The Constitution
Penn State Law
Advocacy and Litigation Society
Est. 2017

Article 1: Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Advocacy and Litigation Society at Penn State Law, hereinafter referred to as the “Society,” is to assist Penn State Law students in understanding and discussing the fields of advocacy and litigation, honing their skills as future advocates and litigators, and providing meaningful connections with local and national advocates and litigators. Society will work closely with the American Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and the Centre County Bar Association to equip students with the most recent information regarding advocacy and litigation, regional events, and tips for best practice.

Article 2: Membership

I. Any student currently enrolled at Penn State Law shall be eligible for membership.

II. Types of membership: Membership shall be divided into two categories:
   a. Active Membership
      i. At all times, the majority (50 percent plus one) of all members shall be full-time, officially registered law students.
      ii. An Active Member must have paid dues for the semester in which they wish to be considered active.
      iii. An Active Member must have attended at least one (1) meeting during the semester in which they wish to be considered active.
         1. Should a situation arise in which active status is required but there have not been one (1) meeting in said semester, the previous semester may be used to determine active status.
      iv. An Active Member shall receive one (1) vote on all matters requiring a vote.
      v. An Active Member shall count toward the total of members necessary to achieve quorum—quorum is 50 percent of Active Members.
   b. Associate Membership
      i. All members who do not meet the requirements for Active Membership shall be Associate Members.
      ii. Associate members shall not count toward the total of members necessary for quorum—quorum is 50 percent of Active Members.

III. New Membership and Recruitment
   a. Any and all new members will be given full disclosure during recruitment, including but not limited to the disclosure of the following documents:
i. The Constitution of the Society
ii. Any other future document created by this organization regarding the rights and responsibilities of the Society and its members

IV. Membership Removal
   a. Any member can be expelled for cause
      i. This includes, but is not limited to, any member who is not following the policies of the organization or university as outlined in the governing documents of the university.
      ii. A motion for expulsion must be made by two active members or the President.
      iii. A simple majority vote (50 percent plus one) of attending active members is required for expulsion—quorum is 50 percent of active members.

Article 3: Meetings

   I. There shall be a minimum of one (1) meeting per semester.

   II. The Society shall meet weekly during the Fall and Spring semesters unless otherwise noted by the President, not including the weeks of finals. No official meetings will be held over the summer.

   III. All members shall be given adequate notice of all meeting times, dates, and locations.

   IV. Quorum for meetings shall be 50 percent of the total Active Membership.

Article 4: Officers

   I. All elected officers shall comprise the Executive Board.

   II. Only Active Members shall be eligible to be an officer.

   III. All officers must maintain good academic and disciplinary standing.

   IV. The Executive Board shall have the power to levy dues which shall not be excessive.
      a. Dues may change from year to year depending on the needs of the organization for that academic year.

   V. The elected officers are as follows:
      a. President
         i. Shall schedule, announce, preside, and maintain order and decorum at all meetings
         ii. Shall enforce the Constitution of the Society
         iii. Shall be the official representative of the Society
iv. Shall be elected

b. Vice President
   i. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice President shall become President.
   ii. Shall perform duties at the request of the President
   iii. Shall assume all duties of the President in the event of the President’s absence
   iv. Shall be elected

c. Treasurer
   i. Shall keep a balanced account of all financial transactions
   ii. Shall act as the representative of the Society to the Student Bar Association
   iii. Shall prepare all requests for organizational funding and submit these to the Student Bar Association Budget Committee
   iv. Shall prepare all requests for guest speaker funding and submit these to the Speaker Trust Fund
   v. Shall collect and record membership dues of Active Members
   vi. Shall assume any duties per the request of the President
   vii. Shall be chiefly in charge of all fundraising efforts
   viii. Shall be elected

d. Secretary
   i. Shall record and maintain attendance record at all meetings and events
   ii. Shall record and maintain a record of all meeting minutes
   iii. Shall disseminate any information to the members of the organization upon request
   iv. Shall assume any duties per the request of the President
   v. Shall be elected

e. Activities Coordinator
   i. Shall be the chief organizer of events for the organization
   ii. Shall make contact with any guest speakers that the Society wishes to bring to the university
   iii. Shall promote the organization to Penn State students, faculty, and surrounding community
   iv. Shall gather the necessary supplies and equipment needed for any organizational function
   v. Shall assume any duties per the request of the President
   vi. Shall be elected

VI. The President may appoint Ad Hoc Directors if he or she feels it is a necessity to carry out the organization’s purpose. These Directors must be confirmed by a simple majority (50 percent plus one) of active members—quorum is 50 percent of Active Members.
VII. Officer Removal
   a. A motion to remove an officer must be sponsored by at least two (2) Active Members.
   b. Once a motion for removal is made, at the following meeting, one (1) of the Active Members presenting the motion may speak on behalf of the motion while the officer may speak on their own behalf concerning the issue.
   c. Following the presentations, the floor shall be open for questions from the members present at the meeting.
   d. Following discussion, there shall be a secret ballot vote on the motion to remove.
   e. A two-thirds (66 percent) vote of Active Members present that the meeting is required for removal—quorum is 50 percent of Active Members.
   f. If an officer is removed, they will vacate their position immediately.

VIII. Vacancy
   a. In the event of a vacancy, there shall be an election held at the following meeting following the rules for elections set forth in this constitution.

IX. Elections
   a. Only Active Members as defined in Article 2 can vote.
   b. Quorum for all votes is 50 percent of Active Members.
   c. An Active Member must be present at the meeting to cast his or her vote.
   d. Elections shall occur at a meeting so designated by the Executive Board.
   e. Any member may nominate an Active Member for any office.
   f. All voting shall take place by secret ballot.
   g. A simple majority (50 percent plus one) of the Active Members present at the election meeting shall be required to elect an officer—quorum is 50 percent of Active Members.
   h. Should no candidate reach a simple majority, the candidate with the lowest amount of votes will be eliminated from the competition and another round of voting will commence. This will occur until a candidate reaches the simple majority (50 percent plus one) threshold.

X. Terms
   a. All officers serve a term of approximately one year.
   b. Terms expire subsequent to the swearing in of newly elected officers.

Article 5: Constitutional Amendments

I. A constitutional amendment may be proposed by the Executive Board or any Active Member at any time.
a. Only active members as defined in Article 2 can vote.
b. Quorum for all votes is 50 percent of Active Members.
c. An Active Member must be present at the meeting to cast his or her vote.
d. All voting shall take place by secret ballot.
e. Constitutional amendments must be passed by a two-thirds (66 percent) vote of Active Members—quorum is 50 percent of Active Members.
f. Constitutional amendments are effective immediately after they are passed, but are not retroactive.
g. All amendments are subject to the approval of the Student Bar Association.

Article 6: Finances

I. Dues shall be required each semester for all members wishing to maintain active status. Amount and deadlines shall be determined by the current President and Treasurer.
   a. Dues may change from year to year depending on the needs of the organization for that academic year.

Article 7: Elections

I. Nominations
   a. Nominations for officers will be opened prior to the first meeting in April.
   b. Nominations will remain open until the meeting at which elections will take place, as determined by the President, at which point nominations will be closed.

II. Elections Commissioner
   a. Prior to elections the current President will nominate an Elections Commissioner.
   b. The Elections Commissioner must be an Active Member of the Society.
   c. He or she cannot run for office or accept any appointment during the term of elections he or she presided over.
   d. The Elections Commissioner must be approved by a simple majority of Active Members—quorum is 50 percent of Active Members.
   e. The Elections Commissioner is relieved of his or her duties once the new officers are sworn into office.
   f. The Elections Commissioner will abstain from casting a vote in the election he or she presides over.

III. Elections
   a. A simple majority is required to win an election.
      i. If a simple majority cannot be reached on the first ballot, votes will be tallied until one is reached.
      ii. If more than two (2) candidates are seeking a particular office, after the first round of voting, the candidate with the lowest votes is eliminated, and
voting continues. This process will continue until a simple majority is reached.

b. Officers shall take office the meeting following elections.

Article 8: Parliamentary Procedure

I. Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, by Sarah Corbin Roberts shall be used in all cases not covered by this constitution.

Article 9: Statement of Non-Discrimination

I. This organization and its membership shall follow the Penn State guidelines of non-discrimination.

Article 10: Copies of the Constitution

I. A copy of the constitution will be available to anyone upon request.