

The University of Georgia School of Law

STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of Georgia School of Law, to establish a 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, 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 every member of the student body regularly enrolled in the University of Georgia School of Law.

Section 2. Good Standing.

Paragraph 1. A member is in good standing if he or she is a current dues paying member of the Student Bar Association.

Paragraph 2. SBA meetings and events are open to all members of the University of Georgia Law School community, including faculty, staff, spouses, significant others, and others, unless otherwise limited by the Board of Governors or a member of the Board of Governors charged with overseeing an event or meeting.

Paragraph 3. A determination of "good standing" status is made by the Secretary. If a member is without good standing and challenges that status, the President must hear that challenge and determine the status of the member after consulting with the Secretary.

Section 3. Non-Discrimination Policy

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

Governance Structure

Section 1. The Student Bar Association Board. The Student Bar Association Board shall administer the activities of the Student Bar Association. The Board shall consist of the members of the Student Bar Association Board of Governors, the American Bar Association Student Representative, Appointed Chairs, and Appointed Committees. The Board shall be responsive to the direction, policies, and instructions of the President of the Student Bar Association and the Board of Governors. See Article V for information on Board Officers.

Section 2. The Student Bar Association Board of Governors. The Student Bar Association Board of Governors shall be vested with all powers necessary to promote the general interest and welfare of the Student Bar Association and its membership. The Board of Governors shall also direct the activities of the Student Bar Association Board. The Board of Governors shall be comprised of the Executive Officers of the Student Bar Association and the officers of each of the three law school classes. The Board of Governors shall meet monthly from August through April.

Section 3. Executive Officers.

Paragraph 1. **Offices**. The Executive Officers of the Student Bar Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Paragraph 2. Terms. The terms of office for the Executive Officers shall be one year, running from one spring General Election to the next.

Paragraph 3. Qualifications. Any candidate seeking an office on the Board of Governors must be enrolled as a full-time student at the University of Georgia School of Law and be a member in good standing of the Student Bar

Association. This provision is not to be construed to mean that the officers must attend during the summer semester.

Paragraph 4. Authority and Duties. The authority and duties of the Executive Officers shall be as follows:

1. The President of the Student Bar Association shall:

- a. Serve as the Chief Executive Officer of the Student Bar Association;
- b. Call, plan, and preside over meetings of the Student Bar Association, the Student Bar Association Board, and the Board of Governors;
- c. Serve as the Law School Student Representative to the University Council and attend all meetings in person or by proxy;
- d. Meet regularly, and no less than bi-weekly, with the Student Bar Association advisor;
- e. Attend all specially called meetings with the Law School Dean, including lunches and student leader committees;
- f. Attend all student leader roundtable meetings as required in Article V;
- g. Appoint, with the advice of the Board of Governors, student chairs, committees, and representatives to the Student Bar Association Board.
- h. Set, with the advice of the Vice President, all Election Dates and make calls for Special Elections in accordance with Article VI;
- i. Have the authority, with 2/3 approval of all members of the Board of Governors, to remove members from the Board of Governors;
- j. Have the authority, with 3/4 approval of all members of the Board of Governors, to appoint an Board of Governors officer to fill a vacant position in accordance with Article VI, Section 10;
- k. Have the authority to remove appointed chairs, committee members and other representatives from the Student Bar Association Board;
- 1. Have the authority to create new positions or remove all non-Constitutionally required positions from the Student Bar Association Board;
- m. See that the standing committees meet regularly and perform the functions for which they are authorized;
- n. Set, with the advice and consent of the Student Bar Association Board of Governors, SBA membership dues;
- o. Take any action the President deems necessary to promote the welfare of the Student Bar Association;

- p. 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;
- q. Have the authority to vote on all matters before the Board of Governors;
- r. And conduct himself or herself with the greatest integrity, honesty, and professionalism.

2. The Vice President of the Student Bar Association shall:

- a. Call, plan and preside, in absence of the President, over meetings of the Student Bar Association, the Student Bar Association Board, and the Board of Governors;
- b. Manage and oversee the conduct of all elections for offices constituting the Student Bar Association Board of Governors and any referenda or polls initiated thereby;
- c. Have the authority to create all rules that are necessary and proper to ensure ease in the electoral process;
- d. Oversee a mentor program if SBA elects to have one;
- e. 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;
- f. Take the position of Student Bar Association President if the Student Bar Association President is unable to complete his or her term for any reason;
- g. Have the authority to vote on all matters before the Board of Governors;
- h. And conduct himself or herself with the greatest integrity, honesty, and professionalism.

3. The Secretary of the Student Bar Association shall:

- a. Keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Student Bar Association Board and Board of Governors;
- b. Maintain all correspondence necessary to and in the furtherance of the Student Bar Association;
- c. Manage all membership matters;
- d. Maintain a file for the keeping of all reports and minutes;
- e. Publish a weekly newsletter of events, happenings, important information, and other pertinent information to the student body;
- f. 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;
- g. Have the authority to vote on all matters before the Board of Governors;

h. And conduct himself or herself with the greatest integrity, honesty, and professionalism.

4. The Treasurer of the Student Bar Association shall:

- a. Manage the budgets for all Student Bar Association Events and the master budget for the Student Bar Association;
- b. Be responsible for collecting dues from the members in good standing;
- c. Be responsible for all checks, bank accounts, and financial statements of the Student Bar Association;
- d. Make a monthly report to the Board of Governors of the financial status of the Student Bar Association;
- e. Oversee all revenue-generating enterprises engaged in by the Student Bar Association and collect and disperse funds pertaining to such enterprises;
- f. Have the authority to vote on all matters before the Board of Governors;
- g. And conduct himself or herself with the greatest integrity, honesty, and professionalism.

Section 4. Class Officers.

Paragraph 1. Officers.

A. Third Year Class Officers. The class officers of the third year class shall consist of a President and Vice President elected at large by members of the third year class.

B. Second Year Class Officers. The class officers of the second year class shall consist of a President and Vice President elected at large by members of the second year class.

C. First Year Class 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 first year section.

D. First Year Senators. The Board of Governors, at its discretion, can create a First Year Senator Program to allow First Year Students the opportunity to experience a role within the Student Bar Association. These Senators shall be members of the Student Bar Association Board, but not of the Board of Governors. Senators shall not be considered "class officers." They shall be elected by gaining 60 signatures of Student Bar Association members on an official petition

for their first year section. Their terms shall expire at the time of the General Election following their installment as Senators.

Paragraph 2. Terms. The terms of office for Class Officers shall be one year, running from one spring General Election to the next with the exception of First Year Class Officers who will serve from the time of their election in the fall through the immediately following spring Genera Election.

Paragraph 3. Qualifications. Any candidate seeking a Class Office must be enrolled as a full-time student at the University of Georgia School of Law and be a member in good standing of the Student Bar Association. This provision is not to be construed to mean that the officers must attend during the summer semester.

Paragraph 4. Duties. Class officers shall:

- A. Represent their respective classes on the Board of Governors;
- B. Have the authority to vote on all matters before the Board of Governors;
- C. Attend to all class business;
- D. Attend every meeting of the Student Bar Association Board of Governors;
- E. Assist in the planning and orchestration of other events and meetings planned by the Student Bar Association;
- F. Conduct themselves with the greatest integrity, honesty, and professionalism;
- G. And plan and orchestrate events charged to the responsibility of their class:
 - a. First year class officers shall plan and orchestrate Barrister's Ball.
 - b. Second year class officers shall plan and orchestrate Law Revue and the Student Bar Association Golf Tournament.
 - c. Third year class officers shall serve as Legacy Campaign Co-Chairs and shall serve ceremonial roles in the Graduation Ceremony subject to Paragraph 6 of this Section.

Paragraph 5. YLD Representation. The Second and Third Year Class Presidents shall serve as fellows to the Georgia Bar Young Lawyers Division and shall be responsible for providing frequent updates on news and events from the Young Lawyers Division.

Paragraph 6. Graduation Duties. The third year class President and Vice President shall serve as graduation speakers. The Third Year Class President shall give the Welcome Address and the Third Year Class Vice President shall introduce the graduation speaker. However, if the SBA President for the preceding term was a third year student who had previously served as both the First Year and Second Year Class Presidents, that individual will replace the Third Year Class Vice President as a graduation speaker and he or she shall give the Welcome Address and the Third Year Class President shall introduce the graduation speaker.

Section 5. Succession. If certain vacancies occur for elected positions on the Student Bar Association Board of Governors, other officers will succeed those positions subject to the Paragraphs below. To fill vacancies on the board caused by succession or any other factor, see the bylaws on Vacanies in Article VI, Section 10.

Paragraph 1. President of the Student Bar Association. If the position of President of the Student Bar Association is vacated, the Vice President of the Student Bar Association shall assume the office. If the office of Vice President is also vacant at the time the vacancy occurs for the Student Bar Association President, the Third Year Class President shall assume the office of President of the Student Bar Association.

Paragraph 2. Class Presidents. If the position of Class President for the Second or Third Year Class is vacated, the Vice President of that class shall assume the office. If the position of First Year Class President is vacated, the non-first year officers on the Board of Governors shall choose by secret ballot between the First Year Class Vice Presidents who will succeed in the office.

ARTICLE III

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Section 1. Time of the Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board shall be held at times specified by the Student Bar Association President, but the Board of Governors shall meet at least once every month from August through April, excluding December. Notice of meetings shall be given to all Board of Governors members. Special meetings may be called by the Student Bar Association President.

Section 2. Quorum. A simple majority of the Board of Governors, then serving, shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Presentation of Matters Before the Board of Governors. Any member of the student body may, upon request to the Student Bar Association President, present for consideration of the Board of Governors any matter relating to the welfare of the student body of the law school. **Section 4. Sunshine Provision.** All meetings of the Board of Governors shall be open to all SBA members.

Section 5. Majority Defined. Whenever voting is mentioned in this Constitution, the term shall mean a simple majority (50% plus 1) unless otherwise noted.

Section 6. Voting Ties. If a vote by the Board of Governors results in a tie, the President's vote shall count twice.

ARTICLE IV

CHAIRS, COMMITTEES, AND REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1. Standing Committees. These committees are standing committees to be filled by appointment and cannot be disbanded without Constitutional Amendment. All members of these committees shall be considered members of the Student Bar Association Board.

Paragraph 1. The Student Advisory Council. The Student Advisory Council shall serve as a mode of timely, professional feedback to the Law School and shall be sponsored and overseen by the Student Bar Association Board of Governors. The Student Affairs Chair shall chair the Council and the Academic Affairs Chair shall serve as vice chair. The President of the Student Bar Association shall also serve as an ex-officio member. The Council shall be composed of a manageable number of highly accomplished and diverse third year students. Members shall be selected and appointed by the Student Bar Association President in consultation with the Student Affairs Chair and the Academic Affairs Chair. The Council members shall serve for one year from appointment following the general election through the following spring. Topics, areas of concern, and initiatives shall be determined by the President of the Student Bar Association in consultation with the Student Affairs Chair and the Academic Affairs Chair.

Paragraph 2. The Faculty Recruitment Committee. The Faculty Recruitment committee shall be appointed by the President of the Student Bar Association in consultation with the Board of Governors. The Faculty Recruitment Chair shall chair the Committee. The committee shall consist of four to ten members. Members of the committee must be second and third year students who are SBA members in good standing. Members should possess strong conversational and networking skills.

Section 2. Standing Chairs and Duties. These positions are standing positions to be filled by appointment and cannot be disbanded without Constitutional Amendment. Students holding these positions shall be considered members of the Student Bar Association Board.

Paragraph 1. American Bar Association Representative. The American Bar Association Representative must be a second or third year student who is a member in good standing with the American Bar Association and the Student Bar Association. This position is an ex officio member of the Student Bar Association Board. This position serves as the primary liaison between the student body and the American Bar Association.

Paragraph 2. Academic Affairs Chair. A second or third year student who is a member in good standing with the Student Bar Association must fill this position. The Chair is responsible for addressing any academic matter of concern to students. In addition, the Chair shall be responsible for maintaining SBA course evaluations and the SBA outline bank if those entities exist.

Paragraph 3. Student Affairs Chair. A second or third year student must hold the Student Affairs Chair. The Chair presides over and manages the business of the Student Advisory Council. The Chair is also responsible for addressing any matter of concern to students. The Chair shall serve as the primary contact to the Director of Legal Career Services and Professional Development.

Paragraph 4. Faculty Recruitment Chair. A second or third year student must hold the Faculty Recruitment Chair. The Chair works with the faculty to assist in the faculty recruitment process.

Paragraph 5. Student Organizations Liaison. A second or third year student must serve as the Student Organizations Liaison. The Liaison shall organize the meetings of the Student Leader Roundtable and shall serve as the point of contact for all student organizations with the Student Bar Association.

Section 3. Ad Hoc Chairs and Committees. The President and the Board of Governors have the power to create or dismantle any chair positions not required in Section 2 of this section to better serve the interests of students.

Section 4. Process for Appointment. Appointments shall be made to the Student Bar Association President between May 1 and June 30 immediately following the President's General Election.

Section 5. Law School UGA Student Government Association Senator. The law student(s) who is elected to serve as the Law School Senator(s) in the UGA Undergraduate Student Government Association shall be an ex officio member of the Student Bar Association Board and shall serve on the Student Leader Roundtable. It is the responsibility of the Senator(s) to keep the Student Bar Association Board, Board of Governors, and Student Leader Roundtable informed of all pertinent events, news and causes addressed by the Student Government Association. This Senator(s) is exempt from appointment due to the election regulations of the Student Government Association.

ARTICLE V

THE STUDENT LEADER ROUNDTABLE

Section 1. Members. The Student Leader Roundtable shall be composed of all the presidents of the law school student organizations, the Student Bar Association Board of Governors, the Law School Student Government Association Senator, the Graduate Student Association President if he or she is a law student, and the Student Bar Association Student Organizations Liaison.

Section 2. Officers. The President of the Student Bar Association shall chair the Roundtable. He or she must be at every meeting. The Liaison to Student Organizations shall serve as the Roundtable's Secretary.

Section 2. Meetings. The Roundtable shall meet at least three times each semester.

Section 3. Limitations on Roundtable Members. The members of the Roundtable are not ex officio members of the Student Bar Association Board.

Section 4. Sponsorship and Tenure. The Student Bar Association shall sponsor the Student Leader Roundtable. This provision cannot be removed without a Constitutional Amendment specifically requiring its removal as this function of SBA is crucial to the well being of all students.

ARTICLE VI

ELECTIONS

Section 1. Oversight of Elections. Elections shall be conducted under the guidance of the Student Bar Association Vice President.

Section 2. Categories of Elections. There are three categories of elections:

Paragraph 1. General Election. The Student Bar Association General Elections shall be held between March 1 and the end of classes but not within 7 days of the end of spring break. The President in consultation with the Vice President shall set the date for the election. All Executive Officers, Class Officers for the rising second and third year classes, referenda, ballot questions, and Constitutional Amendments are eligible to be voted on during the General Election.

Paragraph 2. First Year Class Elections. First Year Class Elections shall be held within the first five weeks after the beginning of the fall semester. First Year Class Elections are only open to the first year class. Only First Year Class Officers shall be eligible for election during First Year Class Elections. However, a Special Election can coincide with the First Year Class Elections. The President in consultation with the Vice President shall set the date for the election.

Paragraph 3. Special Elections. The President, in consultation with the Vice President, may call a special election at any point during the year while classes are in session. Special elections cannot be held during the summer semester, over a break, or during the exam or reading periods. A special election shall not be held within 30 days before or after a General Election. Referenda, ballot questions, and Constitutional Amendments are eligible to be voted on during a Special Election.

Section 3. Election Day. Elections shall always occur on Thursdays and Fridays. Polls must be open from at least 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. In the event of the University closing for all or part of the day, the election shall automatically be rescheduled for the next class day.

Section 4. Process for Elections.

Paragraph 1. Announcement of Elections. Elections must be announced at least ten days before the election is to take place.

Paragraph 2. Candidate Informational Meetings. Before an election can be held where candidates will appear on the ballot, an informational meeting for candidates shall be held no later than the second Tuesday before the Friday election. Candidates must attend the informational meeting to be eligible for placement on the ballot. Students shall be notified of the candidate informational meeting at least ten days in advance and the meeting shall be posted on the law school events calendar. **Paragraph 3.** Nominations. Each person seeking election to office must obtain an official petition from the SBA Vice President at the Candidate Information Meeting. The candidate shall then fill in the petition to include his or her name, class year, and the title of the office sought. Thereafter, the candidate shall obtain the signature of at least 60 fellow students. A candidate for executive office may receive signatures from any student. A candidate for class office may receive signatures from any student who is in his or her class, notwithstanding that a candidate for First Year Vice President may only receive signatures from students in his or her first year section. Once completed, the petitions shall be turned in to the Vice President or his or her designated representative at a time to be determined by the Vice President, but before the campaign week begins.

Paragraph 4. Ballot Questions and Referenda. Ballot questions and referenda may be placed on the ballot by a majority vote of the Student Bar Association Board of Governors. Notice of the proposed question must be given at least ten days in advance of the election.

Paragraph 5. Rules Regarding Campaigning. A candidate shall not:

- A. Spend more than \$300 on his or her campaign;
- B. Campaign at any time before 12:00 am on the Monday prior to the Friday election;
- C. Forge classmates signatures;
- D. Seek the endorsement of any other Student Bar Association Executive or Class Officer;
- E. Use alcohol in any way to garner votes;
- F. Use the school listserv to send campaign emails;
- G. Violate bulletin board use policy in the course of the campaign; or
- H. Leave campaign materials posted within the law school after the conclusion of the election.

Paragraph 6. Penalties. A violation of any provision in Paragraph 5 will result in the immediate removal of the candidate from the ballot. Violations found after the installation of the officer can result in the removal of the officer from his or her position in accordance with Article VII. Appeals for errant removal from the ballot are solely at the discretion of the Vice President. Exceptional violations will be referred to the Honor Court.

Section 5. Number of Votes Required. For any person to be elected on the first ballot, the candidate must receive a majority of all valid votes cast.

Section 6. Run-Off Elections. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of votes on the first ballot, a run-off election shall be held. The run-off election shall be between the two candidates drawing the most votes.

Section 7. Voter Eligibility. Only the members of each individual class shall be eligible to vote for their respective class officers. All law students shall be eligible to vote for Board of Governors members. Graduating third year students may vote in the General Election. Eligibility for voting in any election shall not be contingent on payment of Student Bar Association dues.

Section 8. Invalid Votes. An invalid vote includes a vote for more than one candidate for the same office or an illegible vote.

Section 9. Installation.

Paragraph 1. Installation Generally. All officers are installed in their offices and the time of their election or appointment.

Paragraph 2. Outgoing Third Year Class Officers. Since Third Year Class Officers are not succeeded in office by anyone elected in the General Elections, they shall continue in office until graduation. Likewise, although they are succeeded in office, third year students who are outgoing Executive Officers shall not be deemed to misconstrue themselves professionally, ethically, or otherwise by use of their Student Bar Association title at graduation in May. This provision is to be construed to only allow titles to be used if they are appropriate at graduation.

Section 10. Board of Governors Vacancies. Subject to Article II, Section 5, if a vacancy occurs on the Board of Governors, the President shall take one of three actions. The President shall call for a special election, appoint a successor, or hold the position vacant if the vacancy occurs within 30 days of the General Election.

Paragraph 1. Special Election. If the President opts to hold a special election to fill a vacancy, the election must comply with this article.

Paragraph 2. Appointments. If the President opts to appoint a successor to the office, he must take the matter to the Board of Governors. The President must first request candidates for nomination to be named by the Board of Governors. The President can also name candidates. Candidates must be Student Bar Association members in good standing and meet all the other qualifications for the office. The President shall select a nominee from the list. The nominee must then be confirmed by a 3/4 vote of the Board of Governors.

Paragraph 3. Continued Vacancy. If the President opts to keep a position vacant, the position shall not be filled. This option is only available if the vacancy occurs within 30 days of a General Election.

ARTICLE VII

SUSPENSION AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Suspension and Removal of the President.

Paragraph 1. Suspension of the President. Upon a motion by the Vice President or any one of the Class Presidents, the Board of Governors may, by a majority vote, suspend the President from his or her position for 30 days. 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. Suspension should only be used in the case of an Honor Court investigation, dereliction of duty, actions that bring reproach on the Student Bar Association, or other objectionable action that does not comport with that person holding office but that could be resolved in a reasonable time.

Paragraph 2. Removal of the President. Upon a motion by the Vice President or any one of the Class Presidents, the Board of Governors may, by a 2/3 vote, remove the President from his or her position. Notice of the action shall be given to the delinquent President one week in advance of the proposed vote, and the President shall be allowed to present a defense to the charge. Removal should only be used in the case of a guilty Honor Court verdict, dereliction of duty, actions that bring reproach on the Student Bar Association, or other reprehensible action that does not comport with that person holding office and that cannot be resolved in a reasonable time.

Section 2. Suspension and Removal of Officers on the Board of Governors.

Paragraph 1. Suspension of Officers from the Board of Governors. Upon a motion by the President, the Board of Governors may, by a majority vote, suspend an officer from his or her position on the Board of Governors for 30 days. 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. Suspension should only be used in the case of an Honor Court investigation, dereliction of duty, actions that bring reproach on the Student Bar Association, or other objectionable action that does not comport with that person holding office but that could be resolved in a reasonable time.

Paragraph 2. Removal of Officers from the Board of Governors. Upon a motion by the President, the Board of Governors may, by a 2/3 vote, remove an officer from his or her position on the Board of Governors. 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. Removal should only be used in the case of a guilty Honor Court verdict, dereliction of duty, actions that bring reproach on the Student Bar Association, or other reprehensible action that does not comport with that person holding office and that cannot be resolved in a reasonable time.

Section 3. Removal Student Bar Association Board Members. Student Bar Association Board Members are not eligible for suspension from office. The President can remove a board member at any time.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

The President, the Vice President, or a Class President must present amendments to this Constitution as a resolution to the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors can only adopt a Resolution for a Constitutional Amendment by a 2/3 vote. If the Board of Governors passes a Resolution for a Constitutional Amendment, the question for the adoption of the Amendment must be put to a vote for all SBA members. The Amendment must receive a simple majority to pass and can be voted on in a General Election or a Special Called Election in accordance with Article VI.