

**Student Bar Association  
Constitution  
The Ohio State University College of Law**

**ARTICLE I – THE ASSOCIATION**

**Section A: Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Student Bar Association at the Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law, herein referred to as “the Association.”

**Section B: Purposes**

The purposes of this organization shall be:

1. To effectively promulgate the position of the Association on major issues affecting the students of the Michael E. Moritz College of Law.
2. To serve as a forum for the discussion of academic and professional issues.
3. To serve as liaison between the students, the College of Law administration, faculty, and the legal community.
4. To provide programs for professional training and advancement
5. To organize student social and recreational affairs within the Michael E. Moritz College of Law.

**Section C: Powers**

The Student Bar Association shall be the student representative body of the Michael E. Moritz College of Law. The Association shall have the power to carry out the necessary and proper functions of the Association Senate as enumerated in Article Two.

**Section D: Membership**

All students enrolled in the Michael E. Moritz College of Law shall be members of the Association.

**Section E: Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Association shall not discriminate against any individual for reasons of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, geographic origin, or familial, marital, or veteran status.

**ARTICLE II – THE ASSOCIATION SENATE**

**Section A: The Legislative Body of the Association shall be the Senate.**

**Section B: The following individuals are Senators and have full voting privileges in the Senate.**

1. Elected Michael E. Moritz College of Law Committee Student Members, Appointees, and Alternates as provided for in the Faculty Rules (See Rule 1.02).
2. Standing Committee Chairs or Co-Chairs as provided in Art. II Section G.
  - a. Alumni Relations Committee Chair.
  - b. Culture/Community Affairs Committee Chair.
  - c. Elections and Nomination Committee Chair.
  - d. Hooding Advisory Committee Chair.
  - e. Intramural Committee Chair.
  - f. Orientation/Tutoring Committee Chair.
  - g. Professional Development Committee Chair.
  - h. Public Relations/Publications Committee Chair.
  - i. Social Committee Chair.
  - j. Technology/Security Committee.
3. Select Committee Chairs as appointed by the President in Art. II Section H.
4. Elected Executive Officers found in Article II Section E (1). The President only votes to break a tie vote.
5. Senators to the Inter-professional Council (6 and the American Bar Association Law School Division (1).
6. First Year Senators (6).
7. The Chief Justice of the Honor Council

**Section C: The Association Senate shall:**

1. Enact the Resolutions of the Association.
2. Direct by Resolution the student Senators on the Moritz College of Law Committees to present the opinions of the Association as determined by the Senate.
3. Approve all appointments by the President by a majority vote.
4. Have the power to veto the President's discretionary authority over funding requests, as provided in Article II, Section F(1)(j).
5. Have the power to suspend for the remainder of an ongoing semester the President's discretionary spending power of fifty (50) dollars or less, upon vote of two-thirds of the Senate.
6. Approve the annual budget as prepared by the Treasurer.
7. Approve all spending requests greater than one hundred (100) dollars.
8. Exercise all other powers enumerated in this Constitution

**Section D: Senate Procedures**

1. Any member of the Senate who holds more than one office shall be permitted only one vote.
2. The Senate shall convene no less often than twice per month during the academic year.
3. Any member of the Senate upon the signature of ten (10) other voting members as defined in Article II, Section B may convene a meeting of the Senate.
4. The President shall only vote in the event of a tie vote by the Senate.

### **Section E: Executive Board**

1. The Executive Board of the Association shall consist of:
  - a. The President;
  - b. The Vice President;
  - c. The Secretary; and
  - d. The Treasurer.
2. The Executive Board shall:
  - a. Execute the Resolutions of the Senate;
  - b. By a majority vote, authorize all spending requests greater than fifty (50) dollars;
  - c. Spend all funds appropriated by the Senate in amounts greater than one hundred (100) dollars;
  - d. Approve all expenditures above fifty (50) dollars, but below one hundred (100) dollars.
  - e. Approve all emergency spending by a unanimous vote with consent of the advisor.
  - f. Exercise all other powers specified to the Executive Board by this constitution and by acts of the Senate.
  - g. Convene prior to each Senate meeting.
3. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the maintenance and security of all Association offices, spaces, and equipment.

### **Section F: The duties of the elected Senators shall be:**

1. **President** – The President shall:
  - a. Be chief spokesperson for the Association;
  - b. Preside at all meetings of the Senate and Executive Board;
  - c. Attend and represent student interests at faculty meetings;
  - d. Represent the Association at all functions and activities of the Ohio State University and Michael E. Moritz College of Law;
  - e. Appoint standing and select committee chairs;
  - f. Appoint the Chief Justice of the Honor Council per the Faculty Rules
  - g. Appoint Michael E. Moritz College of Law Standing Committee positions unfilled through election with the advice and consent of the Senate;
  - h. Create positions and appoint persons to those positions as needed;
  - i. Publish a report of the activities of the Association before the expiration of the 15<sup>th</sup> week of the Winter/Spring Semester;
  - j. Have the discretionary authority to grant or deny individual funding requests in amounts not to exceed fifty (50) dollars per request. The President shall report any such allocation or denials at the next meeting of the Association. See Art. II (C)(4) ;
  - k. Remain in good standing with the College or be removed as provided in Art. II Section I.
2. **Vice President** – The Vice President shall:
  - a. Be a member of all student organizations and activities under the authority of the Association, and shall be responsible for coordinating their activities;
  - b. Succeed the President in the event of resignation, withdrawal, or removal of the President;
  - c. Carry out the duties of the President in his or her absence or incapacity;
  - d. Organize one non-social event targeted at the entire law school approved by the Senate;
  - e. Remain in good standing with the College or be removed as provided in Art. II Section I;

3. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall:
  - a. Publish the agenda for each meeting of the Senate 24 hours advance of the meeting in a public place;
  - b. Publish the minutes of all meetings of the Association within seven (7) days of the meeting in a public place;
  - c. Keep a current and accurate compilation of amendments to the Association Constitution, resolutions enacted by the Senate, and interpretations of the Constitution;
  - d. Remain in good standing with the College or be removed as provided in Art. II Section I.
  
4. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall:
  - a. Receive and disburse all funds of the Association;
  - b. Prepare a budget for the forthcoming year;
  - c. Report the current balance of all Association accounts at every senate meeting;
  - d. Present a record of all financial transactions upon request of the Association Senate;
  - e. Remain in good standing with the College or be removed as provided in Art. II Section I.
  
5. **Student Senators to the Michael E. Moritz College of Law Committees** and their alternates shall perform their duties as listed in Faculty Rules (See Rule 1.02) and the Association Bylaws.
  
6. **Inter-professional Council (IPC) (6):** The Senators shall:
  - a. Attend the meetings of and represent the Association with the IPC;
  - b. Advise the Senate on all matters of interest to the Association.
  
7. **American Bar Association (ABA), Law Student Division (1):** The Senator shall:
  - c. Attend the meetings of and represent the Association with the ABA;
  - d. Advise the Senate on all matters of interest to the Association.
  
8. **First Year Senators (6):** The Senators shall:
  - a. Represent the concerns and ideas of the first year class;
  - b. Be placed on SBA Committees. The Committees placement shall be designated at the President's discretion upon the recommendation of the Elections and Nominations Committee.

### **Section G - Standing Committees**

1. The President shall nominate all chairs of standing committees. A majority of the members of the Senate present shall approve the nominee.
2. Candidates shall be enrolled and take classes at the College or College-approved joint degree program both Fall and Winter Semester to be eligible for any appointed office.
3. The President upon consent of the Senate shall appoint a chairperson or chairpersons of each standing committee except the Bookstore Committee.
4. The committee chairs may also appoint additional members of their committees with the advice and consent of the Executive Board.
5. The following shall be standing committees of the Association:
  - a. The **Alumni Relations Committee** shall meet periodically with the College Designees to determine ways to increase the interrelation between law students and Alumni.

- b. The **Barrister's Ball Committee** shall plan and execute an annual social dance event for the students and faculty of the College of Law.
- c. The **Community Service Committee** shall act as a liaison between the Association and the outside community. It shall plan and execute philanthropic events for Moritz College of Law participation.
- d. The **Elections and Nomination Committee** shall supervise nominations and elections to the Senate and all other elections under the Constitution pursuant to Article III.
- e. The **Hooding Advisory Committee** shall arrange the December and June graduation ceremonies as well as oversee all other graduation related activities.
- f. The **Intramural Committee** shall supervise all law school sports programs, including sponsoring law school athletic teams in University Competition.
- g. The **Orientation/Tutoring Committee** shall execute the program to introduce the First Year students to the College of Law.
- h. The **Placement Committee** shall assist the placement director and initiate and conduct programs designed to assist students in making career decisions and finding employment.
- i. The **Public Relations/Publications Committee** shall publicize the activities of the Association both within and outside the College of Law.
- j. The **Social Committee** shall arrange social functions of the Moritz College of Law community.
- k. **Technology/Security Committee** shall be in charge of talking to the Dean of the law school and the Dean of the library to ensure that technology is continually being upgraded for the College of law.

#### **Section H: Select Committees**

- 1. The President may establish select committees as he or she deems appropriate with approval by a majority of the members of the Senate present.
- 2. Any Select Committee shall be terminated at the end of the academic year during which it was established.
- 3. The President shall select a chair(s) and members for these committees, with approval by a majority of the members of the Senate present.
- 4. The committee chairs may also appoint additional members of their committees with the advice and consent of the Executive Board.

#### **Section I: Parliamentarian/Executive Assistant**

- 1. The President shall, soon after election, appoint a Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian shall not possess a vote in Senate Meetings, but is otherwise considered a senator.
- 2. The Parliamentarian's duties shall be:
  - a. To provide guidance and interpretation regarding the Constitution and Bylaws
  - b. To provide education and training to the Senate on procedural issues
  - c. To propose updates to the Constitution and Bylaws
  - d. To provide advice and assistance to the President and the Executive Board

#### **Section J: Removal**

- 1. The President, by majority vote of the Senate, may remove both Standing and Select Committee Chairs and members.

2. Any elected member as defined in Art. II Section B(1) shall be removed by the Senate upon completion of each of the following:
  - a. Submission during a Senate meeting of a petition signed by twenty (20) percent of the voting Senate members;
  - b. Discussion of removal at two consecutive Senate meetings held at least ten (10) academic days apart; and
  - c. A vote in favor of the petition by two-thirds of all Senate members, at the next Senate meeting following the second discussion meeting.
3. If the President is the subject of any removal petition, the Chief Justice of the Honor Council shall preside over the two Senate meetings during which removal of the President is discussed, as well as at the Senate meeting during which the removal petition is voted upon.

## **ARTICLE III: ELECTION AND SUCCESSION**

### **Section A: Schedule of Elections**

1. All Officers, other than First Year Senators, shall be elected in the General Election held the first week of April.
2. The First Year Senators shall be elected by the end of the fifth full academic week of the fall semester.
3. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with Article III, Section F.

### **Section B: Qualified Electors**

1. All association members who shall be First and Second year students on the date of the General Election shall be qualified electors for the election described in Article IX, Section A(1).
2. Only first year students shall be allowed to vote for First Year Senators.

### **Section C: Nomination of Candidates**

1. Candidates shall be enrolled and take classes at the College or College-approved joint degree program both Fall and Winter Semester to be eligible for any elected office.
2. Nominations for all officers and Senators shall be made by petition signed by 20 qualified electors as defined in Article III. Each nominee shall declare on the petition the particular position the nominee is seeking.
3. Each nominee for the executive board shall attach to the petition a personal statement to be posted on the SBA bulletin board.
4. Petition forms shall be available three school weeks before the election. A copy of the election rules shall be included with the petitions.
5. Petitions shall be due 5 p.m. Monday, two school weeks before the election.
6. All nominees shall be in good standing with the college.

### **Section D: Elections and Nominations Committee**

1. The Elections and Nomination Committee shall have the authority to promulgate rules for the conduct of elections, including but not limited to: petition deadlines, campaign literature distribution, and debate participation.

2. All such Election and Nomination Committee rules shall be approved by a majority vote of the Senate.
3. The Election and Nomination Chair shall be a third-year law student during the academic year when he or she serves as Election and Nomination Chair.
4. The Elections and Nomination Committee shall solicit applications for all vacant and appointed positions and forward a recommendation to the President for his appointment.
5. One member from each class shall be represented on the committee.

#### **Section E: Manner of Election**

1. The candidate who receives a majority of votes cast for each executive position shall be elected. In the event that no executive candidate receives a majority of votes cast for each position, a runoff election shall be held two academic days later between the two candidates receiving the most votes.
2. All other elected positions shall be determined by the candidates who received the most votes. In the event of a tie, a runoff election shall be held two academic days later.
3. In the event that there are fewer candidates than positions open on a committee, no write-in candidate may be elected who has not received at least 20 votes. If all positions are not filled by election, they shall be filled in accordance with Article III, Section F.

**Section F:** Vacancies in any Michael E. Moritz College of Law Committee, standing committee, or select committee other than President shall be filled by recommendations for appointment by the Elections and Nomination Committee. The President shall consider their recommendation and fill the appointments with the advice and consent of the Senate.

**Section G:** All Senators other than the First Senators shall be installed upon certification of the results of the election by the sitting Senate. First Year Senators shall be installed at the first meeting after their election upon certification of the result by the sitting Senate.

### **ARTICLE IV: CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS/AMENDMENT**

#### **Section A: Constitutional revision or amendments may introduced:**

1. Upon petition signed by twenty percent of the student body in favor of a referendum; or
2. Upon introduction by a Senator.

#### **Section B: Ratification of revisions or amendments**

1. If done by referendum, the Senate shall hold two public hearings in consecutive weeks where the question is discussed and debated. Amendments may occur at this time. Seven business days after the last public hearing, the question is submitted to a full Association vote. A majority vote of all Association members is required to approve any revisions or amendments.
2. If done through the Association, the Senate shall have three readings in consecutive weeks. An amendment or revision of the Constitution shall only pass upon a two-thirds majority vote by the Senate. Following approval by the Senate, the proposal shall be submitted to the

Association. A majority vote of all Association members is required to approve any revisions or amendments.

#### **ARTICLE V: ADVISOR**

The Advisor of the Association shall be the Dean of the Michael E. Moritz College of Law, or the Dean's representative.

#### **ARTICLE VI: DISSOLUTION**

**Section A:** This organization may be dissolved after dissolution is approved by the by the Senate by a two-thirds vote of the Association members, provided that notice of a vote on dissolution is furnished to the members at least (60) sixty days prior to the vote.

**Section B:** Upon dissolution, the officers shall utilize the assets of the organization, including those arising from dissolution and distribution. The balance, if any, shall be distributed equally among the contributing factors.

#### **ARTICLE VII: SENATE RULES**

1. The Senate shall promulgate by-laws to facilitate the execution of the provisions of this Constitution and shall attach the by-laws hereto.

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Amended: April 5, 1978

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