**ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I – NAME, PURPOSE, AND NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

**Section 1: Name**

Advocates for Children (AFC)

**Section 2: Purpose**

*Mission:*

To promote and support quality advocacy for children while enabling law students to network with institutions and professionals serving the child population.

*General Information:*

Founded in 2002 by The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law students, Advocates for Children supports and promotes quality child advocacy. While enabling law students to network with current professionals serving the child population, AFC also strives to bring attention to the legal issues facing today’s children. By sponsoring lunchtime panels, hosting fundraising activities, and publicizing career/internship opportunities, AFC has established itself as an organization committed to bringing together students and professionals who strive to work in the field of children’s law.

In addition, AFC has formed a working relationship with Huckleberry House, a Columbus organization that provides a safe place for runaway youths and provides them with crisis intervention services. For several years, AFC has held a Holiday Gift drive. AFC hopes to form other community partnerships in the coming years.

**Section 3: Non-Discrimination Policy**

This organization and its members do 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 bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

**ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

Any Ohio State University Moritz College of Law student is eligible to be a voting member of Advocates for Children. To qualify as a voting member, a Moritz College of Law student must attend at least one AFC general meeting during that school year.

Any undergraduate or graduate student at the university (outside the Moritz College of Law) or any faculty or staff member at the university is welcome to attend AFC meetings and events but is not eligible to be a voting member.

**ARTICLE III – EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Advocates for Children is run by an Executive Board. The Executive Board is comprised of members who have been appointed by outgoing members of the Board or elected by the general voting membership. In such cases, the Executive Board member must be selected by a majority vote of the general voting membership. Any General member may express interest in nomination for an Executive Board position.

Each Executive Board member’s term runs from the day of election (usually in April) until the following year’s election (usually the next April). Therefore, the newly elected President/Coordinator is responsible for leadership of the organization over the summer months.

All Executive Board members are required to maintain at least a 2.0 GPA.

The Executive Board is comprised of the following positions:

**President/Coordinator (1)**

* Controls mailing lists, handles administrative updates, and arranges co-sponsorships of events with other groups.
* Schedules Executive Board and general meetings.
  + Creates agendas for all Executive Board and general meetings.
* Coordinates all activities of AFC at the 1L Orientation.
  + Reserves group table & attend interest fair during orientation week.
    - Two Board members mandatory attendance.
  + Provides information for interested students about AFC and the Justice for Children Practicum and Clinic.
* Writes a blurb for Moritz College of Law web page under student organizations.
  + Responsible for upkeep of webpage.
* Coordinate speaker panels, volunteer events, and other engagements with VP.
* Conducts and coordinates the Holiday Gift Drive.

**Treasurer (1 position)**

* Orders food for the events.
* Responsible for applying for funding.
* Documents expenditures.
* Works with Board members to organize fundraisers and fulfill refunds.
* Completes the annual audit.
* Maintaining AFC’s bank account and checkbook.
* Receiving and compiling a record of bank statements.

**Vice President/Secretary (1 position)**

* Responsible for taking and emailing the minutes from Executive Board and general meetings.
* Organizes advertising/marketing for events, meetings, and 1L Orientation.
* Coordinate speaker panels, volunteer events, and other engagements with President.
* Reserves rooms for meetings and events.
* Works with President/Coordinator to arrange co-sponsorship of events with other groups.

**1L Representative (1 position for each 1L section)**

These positions are chosen by a majority vote of the Executive Board during the Fall Semester. Nominees are self-identified.

* Maintains relations between AFC and the 1L class.
* Plans and executes fundraising events.
* Assists with advertising/managing of events.

**ARTICLE IV – REMOVAL OF EXECUTIVE BOARD AND MEMBERS**

The members of the Executive Board of Advocates for Children are expected to conduct themselves and any activities on behalf of the organization in a way that reflects well upon the organization. This includes attending meetings (Executive Board and general) and events or notifying the other Executive Board members in the event that attendance is not possible. Executive Board members must also fulfill the responsibilities of their respective position, as described in Article III. In the event that an Executive Board member does not fulfill these obligations or otherwise conducts him/herself in a way that does not reflect well upon the organization, that member may be removed from the organization's Executive Board by a majority vote of the other members of the Executive Board and final approval of the Advisor. In accordance with the organization’s nondiscrimination policy, no Executive Board member may be removed based on any factor listed in Article I, Section 3.

The members of Advocates for Children are expected to conduct themselves in a way that reflects well on the organization when representing the organization or attending meetings or events of the organization. In the event that a member does not conduct him/herself in a way that reflects well upon the organization, that member may be removed from the organization by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Board and final approval of the Advisor. In accordance with the organization’s nondiscrimination policy, no member may be removed based on any factor listed in Article I, Section 3.

**ARTICLE V – FACULTY ADVISOR**

The faculty advisor ensures that Advocates for Children is an effectively run organization and is working to fulfill its mission and responsibilities.

The AFC faculty advisor is:

Katherine Hunt Federle

Michael E. Moritz College of Law Email: federle.1@osu.edu

The Ohio State University Phone: (614) 292-9177 (office)

55 West 12th Avenue Fax: (614) 292-5511

Columbus, OH 43210

**ARTICLE V – MEETINGS**

Executive Board meetings should be held as often as necessary, but no less than twice per academic year.

General meetings should be held as often as necessary, but no less than twice per academic year.

**ARTICLE VI – METHOD OF AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**

The Advocates for Children Constitution can be amended by the Executive Board at any time. All changes must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board. Changes may be proposed by the general voting membership or by the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE VII – DISSOLUTION**

In the event of dissolution of the organization, all materials should be placed with the faculty advisor until a new children’s rights organization emerges.

Any funds remaining from those dispersed by the source shall be returned to the university, and a final audit should be completed.