

CONSTITUTION
and
BY-LAWS
of the
STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW
Amended and Restated as of October 27, 2009

AS RATIFIED BY THE STUDENT BODY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW IN FEBRUARY 1996

PREAMBLE

We, the student body of the School of Law of the University of Virginia, do hereby establish this Constitution in order to create a student government.

ARTICLE I: PURPOSES AND POWERS

The student government shall be known as the Student Bar Association and shall have the following purposes and powers:

- A. To pursue all matters of concern to the student body;
- B. To create standing and ad-hoc committees which also shall pursue matters of concern to the student body;
- C. To appoint all student members and other interested and qualified students to joint faculty-student committees;
- D. To disseminate information of concern to the student body;
- E. To coordinate activities among the Law School student organizations;
- F. To advise the Dean and the University community on student sentiment;
- G. To represent the Law School on the University Student Council, Honor Committee, and Judiciary Committee; and
- H. To supervise all elections and referenda required by this Constitution.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

A. The Student Bar Association (SBA) shall consist of the following members:

- 1. President;
- 2. Vice-President;
- 3. Secretary;
- 4. Treasurer;
- 5. One Graduate (LLM/SJD) Representative;
- 6. Five Third-year Representatives;
- 7. Five Second-year Representatives;
- 8. Five First-year Representatives;
- 9. One Transfer Representative;
- 10. Two American Bar Association Law School Division ("ABA/LSD") Representatives;
- 11. Two Law School Representatives to the Honor Committee ;
- 12. Two Law School Representatives to the University Student Council;
- 13. Two Law School Representatives to the University Judiciary Committee;

B. All SBA members shall be entitled to vote at SBA meetings.

ARTICLE III: OFFICES AND SUCCESSION

A. Executive Board

1. Student Bar Association President. The SBA President shall be elected from the rising third year class. He or she shall serve as a spokesperson for student opinion and shall preside over the SBA until a successor is installed March 1st each year after the second set of spring elections. The President's responsibilities shall encompass all of the purposes and powers delineated in Article I above, with the exception of direct representation of the Law School on the Student Council, Honor Committee and Judiciary Committee. The SBA President shall serve as the president of the third-year class until graduation.
2. Vice-President. The SBA Vice President shall be elected from the rising third year class. The Vice-President shall assist the President in the performance of his or her duties, shall coordinate and regularly monitor the committees, shall appoint each SBA class representative to a committee, and shall chair the Elections Committee and coordinate annual elections in February.
3. Secretary. The Secretary shall coordinate and supervise publicity for SBA-related events and programs and shall be responsible for taking attendance and minutes of the SBA. Copies of the minutes of each meeting shall be distributed to SBA members and shall be available to members of the student body upon request.
4. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall assist the President in the preparation of an annual budget to be presented to the SBA for approval. The Treasurer shall disburse funds as authorized by the SBA.

B. University Representatives

1. Honor Committee Representatives. Two Honor Committee Representatives shall be elected from the rising second- and third-year classes. These individuals shall represent the Law School on the Honor Committee.
2. Judiciary Committee Representatives. Two Judiciary Committee Representatives shall be elected from the rising second- and third-year classes. These individuals shall represent the Law School on the University Judiciary Committee.
3. Student Council Representatives. Two Student Council Representatives shall be elected from the rising second- and third-year classes. These individuals shall represent the Law School on Student Council.

C. American Bar Association/Law Student Division (ABA/LSD) Representative: The ABA/LSD Representative shall be elected from the rising second- and third-year classes, and shall represent the Law School student body in the Law Student Division of the American Bar Association.

D. Class Representatives. Each class of students at the Law School shall elect five representatives to the SBA. The representatives shall represent the particular concerns of their respective constituencies before the SBA and shall serve on at least one SBA committee as appointed by the Vice President, in addition to any other responsibilities they may have.

E. Graduate (LLM/SJD) Representative. The graduate students at the Law School shall elect one Graduate (LLM/SJD) Representative to the SBA. The representative shall represent the particular concerns of their respective constituencies before the SBA, in addition to any other responsibilities granted to them by the Graduate Law Student Association.

F. Transfer Representative. The new transfer class at the Law School shall elect one Transfer Representative to the SBA. The representative shall represent the particular concerns of their respective constituencies before the SBA, in addition to any other responsibilities they may have.

G. Succession and Vacancies

1. If the office of SBA President is vacated, the SBA Vice President shall succeed to the position. If the SBA Vice President refuses the position or is otherwise unable to fill the Presidency, then the Vice President shall preside over the SBA until a new President can be elected through a special election of the entire student body.
2. If any other SBA position, university position, or the ABA/LSD Representative is vacated or is vacant because no candidate ran for the position, the SBA shall advertise the vacancy, conduct interviews, and fill the vacancy by appointment by the SBA President; such appointment must be confirmed by a majority vote of the SBA.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTIONS

A. The Elections Committee shall oversee the planning and execution of all elections for SBA positions. There shall be three rounds elections for SBA positions in the spring semester; Elections for the position of Graduate Representative as well as for the election of the First-Year Representatives are to be held in the fall and are provided for below. The dates for the elections are set forth below and generally correspond with University-wide Student Council elections, but these dates may be changed by determination of the Elections Committee should they prove unsatisfactory. Those elected shall assume their responsibilities during the first meeting of the SBA in March.

B. Voting procedure. Unless otherwise stated, all law students shall be eligible to vote in law school elections.

1. Individual offices (SBA President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer): One ballot shall be cast per position. The ballot shall allow each voter to rank as many candidates as they like in order of preference. The candidate who receives the most first-place votes shall be elected, provided that the candidate receives at least fifty (50) percent of the votes cast. If no candidate receives fifty (50) percent of the votes, an automatic run-off election shall be held according to procedures set forth in the SBA Election By-Laws.
2. Dual Offices (ABA/LSD Representatives, Honor Committee Representatives, Judiciary Committee Representatives, Student Council Representatives): Up to two votes may be cast per election for ABA/LSD Representatives. The ballot shall allow each voter to rank as many candidates as they like in order of preference. The two candidates who receive the most first- and second-place votes for this position shall be elected. In the event of a tie for second place, an automatic run-off election shall be held according to procedures set forth in the SBA Election By-Laws. Elections for Honor Committee Representatives, Judiciary Committee Representatives, and Student Council shall be governed by the procedures established by the University Board of Elections ("UBE").
3. Multiple offices (Class Representatives): Law students may vote only for those students in their particular class. Each student has up to five votes but only one may be cast for any individual candidate. The ballot shall allow each voter to rank as many candidates as they like in order of preference. The five candidates in each class receiving the most first- through fifth-place votes will be elected. In the event of a tie for fifth place, an automatic run-off election will be held according to procedures set forth in the SBA Election By-Laws.

C. Fall Elections.

1. Graduate (LLM/SJD) Representative. The graduate representative shall be elected by a majority vote of the graduate law students during the third full week of the fall semester.
2. First-Year Representatives. Five first-year representatives shall be elected as set forth in

Article VII below.

D. Spring Elections.

1. First Round. The First Round of Spring Elections will take place on a date selected by the SBA. Elected officers shall be:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer

2. Second Round. The Second Round of Spring Elections shall take place on a date selected by SBA. Elected offices shall be:
 - a. Five Third-Year Representatives
 - b. Five Second-Year Representatives
 - c. Two ABA/LSD Representatives

3. Third Round. The Third Round of Spring Elections shall be governed by the University Board of Elections ("UBE") and shall take place on a date selected by that body. Elected offices shall be:
 - a. Two Honor Committee Representatives
 - b. Two Judiciary Committee Representatives
 - c. Two Student Council Representatives

E. Candidates for every office except Graduate Representative and First-Year Representative shall present a petition to the SBA signed by at least 25 students eligible to vote for the office sought.

F. Where applicable, the election rules of the UBE shall apply to candidates for positions on the Honor and Judiciary Committees and Student Council. The SBA may modify or supplement these rules by majority vote when such modification or supplement is in accordance with or allowed by the UBE.

G. Removal. A referendum on the removal of any SBA member shall be required upon receipt by the SBA of a petition signed by at least ten percent of the enrolled students who were eligible to vote for the member named in the petition. The referendum shall take place no later than two weeks from the date of the meeting at which the petition is presented. A majority of the enrolled students who were eligible to vote in the election of the named member must vote in the referendum. If this majority is satisfied, and a majority of those voting call for removal, the SBA member shall be removed from office, and a successor chosen according to Article IV, Section F of this Constitution.

ARTICLE V: REFERENDA

A. By majority vote, the SBA may call for a student referendum on any issue in order to advise the SBA of student opinion. The SBA shall be bound by such a referendum if more than fifty percent of the enrolled student body votes in favor of or against the proposition presented.

B. After the SBA or the President has acted on any issue, the decision may be reversed by a vote of more than fifty percent of the enrolled student body. Such a referendum must be initiated by a petition of at least ten percent of the enrolled student body and presented to the SBA President within fifteen days of the action.

C. A referendum on any issue may be proposed by petition of at least ten percent of the enrolled student

body.

D. Whenever possible, the SBA shall endeavor to schedule referenda with an election of SBA members.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

A. The SBA shall hold regular meetings not less than twice a month during the academic year. Special meetings may be called by the President, Vice-President, or by petition of any six members of the SBA.

B. All meetings shall be open to the student body and general public, and notice shall be posted in advance specifying the time, place and agenda.

C. A majority of the SBA members in office at a given time, present or represented by proxies shall constitute a quorum. The SBA shall promulgate by-laws governing the usage of proxies in accordance with this Constitution.

D. Each SBA member shall attend all regular and special meetings of the SBA.

1. An SBA member must submit a written excuse to the Secretary after absence from an SBA meeting, prior to the beginning of the next regular meeting.
2. Absence from more than half of an SBA meeting shall be considered as an absence from the entire meeting.
3. Absences shall be counted per semester and are not cumulative over successive semesters.
4. Unexcused absence from four SBA meetings in a given semester without compelling reason acceptable to the SBA shall automatically remove that member from the SBA and from any simultaneous position on the Honor Committee, Judiciary Committee, or Student Council. Eight absences, excused or unexcused, over the course of a given semester also shall subject that member to automatic removal from the SBA and simultaneous positions.

E. Each SBA member shall attend all regular and special meetings of the SBA committee to which he/she has been assigned by the Vice President.

ARTICLE VII: FIRST YEAR COUNCIL

A. By the end of the third full week of the fall semester, each first-year academic section shall choose two of its members to serve on the First Year Council (FYC) as Section Representatives.

B. The FYC shall address problems of particular concern to the first-year class, such as orientation and academic matters, additional social events, and other projects, as it sees fit or as the SBA directs.

C. At its first meeting, the FYC shall elect a President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Two Vice Presidents for Events, Two Chairpersons for the Admitted Students Weekend, and One Chairperson for Public Service. The President shall preside over meetings of the FYC, and shall also serve as one of the five first-year representatives to the SBA.

D. The FYC shall also elect at its first meeting four of its members to serve as First-Year Representatives to the SBA. Elected FYC officers other than the President shall not be eligible to serve also as first-year representatives to the SBA.

E. Elected Section Representatives may at their own choosing resign their position for any reason and at any time. Their resignation shall become effective upon notification to the First Year Council President. In the unlikely event of a vacancy, new elections for the vacant spot will take place at the earliest

available time, under the regular election guidelines.

ARTICLE VIII: STANDING AND AD-HOC COMMITTEES

A. The SBA shall maintain the following standing committees:

1. Academic Concerns
2. Alumni/Student Relations
3. Admissions
4. Barrister Yearbook
5. Barristers' Ball
6. Faculty/Student Relations
7. Graduation
8. Programming
9. Elections
10. Career Services
11. Diversity
12. Public Service

B. The SBA may create additional standing or ad hoc committees by majority vote.

C. The chairs of the committees shall be appointed by the SBA President in consultation with the SBA Vice-President.

D. Each committee coordinator or chair shall report to the SBA at the SBA regular meeting at the direction of the SBA President or Vice-President, or by majority vote of the SBA, or at the request of a particular chair, but shall report to the SBA at one of its regular meetings at least once per semester.

E. Appointments to the standing and ad hoc faculty-student committees shall be made by the SBA following an application and interview process, and are subject to majority approval of the SBA. If extenuating circumstances arise, the President may appoint a committee member, whose interim appointment shall be subject to SBA confirmation at the earliest opportunity. The students serving on these committees shall report to the SBA at the direction of the president or Vice-President or by majority vote of the SBA, and may be removed by majority vote of the SBA.

F. Each committee shall meet within three weeks of the first day of fall classes, or within two weeks of the appointment of the committee chair, whichever is later.

G. Each committee shall be open to any student at the School of Law who seeks membership with the exception of the Elections Committee.

ARTICLE IX: Delegated Functions

A. The SBA shall represent the University, act on behalf of the University, and be subject to the supervision and control of the University when it performs specified, delegated functions.

B. The Delegated functions of the SBA shall be:

1. Serving as the recognized representative body for students in the School of Law on matters pertaining to administration and academics and, in such capacity, discerning and voicing student concerns to the faculty and administration, through such activities including, but not limited to student forums to discuss academic concerns and career services

2. Coordinating student efforts to recruit prospective students, by providing such services as tours, student informational panels, and hosting prospective students by Law Ambassadors
3. Bringing in speakers to address students on issues of interest and importance, such as careers, diversity, or graduation
4. Providing school-wide programming to encourage greater camaraderie and to maintain student culture
5. Providing third-year class-specific programming to encourage greater camaraderie and unity and foster class pride in preparation for the class giving campaign
6. Providing first-year class-specific programming through the First Year Council of the Student Bar Association to encourage greater camaraderie and to facilitate the transition into law school
7. Hosting public service-oriented events to encourage development of the citizen-lawyer mindset and to promote goodwill for the Law School within the community.
8. Hosting events promoting conviviality and a sense of community among students, faculty and staff as well as between students and alumni
9. Publishing the Law School yearbook
10. Performing any other specific functions to the extent agreed upon, in advance, by the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs for the Law School

C. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to limit the SBA's ability to function independently as a separate entity outside of the University's supervision, direction, or control.

ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

A. Amendment by Referendum

1. Amendments to this constitution may be initiated either by a petition for a referendum, made to the SBA by not less than ten percent of the enrolled student body, or by majority vote of the SBA to hold a referendum.
2. Any referendum on constitutional amendments shall be subject to any wording deadlines specified by the University Student Council or the SBA for a particular election.
3. Any amendment receiving a two-thirds affirmative vote of those students voting in an election shall be ratified, with the additional requirement that at least twenty-five percent of the student body must have voted in that election.

B. Amendment by Supermajority Vote of SBA. The SBA may amend the Constitution by a strict four-fifths majority of all members of the body. No proxy votes are allowed.

ARTICLE XI: BY-LAWS OF THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION

By majority vote, the SBA may adopt by-laws that are not in conflict with this constitution.

ARTICLE XII: RATIFICATION

This constitution shall be ratified if it receives a majority vote of those students voting on the referendum set by the Student Bar Association for February 13-15, 1996, with a requirement that a minimum of 25 percent of the student body must have voted in the election. This Constitution shall supersede all prior Law School constitutions in their entirety.