

THE CONSTITUTION
of
LEX SOCIETAS

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section I: Name

The name of this organization shall be “Lex Societas”, hereinafter referred to as "the Society."

Section II: Purpose

The purpose of the Society is to serve as a national honor society centered around law for high school students. The Society aims to demystify the law, encourage youth participation within the legal field, foster advocacy, initiative, scholarship, and academic excellence, and provide educational and networking opportunities for high school students across the nation. The Society shall host volunteer, advocacy, and legal education events, showcase written works in the Lex Societas Journal of Law by students, and convene annually for a national assembly to discuss pressing issues within the legal field, host various educational workshops, and host the annual Lex Societas Moot Court Competition.

ARTICLE II: ORGANIZATION

Section I: National Board

The national board shall consist of elected individuals (election detailed in Article III) who shall oversee the activities and affairs of the Society at the national level. The national board shall consist of the following positions: President, Vice President, Communications Director, Financial Director, Developmental Director, Publication Director, and any additional positions deemed necessary by the Society.

Section II: Chapters

Subsection I: State Chapters

The Society shall be organized into state chapters, representing each state in the nation. State chapters shall serve as the primary units of operation for Lex Societas. Each state chapter shall operate under the guidelines and principles set forth by the national board to ensure consistency

and alignment with the overall mission and objectives of Lex Societas. State chapters will be responsible for organizing state-wide events and initiatives on behalf of the Society.

Each state chapter shall have its own dedicated leadership team, known as the Chapter Board, that will reflect the National Board. The Chapter Board shall be led by a State Chair, who will serve as the principal representative and coordinator for the respective state chapter. The State Chair will provide guidance, support, and direction to the Chapter Board, ensuring the effective implementation of Lex Societas initiatives within the state. The State Chair will also be responsible for being present at all national meetings on behalf of the state they represent.

Subsection II: Local Chapters

The Society's state chapters shall also be organized into local chapters, each led by a Chapter Head. These local chapters will operate under the same guidelines as the state chapters.

Local chapters shall be responsible for organizing and executing local events, in alignment with the overall mission and goals of the Society. These events, once approved by the State Chair, will provide opportunities for members to engage with the legal field, participate in community service, and foster a sense of camaraderie among local members. The Chapter Head, along with the local chapter members, will collaborate to ensure the successful planning and implementation of these events, promoting the values and mission of Lex Societas at the local level.

State Chairs and Chapter Heads shall work collaboratively to foster effective communication and coordination between state and local chapters. This coordination will ensure the seamless flow of information, exchange of best practices, and alignment of efforts across all levels of the organization. State Chairs shall provide guidance and support to Chapter Heads, while Chapter Heads shall actively participate in state chapter activities and contribute to the overall success of Lex Societas within their respective regions.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section I: Officer Positions

The National Board positions of the Society shall include, but not be limited to: President, Vice President, Communications Director, Financial Director, Developmental Director, and Publication Director. Each state and local chapter shall elect their own officers as required.

Section II: Election Process

Elections for National Board positions shall be held annually to ensure the democratic representation and smooth functioning of Lex Societas. The specific timing and schedule for the

elections shall be determined by the National Board, taking into consideration the academic calendar and the need for adequate preparation and transition periods.

- a) The election process for National Board positions shall be determined by a democratic voting process, in which every member has the opportunity to vote. However, the election process must adhere to the principles of fairness, transparency, and inclusivity.
- b) Interested members shall be allotted a specific amount of time to declare their candidacy via a form. The candidacy declaration should provide sufficient time for interested members to express their candidacy.
- c) Candidates running for National Board positions shall be allowed to campaign and promote their candidacies within the guidelines set by the National Board. These guidelines should ensure fair competition, ethical conduct, and respectful engagement among candidates.
- d) After the voting period concludes, the Developmental Director and team shall tally the votes and announce the results. The Developmental Director is responsible for overseeing the vote counting process, verifying the results, and resolving any disputes or challenges that may arise. The National Board shall also look over each candidate's application to ensure they are up to par for the role they are running for.
- e) Following the announcement of the election results, the incoming National Board members shall work closely with the outgoing National Board members to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities. The transition period should allow for the transfer of knowledge, documents, and resources necessary for the effective continuation of Lex Societas' operations.
- f) To support the elected National Board members in their roles, Lex Societas shall provide necessary training, resources, and mentorship opportunities. This support aims to enhance their leadership skills, deepen their understanding of the organization, and foster their growth as effective contributors to the goals and mission of Lex Societas.

Section 3: Duties of Officers

- a) The President shall preside over meetings, coordinate the activities of the Society, represent the Society in official capacities, provide leadership to the Society, and oversee the implementation of Society goals and initiatives.
- b) The Vice President shall assist the President in their duties and assume their responsibilities in their absence, and assist in the execution of Society activities.
- c) The Secretary shall keep records of meetings, maintain the membership list, and manage the financials of the Society.

d) The Financial Director shall manage the finances of the Society, maintain financial records, create a national budget, work to allocate funding from the national finances, and provide regular financial reports to the national board.

e) The Developmental Director shall ensure the long-term management of Lex Societas records, data, growth, disputes, and election process. The Developmental Director shall oversee the function of State Chapters to ensure that they have the resources necessary to accomplish their objectives while adhering to the national protocols defined in this document.

f) The Communications Director shall overlook all forms of correspondence for the Society (ie. social media, website, emails) and should take initiative in creating advertisements in the form of social media to draw in new members.

g) The Publication Director shall oversee the workings of the Lex Legislator including the Lex Legislator staff, publications (articles, essays, and research papers), and ensure the quality and dissemination of these publications. They should provide reports to the national board on a regular basis.

For all leads of the National Board, dedication and commitment to the Society is necessary. This means that all leads must be attentive in communication and in efforts to contribute for the benefit of the Society. Leads are expected to act in the best interest of the Society, demonstrate integrity, and make decisions that align with the organization's objective. As leads, this is a standard everyone must follow, and failure to do so may result in removal from the National Board as deemed by the other leads. For the removal of a non-complying lead on this standard, two-thirds of the National Board must agree.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Article IV: Meetings

Section I: National Assembly

The Society shall convene regularly for a national assembly. The national assembly shall serve as a platform for members to discuss pressing issues within the legal field, participate in workshops, seminars, attend a keynote event inviting a specialist in the legal field for a speech, compete in the Lex Societas Moot Court Competition, and foster a sense of community among members. The National Assembly shall be composed of State Chapter Head Leadership and the National Board.

Section II: National Board Meetings

The National Board shall convene for a meeting bi-weekly to discuss pressing issues facing the Society and its chapters as well as to organize new or discuss current nationwide initiatives and campaigns. The Secretary shall create the agenda and take notes for these meetings.

Section III: Chapter Meetings

Each state chapter shall hold regular meetings (weekly) to discuss local activities, plan events, and engage in educational and networking opportunities. The Secretary shall create the agenda and take notes for these meetings.

Section IV: Proceedings

A quorum must be present at all National Board meetings and proceedings to conduct official business, defined as a majority of the elected officers and directors. If a quorum is not achieved, no official decisions can be made, but discussions may take place. An agenda shall be drafted by the Secretary detailing the orders of business to be handled.

ARTICLE V: THE LEX SOCIETAS JOURNAL OF LAW

Section I: Purpose

The Lex Societas Journal of Law, hereinafter referred to as “the Journal”, will be the Society’s online national journal acting as a platform inviting members to submit written pieces regarding the law.

Section II: Publication

Member’s may write long-form essays, editorials, commentaries on court decisions/recent legislation, and overall writing about legal topics they find interesting or important. Pieces may not breach the Journals standard for publication.

Section III: Standard for Publication

The Standard for Publication is a strict code of conduct that all members must follow when submitting to the Journal. The standard specifies that pieces must not:

Contain any harmful or offensive statements about any race, ethnicity, sex, creed, etc.

Contain any statements excluding any community or group

Section IV: Leadership

The Publication Director shall oversee the Journal and is responsible for determining roles within the Journal, leading the Journal process as a final editor, and advertising the Journal. The Journal

itself shall be organized in a standard publication fashion. It shall be headed by an editor-in-chief, followed by executive editors, editors, and writers.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCES

Section I: Funding

The Society shall raise funds through membership dues, fundraising activities, grants, sponsorships, and other lawful means.

Section II: Financial Management

The Secretary shall be responsible for managing the finances of the Society, maintaining accurate financial records, and providing regular financial reports to the national board and state chapters.

Section III: Budget Planning

The National Board, in collaboration with the finance committee, shall be responsible for creating an annual budget for the Society. The budget shall outline projected income and expenses for the fiscal year, taking into account the Society's objectives, programs, and anticipated financial needs. The budget shall be presented to the National Board for approval prior to the start of the fiscal year.

Section IV: Donations and Grants

The Society shall actively seek donations and grants from individuals, organizations, and institutions that align with its mission and objectives. The National Board, in coordination with the finance committee, shall establish strategies for donor outreach, grant applications, and stewardship to ensure a sustainable and diversified funding base. All donations and grants received shall be properly recorded, acknowledged, and utilized in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Section V: Fundraising Activities

To supplement its financial resources, the Society may organize fundraising activities. These activities may include but are not limited to events, campaigns, sponsorships, merchandise sales, or crowdfunding initiatives. The National Board, with the support of the state chapters, shall oversee and coordinate these fundraising efforts, ensuring their alignment with the Society's values and objectives.

Section VI: Reserve Fund

The Society shall maintain a reserve fund to provide financial stability and support unforeseen expenses or emergencies. The National Board, in consultation with the finance committee, shall

establish guidelines for the size and management of the reserve fund to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Section VII: Transparency and Reporting

The Society shall promote transparency in financial matters. The Financial Director shall provide regular updates on the Society's financial status to the National Board, including income, expenses, and the overall financial position. An annual financial report summarizing the Society's financial activities shall be prepared by the Financial Director and presented to the National Board. Members may request access to financial information, and the Society shall make efforts to provide such information in a timely and transparent manner.

Section VIII: External Audits

At the discretion of the National Board, the Society's financial records may undergo an external audit conducted by an independent auditor. The purpose of the audit is to provide an objective assessment of the Society's financial activities, internal controls, and compliance with financial best practices. The results of the audit shall be presented to the National Board, and any necessary actions or recommendations shall be addressed promptly.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

Section I: Amendment Process

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the national board, provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been given to all members at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote.

Section II: Adoption of Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws shall become effective immediately upon approval by the national board.

ARTICLE VIII: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Section I: Non-Discrimination Policy

The Society is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and respectful environment where every member is valued and treated with dignity. The Society unequivocally condemns all forms of discrimination, including but not limited to racism, sexism, xenophobia, ableism, and any other form of bias or prejudice. Discrimination has no place within the Society, and we are committed to upholding a safe and welcoming space for all members.

All members of the Society, including but not limited to officers, chapter leaders, and general members, are expected to adhere to the principles of non-discrimination. Discriminatory behavior, language, or actions that violate the dignity, rights, or well-being of others based on their race, gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, or any other protected characteristic will not be tolerated.

Section II: Disciplinary Measures

If a member of the Society is found to have violated the anti-discrimination policy outlined in Section 1, appropriate disciplinary measures will be taken. The National Board, led by the President or Vice President, will assess the situation and determine the appropriate course of action based on the severity and nature of the violation.

Disciplinary actions may include, but are not limited to:

- a) Verbal or written warning: A member found in violation of the non-discrimination policy may receive a formal warning, clearly communicating the unacceptable nature of their behavior and emphasizing the Society's commitment to inclusivity and respect.
- b) Suspension: In more serious cases, a member may be temporarily suspended from participating in Society activities and events, giving them an opportunity to reflect on their actions and engage in educational initiatives to address the issue.
- c) Expulsion: If a member's actions are deemed severely discriminatory or if repeated violations occur, the National Board has the authority to expel the member from the Society. Expulsion entails the termination of all privileges and membership benefits associated with the Society.

Due Process During the disciplinary process, members subject to disciplinary measures have the right to due process. This includes the opportunity to provide their perspective, present evidence, and be heard by the National Board before any final decisions are made. The Society is committed to ensuring fairness and transparency throughout the disciplinary proceedings.

Reporting Mechanism The Society encourages all members to report any instances of discrimination they witness or experience within the organization. A confidential reporting mechanism will be established to provide a safe space for reporting, and the Society is dedicated to promptly addressing and investigating all reports in a fair and impartial manner.

Section III:

If a member of The Society is found to have violated the anti-discrimination policy, laid out in Section I, they will be subject to disciplinary measures including, but not limited to, expulsion from The Society by the National Board, most likely by the President or Vice President.

ARTICLE IX: DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of the Society, any remaining funds and assets shall be distributed to a non-profit organization with similar objectives, as determined by the national board.

These bylaws were approved and adopted by the national board of Lex Societas on July 16, 2023

Signed:

Arun Nayakkar - President

Anya Gupta - Vice President

Samantha Sirianni - Secretary

Maya Sikand - Secretary

Nandini Polarouthu - Communications Director

Gavin Tieng - Development Director

Harmoni Wilson - Developmental Director

Imanol Ibarra - Developmental Director

Yana Zenefski - Publications Director