

Latin Law Student Association

Student Organization Constitution

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Latin Law Student Association (LLSA)

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

The purpose of the Latin Law Student Association (“LLSA”) serves to promote and to enhance the progress of individual Latin law students as well as the political socio-economic progress of the Latin community.

In furtherance of the general purpose set forth, the students of LLSA will strive to achieve the following specific objectives but shall not be limited to these and may also strive to achieve such other objectives as the members of LLSA will from time to time deem appropriate:

To promote the academic, professional, and personal success of LLSA’s members.

To foster a supportive community within the law school.

To provide mentorship, academic resources, and networking opportunities to assist LLSA members in achieving excellence in their legal studies and careers.

To encourage the participation of Latin alumni in developing and remaining responsive to the social, political, and academic promotion of the Latin community.

To provide a cooperative atmosphere conducive to creativeness, innovativeness, and friendliness among its members.

To celebrate Latin culture and heritage, promote cross-cultural understanding, and create spaces for dialogue on issues impacting the Latin population and other marginalized communities.

To participate in community projects designed to assist others in the Latin community.

To organize events, panels, and collaborations with legal professionals and organizations to help members explore various areas of law and professional pathways.

To encourage the law school curriculum to include courses, seminars, and clinical skills related to Latin concerns.

To promote the understanding and respect of the various Latin cultures.

To promote and encourage unity between all Latin organizations on campus.

To enhance leadership among members on a national level by attempting to become an active chapter of the National Latin Law Student Association (NLLSA), subject to available funding.

ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

LLSA agrees that it will not engage in sexual misconduct nor any harassment or discrimination 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 Student Organization Registration Guidelines.

Section B. Hazing

LLSA agrees to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for hazing, in compliance with Ohio State University and Collin's Law. All members must conduct themselves in a manner that supports an environment free from hazing. Hazing includes any activity, regardless of consent, that causes or creates a substantial risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm or humiliation to any individual as part of membership or affiliation with the student organization. If found responsible for hazing, members and/or the organization may face disciplinary actions.

Section C. Bylaws

LLSA retains the right to maintain separate bylaws to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements set forth by local, state, and federal laws, The Ohio State University's regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Council on Student Affairs (CSA) Student Organization Registration Guidelines. Organizations may make amendments and changes to the bylaws without consulting the Ohio Union & Student Activities department, and changes to bylaws do not require approval. All elements of organizational bylaws shall be consistent with the organization's currently approved constitution on file and CSA constitution requirements.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership Eligibility

Membership in LLSA is open to any eligible individual interested in supporting the purposes of LLSA who signs up through means provided by the Executive Board, including but not limited to attendance at Meetings. Eligibility for membership will be extended to any present and past law students or other members of the campus community who identify with or support the goals of LLSA.

Members may elect to impose annual or semester dues as a condition of membership.

Honorary membership may be extended to any individual in appreciation of their contribution to the organization by a majority vote of the membership.

Section B. Member Selection

Individuals are considered general members for the current academic year after they have voluntarily joined the LLSA all-member groupchat and attended at least one meeting in the academic year.

Section C. Membership Timeline

Non-members, such as incoming 1Ls, are typically expected to join LLSA at the start of the fall academic semester, but non-members may join at any time following the procedure in Section B.

Section D. Member Removal

Any member (general or officer) may be removed for engaging in conduct or behavior that runs counter to the stated goals of LLSA, including but not limited to conduct or behavior that creates an environment that is prevailingly hostile, alienating, or otherwise unwelcoming to other current or potential members (distinct from and notwithstanding individual conflicts or disagreements that could reasonably be anticipated in the course of conducting LLSA business in a group dynamic).

Any general member or officer may initiate the process of removing another member by informing any member of the Executive Board of their intent to remove a LLSA member verbally or in writing. In this request, the requestor must identify (1) the member to be removed and (2) the alleged behavior of that member that they believe warrants removal from LLSA. The Executive Board member will notify the Executive Board, which will conduct a reasonable investigation of the allegations to determine whether member removal is appropriate. The Executive Board will decide by majority vote whether to remove the member against whom a complaint has been lodged. In the event of a tie, the Advisor will provide the tiebreaker vote.

Any member (general or officer) may elect to remove themselves as a member from LLSA by notifying a member of the Executive Board to ensure complete removal from all means of communication to LLSA members.

ARTICLE V. ADVISOR

Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities

The Faculty Advisor shall have only those powers expressly granted by this Constitution. The Faculty Advisor's primary role shall be to represent the Organization's interests before the law school faculty and administration and to exercise their discretion to transmit to other faculty and staff the recommendation of the Executive Board regarding the promotion and enhancement of the Latin law student community.

Section B. Advisor Term

Advisors are expected to serve for the period of one year with the potential to be reappointed for the following year, to be decided at the end of then-current current academic year. Reappointment must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board. In the event of a tie, any senior general member will provide the tiebreaker vote.

A member is qualified to serve as the "senior general member" for the purpose of advisor selection and reappointment if they are a current general member of LLSA who (1) has attended at least one LLSA general body meeting prior to the vote and (2) is classified in the most advanced academic year of their degree program relative to other general members. Thus, a 2L member will supercede a 1L member or LLM member, because the 2L exceeds both by a year in academic experience; a 3L member will supercede any 2L member, 1L member, or LLM member in seniority. If there are multiple members who are qualified to serve as the senior general member, the Executive Board may exercise its discretion in selecting the senior general member among qualified members.

Section C. Advisor Selection

The Executive Board shall identify and nominate eligible candidates for the role of Faculty Advisor.

The nominations must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board. In the event of a tie, any senior general member will provide the tiebreaker vote.

A member is qualified to serve as the "senior general member" for the purpose of advisor selection and reappointment if they are a current general member of LLSA who (1) has attended at least one LLSA general body meeting prior to the vote and (2) is classified in the most advanced academic year of their degree program relative to other general members. Thus, a 2L member will supercede a 1L member or LLM member, because the 2L exceeds both by a year in academic experience; a 3L member will supercede any 2L member, 1L member, or LLM member in seniority. If there are multiple members who are qualified to serve as the senior general member, the Executive Board may exercise its discretion in selecting the senior general member among qualified members.

Section D. Advisor Replacement

Should the Faculty Advisor choose to resign, they must provide written notice to the Executive Board at least 30 days prior to the intended resignation date, when possible. The Faculty Advisor will be notified of all updates and changes to their status as Faculty Advisor, including notices of removal, in writing via email.

A Faculty Advisor may be removed from their position for failure to fulfill the duties and responsibilities or for conduct inconsistent with university policies at any point in the Semester.

Following discussion among the Executive Board, a majority vote shall be required for removal.

Upon removal, the Executive Board shall promptly begin the Advisor Selection process outlined in Section C.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

Section A. Officer Positions

The Executive Board shall be composed of members holding the officer positions listed in Section A. The Executive Board may exercise its discretion to determine that the nature of an officer position appropriately permits the joint assignment of multiple eligible members to that officer position for the duration of the applicable year.

- a) President (Primary leader)
Responsibilities: Preside over all meetings of the organization and the Executive Board; Maintain a record of all graduating LLSA members; Communicate alumni about LLSA events; Coordinate an alumni event or panel for current LLSA members.
- b) Vice President (Secondary leader)
Responsibilities: Preside over meetings that the President is unable to attend; Give written notice to all members of meetings and agenda to be covered, as well as have it posted; Designate a Banquet Committee and preside over banquet planning; Communicate with the Executive Board and General Membership.
- c) Treasurer (Treasurer)
Responsibilities: Maintain an accounting of the financial affairs of the organization; Pay bills of the organization when receipts for expenditures are turned in; Disburse all monies as the organization may direct; Conduct an auditing report at the end of the academic year.

d) Secretary

Responsibilities: Record all meetings: date, time, members present, members absent, name of member who introduces a motion, etc.; Prepare and post agenda before every Executive Board and General Membership meeting; Maintain a yearly calendar of activities; Keep and read the minutes of the previous meeting; Inform other members of LLSA correspondences with non-members; Call a meeting to order in absence of the President until election of an interim President; Reserve rooms for body meetings and events; Assist other roles as appropriate; Maintain organized folders and online drive of all materials.

e) Internal Relations Chair

Responsibilities: Publicize monthly meetings and all LLSA activities and events; Maintain the bulletin boards; Work with the law school Office of Minority Affairs in the recruitment of Latin students; Lead and create LLSA events in and out of Moritz; Manage LLSA's presence and communications on social platforms; Maintain relationships and communication with other organizations in Moritz.

f) Advocacy Chair

Responsibilities: Maintain relationships and communication with other Latin organizations on campus; Engage with organizations serving the Latin community, locally and across the country; Coordinate any statements or actions relating to advocating for Latin community and other minority communities pending approval from the rest of the Executive Board.

g) 1L Representative

Responsibilities: Support other Executive Board members in the management, planning, and execution of initiatives as needed.

Section B. Officer Eligibility

Except for the 1L Representative position, a general member becomes eligible to hold an officer position by attending at least two general membership meetings per semester in the academic year prior to the year in which the assignment as an officer would take effect. Attendance at any LLSA-sponsored event in a semester is considered substantially equivalent to attendance at one general membership meeting in the same semester, but a member may not fulfill the attendance requirement by solely attending LLSA-sponsored events in the applicable semester.

A general member becomes eligible to hold the 1L Representative position for the current academic year by being a 1L in the current academic year and attending at least one general membership meeting prior to the time of appointment by the Executive Board in early fall.

Section C. Officer Selection Process

Elections for membership to the Executive Board are to be held in the spring semester of the academic year, after at least one general membership meeting, with nominations allowed until seven days prior to the scheduled vote. Nominations shall be self-submitted and include a personal statement of interest delivered to a designated member of the current Executive Board at least one week prior to the scheduled vote.

If a nominee is uncontested in running for a position on the Executive Board, then they will be automatically granted that position on the day of the scheduled vote, provided the nominee is otherwise eligible to serve on the Executive Board. Except for the role of President, if a position on the Executive Board is contested by multiple nominees, then the President-Elect will decide whether to assign multiple members to that position of the Executive Board before the day of the scheduled vote. If the resultant number of seats for an Executive Board position does not automatically grant every nominee for a seat for the position-in-question, or if the contested position is that of President, then a majority vote among members eligible to vote will be conducted on the day of the scheduled vote. In the event of a tie, the faculty advisor shall provide the tie-breaking vote. To aid in their decision, the faculty advisor shall be provided with each nominee's personal

statement of interest and any records reflecting each nominee's involvement with LLSA in the current academic year, such as meeting attendance records and records demonstrating involvement with other LLSA events as a volunteer or attendee.

1L Representative(s) will be elected by the Executive Board during the second week of the Fall semester, with nominations remaining open until the day prior to the elections.. There is no maximum limit on the number of 1L Representatives elected. They must attend at least 1 Executive Board meeting per semester, but are strongly encouraged to attend all meetings. They shall have voting rights if present at the Executive Board meetings.

Section D. Officer Removal

Members and officials wishing to resign from elective or appointive positions must submit a signed letter of resignation to the President, Vice President, or Secretary stating the reason therein.

The members of the organization may remove from office any elected official or general member upon a two-thirds vote of the membership.

Except for 1L representatives, who must only attend one meeting per semester, three unexcused absences any time during the academic year from a scheduled Executive Board meeting will operate as the resignation of that Executive Board member. Three unexcused absences from either regular or special Board meetings at any time during the academic year by an Executive Board member will operate as a resignation for that academic year. An unexcused absence is defined as a failure to notify any other member of the Executive Board of the Executive Board member's absence.

ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION

Section A. Dissolution Requirements

This chapter shall be deemed dissolved if no member of LLSA is currently enrolled at OSU.

Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts

When disposing of assets, the amount should be distributed to the Moritz College of Law.

LLSA's remaining assets must be used to cover debts upon dissolution. Any remaining debts incurred by LLSA should be divided equally among those members responsible for incurring those debts. "Responsibility" for the purposes of debt division includes any member, including general members and officers, who proposed or approved the expenditure. The officers who most recently served as President, Vice President, and Treasurer, respectively, shall be responsible for managing dissolution procedures.

ARTICLE VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section A. Amendment Process

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the general membership. Regardless of whether an amendment is drafted by a general member or an officer, the amendment must be formally introduced by an officer. An amendment is introduced by dissemination through both (1) email to all LLSA members and (2) messaging in the LLSA all-member group chat. No amendment may be adopted without the entire membership receiving a written copy one week prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be voted upon.