eligible voting members. Should a quorum not be met, positions will be appointed by a majority vote of the incumbent executive board.

#### **Article III(A) – Removal or Organization Leaders**

- (1) Any elected officer may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws.
- (2) The Executive Officers may remove an Officer upon a two-thirds affirmative vote in consultation with the organization's advisor. (The three Officers not up for removal must agree).
- (3) Any member can recommend that an Officer be reviewed for removal. If an Officer is removed, a replacement Officer will be elected per election procedures.

### **Article IV - Executive Committee (if needed): Size and composition of the Committee.**

Executive Committee and chairpersons may be appointed by the executive board as needed to carry out the functions of RELA.

### **Article V - Standing Committees (if needed): Names, purposes, and composition.**

Standing committees and chairpersons may be appointed by the executive board as needed to carry out functions of RELA.

### **Article VI – Advisor(s) or Advisory Board: Qualification Criteria.**

Any advisor of a student organizations must be a full-time member of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. RELA's advisor should be selected from Moritz faculty members with experience and knowledge in real estate-related legal practice areas.

**Article VII – Meetings of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency.**

Two general meetings of the membership are required each academic term except for the summer term.

**Article VIII – Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements.**

This constitution is a living, breathing document that may be amended, as needed, to carry out the purpose of the organization and to accomplish the goals of the elected executive board. Passage of an amendment shall require either a two-thirds majority of voting members (a quorum being present) or if a quorum is not present, a majority of the executive board. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.

**Article IX – Method of Dissolution of Organization**

Requirements and procedures for dissolution of the student organization should be stated. Should any organization assets and debt exist, appropriate means for disposing of these assets and debts should be specified clearly and unequivocally.

**By-Laws**

**Article I – Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the by-laws of this organization.

**Article II- Membership**

Individuals may become members by contacting a member of the executive board.

**Article III- Election / Appointment of Government Leadership**

Elections may be conducted by email or by a paper ballot. Any voting members of the organization are eligible for office. Elections shall be conducted in April of each academic year. Special circumstances such as resignations, and impeachments, and replacement of board members shall be handled by a majority vote of the executive board.

**Article IV- Executive Committee (if needed)**

Specific duties of the Committee and its responsibilities to the membership shall be determined by the first executive committee to be formed.

**Article V- Standing Committees (if needed)**

Specific duties of each committee and their responsibilities to the organization leadership, Executive Committee, and general membership shall be determined by the first executive committee to be formed.

**Article VI - Advisor/Advisory Board Responsibilities**

Advisor of the organization shall assist as needed in an advisory capacity with the organization, and is encouraged to attend organizational meetings.

**Article VII - Meeting Requirements**

Regular, special, size, and determination of quorum (number of voting members required to vote on decisions placed before the general membership, executive, and standing committees).

**Article VIII - Method of Amending By-Laws**

By-laws may be amended by proposal in writing and reading the change at a general meeting of the membership and then bring the proposed change up for a vote at the next general meeting with a 2/3 majority vote of the membership present (a quorum being present).

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