

CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT BAR  
ASSOCIATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
SCHOOL OF LAW

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of Georgia School of Law, to establish a more perfect system of student government and to represent more effectively the interests of the Law School's student body to the Law School and to the University, do hereby adopt the following Constitution of the Student Bar Association.

ARTICLE I

MEMBERSHIP IN THE STUDENT BAR  
ASSOCIATION

**Section 1. Composition.** The Student Bar Association (SBA) shall consist only of each and every member of the student body regularly enrolled in the University of Georgia School of Law.

**Section 2. Good Standing.**

**Paragraph 1.** No member shall attend any SBA sponsored function unless that member is a member in good standing of the SBA or that member is attending by permission of a majority vote of the Executive Board of the SBA.

**Paragraph 2.** This provision allows the Board, by a simple majority vote, to open SBA parties to non-dues paid members and charging or not charging admission.

**Paragraph 3.** A member is not in good standing if he or she is delinquent in his SBA dues or any other financial obligation to the SBA; otherwise said member shall be deemed in good standing.

**Paragraph 4.** A determination of "good standing" status may be made by any Executive Officer of the SBA or a majority of the SBA Governing Board.

**Section 3. Non Discrimination Policy as  
Required by University of Georgia**

**Paragraph 1.** Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students without regard to age, ethnicity, gender, disability, color, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. *However* Religious student organizations will not be denied registration solely because they limit membership or leadership positions to students who share the same religious beliefs.

**Paragraph 2.** Membership and all privileges, including voting and officer positions, must be extended to all students as stated in the University of Georgia Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy. However, religious student organizations will not be denied registration solely because they limit membership or leadership positions to students who share the same religious beliefs. Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments Act of 1972 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex or handicap in most educational programs and activities within the University.

ARTICLE II

EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Section 1: Composition and Powers.** The activities of the SBA shall be administered by a Executive Board/Governing Board, which shall be vested with all powers necessary to promote the general interest and welfare of the SBA and its membership. The Board shall be composed of the Executive Officers of each of the three law school classes.

**Section 2: Executive Officers.**

**Paragraph 1. Qualifications.** The Executive Officers of the SBA consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the SBA. The terms of office for the Executive Officers shall be one year. Any candidate seeking any of the aforementioned offices shall be an enrolled student and a member of the SBA in good standing for the immediately preceding semester and enrolled as a J.D. student through the entire Spring semester of the academic year in which he or she is to serve. This provision is not to be construed to mean that the officers must attend during the Summer semester.

**Paragraph 2: Duties.** The duties of the Executive Officers shall be as follows:

**A. President of the SBA shall:**

1. Preside over meetings of the SBA and the Executive Board.
2. Serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the SBA.
3. Appoint, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board and the members of all standing, student-faculty, and special committees and their chairs.
4. Instruct the secretary to give all members of the Board and the SBA adequate and timely written notice of all meetings, within or without the Law School, where Board or student representation has been requested or would be deemed desirable. Special attention should be directed toward the announcement of all Board meetings, Board of Visitors meetings, and conferences with the Deans of the Law School and with prospective faculty members.
5. Have the power, with 2/3 approval of all members of the Executive Board, to remove members from the Board due to excessive absences, provided for in Article IV, Section 2.

6. Take any action the President deems necessary to promote the welfare of the SBA, subject to subsequent revision by a simple majority of the Board.
7. Make at the expiration of his or her term of office a written report of all actions undertaken and proposed by the administration in which he or she served.

**B. Vice President of the SBA shall:**

1. Call, plan and preside, in absence of the President, over meetings of the SBA and the Board.
2. Be responsible for all publicity relating to the Law School itself, its students and related activities.
3. See that the standing committee meet regularly and perform the functions for which they are authorized.
4. Manage and oversee the conduct of all elections for offices constituting the SBA Governing Board and any referenda or polls initiated thereby.
5. Make at the expiration of his or her term of office a written report of all actions undertaken and proposed by the administration in which he or she served.
6. Take the position of SBA President if the SBA President is unable to complete his/her term for any reason.

**C. Secretary of the SBA shall:**

1. Keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the SBA and the Board.
2. Post one copy of the minutes on the SBA bulletin board within four days after the each meeting and file one copy with the records of the SBA.
3. Maintain all correspondence necessary to and in the furtherance of the SBA.

4. Maintain and display a calendar of Law School and University Events
5. Maintain a file for the keeping of all reports and minutes.
6. Make at the expiration of his or her term of office a written report of all actions undertaken and proposed by the administration in which he or she served.

**D. Treasurer of the SBA shall:**

1. Be responsible for collecting from the student body the dues owed the SBA as fixed by the Board.
2. Formulate a budget by September 30<sup>th</sup> for the period of his or her term of office and present it to the Board for approval by simple majority.
3. Be responsible for all checks, bank accounts, and financial statements of the SBA.
4. Make a monthly report to the Board of the financial status of the SBA.
5. Oversee all revenue-generating enterprises engaged in by the SBA and collect and disperse funds pertaining to such enterprises.

**Section 3: Class Officers.**

**Paragraph 1: Composition.**

- A. **First Year Officers.** The class officers of the first year class shall consist of a President elected at large (by all members of the first year class) and three Vice Presidents, one elected from each of the first year sections.
- B. **Second Year Officers.** The class officers shall consist of a President and Vice President elected at large (by all members of the second year class).

- C. **Third Year Officers.** The class officers of the third year class shall consist of a President and Vice President elected at large (by all members of the third year class).

**Paragraph 2: Terms and**

**Qualifications.** The terms of office and qualifications of class officers shall be the same as those of the Executive Board with two exceptions: (1) a candidate for a third year office must be enrolled as a regular student through the Spring semester; and (2) the term of office for first year class officers shall run from the time such officers are installed until the time of the general installation program of the next years incoming officers.

**Paragraph 3: Duties.** The duties of the class officers shall be to represent their respective classes on the Board and to handle all class business.

**Section 4: Law Student Representative to Law Student Division of the American Bar Association (ABA/LSD Representative).**

**Paragraph 1: Duties and Responsibilities.** The duties of the ABA/LSD Representative include:

- A. To solicit members for the Law Student Division and the various sections of the ABA.
- B. To report back and inform the student body of all LSD and relevant ABA programs, including writing competition, client counseling competition, section activities, law school services such as fund availability and life and health insurance programs, the Fall SBA Roundtable, LSD publications, law day programs and speakers programs.
- C. If financially possible, to attend the Fall SBA Roundtable, the Spring Circuit Conference, and the annual meeting of the LSD, and to report to the SBA as well as the student body the substance of the meetings.





## **ARTICLE IV**

### **MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1: Time of the Meetings.** Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at times specified by the SBA President, but at least once during every full month of classes during the Fall and Spring semesters. Notice of meetings shall be given to all members of the Board at least three days in advance by posting written notice on the SBA bulletin board and/or notifying them via email. Special meetings may be called by the SBA President or any other members of the Board.

**Section 2: Absences.** Except as otherwise provided, any member of the Board who has a total of three absences from regular meetings of the Board during any one semester may be removed from office. The Board may not remove such person from office without notifying that person after he or she has missed two meetings and before he or she missed the third and then the Board may vote by a 2/3 vote. The Board has the power to reinstate the person if the Board deems reinstatement is in the best interests of the SBA, the Board and Law School. The vote of each member of the Board shall be entered in the official minutes. Should the Board vote for removal, the Board shall call a special election.

**Section 3: Quorum.** A simple majority of the Board then serving shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 4: Notice of Interested Parties.** Before the Board may take any action affecting any organization within this Law School, the organization must be given an opportunity to appear before the Board and present its views.

**Section 5: Procedure.** Roberts Rules of Order shall govern all meetings unless

otherwise provided by this constitution or a 2/3 majority of the Board.

**Section 6: Presentation of Matters Before the Executive Board.** Any member of the student body may upon request to the SBA President present for consideration of the Board any matter relating to the welfare of the student body of the Law School.

**Section 7: Sunshine Provision.** Because the basic purpose of student government requires government within the view of students who elected the members of the Board, all meetings of the Board shall be open to all SBA members except upon affirmative vote of at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the entire membership of the Board. The vote of each Board member shall be recorded in the minutes as well as the reasons for closing the meetings.

**Section 8: Impeachment.** The Board may by a 2/3 vote of the entire Board bring charges of impeachment against any member of the Board and at the next meeting, the Board may remove the Board member by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the entire Board. Notice of such action shall be given. Notice of the action shall be given to the delinquent member one week in advance of the proposed vote, and the member shall be allowed to present a defense to the charge.

**Section 9: Majority Defined.** Whenever voting is mentioned in this constitution, such term shall mean a simple majority (50% plus 1) of all votes cast, rather than the entire membership of the group unless otherwise specified in the provision in question.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended if votes in favor of any amendment receive 70% or more of the votes cast in a General Election. Amendments may be presented by any member of SBA, whether or not in good standing. For an amendment to be proposed and included on the ballot in an SBA election, the amendment must win a majority vote of the SBA executive board and have at least 60

signatures of SBA members. Any provision in this constitution may be changed by amendment.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **COMMITTEES**

#### **Section 1: Appointment of Standing Committees and Student Members of Student-Faculty Committees.**

**Paragraph 1: Appointment of Standing Committees.** The SBA President shall have the power to nominate persons to chair the following standing committees with the following duties (and other committees that the Dean of the Law School may request):

- A. Social—to plan and promote all social functions of the SBA.
- B. Intramural—to publicize and organize teams for all intramural sports activities.
- C. Alumni Relations—to foster understanding and interaction between students and alumni of the Law School and help utilize alumni as a valuable resource.
- D. Library—to create and implement policies for the minimization of disputes between students and library faculty and staff and the betterment of the library's ability to serve the students' needs.
- E. Placement—to create and implement policies for assisting the Law School's Career Services Office in serving the needs of all law students.
- F. Faculty-Student Relations—to create and implement policies to encourage positive relations and minimize problems between students and faculty.
- G. Services—to create and implement policies to manage SBA provided services and adjust these services to accommodate more fully students' interests.
- H. Committee Oversight—chaired by the Vice President, to oversee the operations of all standing and select committees of the SBA, especially to ensure that these committees properly perform the duties assigned them.
- I. Finance—chaired by the Treasurer, to oversee finances of the SBA, compile a budget, ensure compliance with that budget, encourage membership, plan other revenue raising measures, and otherwise assist the Treasurer in carrying out the duties of his or her office.
- J. Activities Coordination—chaired by the Secretary, to coordinate the activities of the SBA and other student groups in the Law School, to minimize conflicts.

## **ARTICLE VII.**

### **RATIFICATION**

This Constitution shall be deemed ratified upon receiving votes in favor from 70% or more of the students voting in the Fall 2008 Election. Because Fall 2008 Election is solely a First Year Election, the SBA President will inform the student body of the proposed Constitution and the need for upperclassmen to vote on the updated Constitution.