

Student Bar Association CONSTITUTION

**Drake University
Law School**

PREAMBLE

We the Students of Drake University Law School, in order to faithfully represent the rights of all law students, to support the development of student organizations, to foster communication with the faculty and administration of Drake University and Drake University Law School, to encourage academic excellence, and to promote justice and equality for all, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the Drake University Law School Student Bar Association.

ARTICLE I

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be “The Drake University Law School Student Bar Association.” The Drake University Law School Student Bar Association shall be the official representative government of the students of Drake University Law School.

Section 2. The name of this document shall be “The Constitution of the Drake University Law School Student Bar Association.” A copy of this Constitution and Bylaws shall be updated after any revision and made publicly available to all students of Drake University Law School at all times.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section 1. All students enrolled in the Drake University Law School shall be members of the Drake University Law School Student Bar Association.

Section 2. For all purposes concerning the membership and privileges in the Association, the class standing of members shall be based upon the Drake University Law School Student Handbook.

ARTICLE III

Officers

Section 1. In order to hold office in the Drake University Law School Student Bar Association, a person must be a student in good standing at Drake University Law School as defined by the Drake University Law School Student Handbook and must currently be enrolled.

Section 2. There shall be twenty-three Officers who shall constitute the elected body of the Student Bar Association. The Officers shall consist of: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, four 3L Class Representatives, four 2L Class Representatives, four 1L Class Representatives, Faculty Representative, University Representative, American Bar Association Representative, Career Development Office Liaison and one Honor Board Representative from each 3L, 2L, and 1L class. No Officer shall hold two offices simultaneously. Elected Officers must vote on Student Bar Association Budget.

Section 3. There shall be 5 at-large officers who shall constitute appointed members of the Student Bar Association.

Section 4. The Student Bar Association Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

ARTICLE IV

Removal of Officers

Section 1. Recall

- a. Fifteen percent of the total number of the students enrolled at Drake University Law School and in good standing as defined by the Student Handbook may sign a petition to have a recall election for any Officer.
- b. Recall shall be for cause.
- c. A bill of particulars outlining the cause shall be required on the recall petition.
- d. The Honor Board shall determine if the recall petition establishes cause and contains the required number of signatures.
- e. If the Honor Board determines these requirements have been met, the Vice President must call for an election to be held within ten regularly scheduled class days of said determination.
- f. If a recall election fails, students are barred from bringing impeachment proceedings on the same bill of particulars.

Section 2. Impeachment

- a. Any Officer can be impeached by a three-fourths majority vote of the Officers for cause in office.
- b. A bill of particulars outlining the cause of the Officer in question shall be required.
- c. After impeachment charges are entered against an Officer, the Officer is deprived of all rights of office until his or her case is disposed of.
- d. Conviction of an Officer who is impeached shall be by the Honor Board.

- e. In the event that a Representative of the Honor Board is impeached, the position shall go to the Vice-President. In the event the Vice-President is unable to serve, the President shall appoint an elected member to fulfill the position.
- f. If a vote for impeachment fails, the Officers are barred from bringing further impeachment proceedings on the same bill of particulars.

ARTICLE V

Elections

Section 1. Annual Elections

- a. Annual elections for the Officers of the Student Bar Association shall be held on the second Tuesday of February, or within one week thereof. If necessary, a run-off election shall be held on the next following Tuesday.
- b. At each annual election, the following Officers shall be elected to the Student Bar Association: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Faculty Representative, University Representative, American Bar Association Representative, four 3L Class Representatives from the following year's third year class, and four 2L Class Representatives from the following year's second year class.
- c. At each annual election, the following Officers shall be elected to the Honor Board: one 3L Representative from the following year's third year class, and one 2L Representative from the following year's second year class.
- d. The newly elected Officers shall take office on a date in March to be determined by the Executive Board. After exiting office, the outgoing officers will ensure that the new officers have a sufficient understanding of their duties and responsibilities. The past officers will have the newly elected officers transitioned by the Transition Dinner at a time set by the President. Past officers will remain available to help newly elected officers even after transition.
- e. If there is a mistake or contest within two weeks of the election procedure, the Vice-President shall correct any mistakes and hold a new election within one week if the mistake materially affected the election.

Section 2. Fall Elections

- a. Fall elections for the remaining Officers of the Student Bar Association shall be held during the third full week of the Fall

Semester. If necessary, a run-off election shall be held on the next following Tuesday.

- b. At each fall election, four 1L Class Representatives and one Honor Board Representative from the first-year class shall be elected to serve until the next annual election. They shall take office immediately upon election.
- c. An election shall be held to fill any vacancy in any Officer position excluding the President, when such vacancy occurs during the summer or fall semester prior to the fall election.
- d. The Vice-President shall serve on the Honor Board when there is a vacancy in the 1L Honor Board Representative Position. In the event, the Vice-President is unable to serve, the President shall appoint an elected representative to the position.

ARTICLE VI

Powers and Duties of the Officers of the Student Bar Association

- Section 1.** The Officers of the Student Bar Association shall represent the rights and the interests of the law students of Drake University Law School to the best of their ability.
- Section 2.** The Officers, excluding the President, shall propose and vote on all the legislation and appropriations of the Student Bar Association as designated by the bylaws.
- Section 3.** The Officers shall serve on the committees charged with managing the affairs of the Student Bar Association.
- Section 4.** Any Officer who is also an officer of another student organization shall be required to abstain from voting on any legislation and appropriations if that legislation deals exclusively with that particular student organization. Any elected position within a student organization shall meet the definition of an officer.
- Section 5.** The Officers shall promulgate all necessary bylaws and amendments consistent with this Constitution.
- Section 6.** The Officers shall interpret this Constitution.
- Section 7.** The President shall have the authority to appoint and remove the Chairs and members of all standing committees, subject to the advice and consent of the

Executive Board. The President shall have the authority to create special committees and appoint and remove their Chairs and members.

Section 8. The President shall appoint with the consent of the Executive Board six At-Large Representatives, reserving two spots for incoming 1Ls. The President shall have the authority to remove At-Large Representatives at their discretion.

Section 9 Any vacancy, excluding the office of the President, occurring in one of the offices mentioned in Article III, § 2 and occurring between the fall and spring elections, may be filled by appointment of the President and subject to the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Officers of the Student Bar Association.

Section 10. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President during a term of office, the order of succession to the Presidency shall be as follows: Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. In the event that none of these three Officers accept the Presidency, the Officers shall elect a new President by a two-thirds majority from nominations submitted by the Officers, within proceedings directed and supervised by the Honor Board Representatives.

Section 11. Each Officer shall take the following oath before assuming their official duties:

I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the duties of my office in accordance with the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Student Bar Association. I pledge myself to service of the student body and the betterment of the Drake University Law School.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings shall be held at a time and on a day to be decided by the Officers at the beginning of each semester, and shall consist of no less than 6 meetings per semester.

Section 2. All regular and special meetings shall be open. In the event that the Officers are required to discuss confidential matters, the meeting may be closed by an affirmative two-thirds majority vote of the Officers present. The results of all legislation requiring a vote shall be made publicly available with a list of each participating Officer and each Officer's recorded vote.

Section 3. Officers shall attend all regular meetings, except that an Officer may be excused for scheduled conflicts, school sponsored activities or by the president's discretion from three regular meetings per semester. Any officer who acquires more than

three unexcused absences per semester may be dismissed from office as a Student Bar Association officer at the discretion of the president.

Section 4. The quorum required for regular and special meetings shall be one-half plus one of the total number of Officers.

Section 5. All regular and special meetings shall be governed by parliamentary procedure based on *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Section 6. The agenda for all regular meetings shall be transmitted to all Officers within a reasonable time before each meeting. Later admissions may be added at the discretion of the Secretary. The minutes of any regular or special meeting shall be made public not later than two regularly scheduled class days after the meeting.

Section 7. Any Officer who seeks to include any item on a regular meeting agenda, shall submit the necessary information to the Secretary no later than twenty-four hours prior to the meeting. Later submissions may be included on the next regular meeting agenda at the discretion of the President.

Section 8. Special meetings of the Officers may be called by the President with no less than twenty-four-hour notice to all Officers prior to convening.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

Section 1. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted to the Officers of the Student Bar Association. If two-thirds of the Officers approve the proposed amendments, the Vice President shall hold a referendum for ratification by the full Student Bar Association. The referendum may coincide with an annual or fall election.

Section 2. Proposed amendments to the Constitution approved by the Officers shall be made available to the full Student Bar Association no less than one week prior to the referendum.

Section 3. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws of this Constitution shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Officers of the Student Bar Association.

ARTICLE IX

Ratification and Review

- Section 1.** This Constitution shall be ratified upon an affirmative two-thirds vote of a majority of the full Student Bar Association voting in the election.
- Section 2.** This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon ratification and shall supersede and nullify all preceding Constitutions of the Drake University Law School Student Bar Association.
- Section 3.** This constitution shall be reviewed by a committee of appointed officers at least every three years or as needed.

Ratified on: September 6, 2022