

Constitution of the National Lawyers Guild Student Chapter at the University of Minnesota Law School

ARTICLE I - GENERAL

Section 1: The official name of this organization shall be the National Lawyers Guild Student Chapter.

Section 2: The organization shall be an affiliate of the National Lawyers Guild and Minnesota NLG.

Section 3: The club shall operate as a non-profit organization.

Section 4: The student group will comply with all University policies and procedures, as well as local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1: The National Lawyers Guild is an association dedicated to the need for basic change in the structure of our political and economic system. We seek to unite the lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers of America in an organization that shall function as an effective political and social force in the service of the people, to the end that human rights shall be regarded as more sacred than property interests. Our aim is to bring together all those who regard adjustments to new conditions as more important than the veneration of precedent; who recognize the importance of safeguarding and extending the rights of workers, women, farmers, and minority groups upon whom the welfare of the entire nation depends; who seek actively to eliminate racism; who work to maintain and protect our civil rights and liberties in the face of persistent attacks upon them; and who look upon the law as an instrument for the protection of the people, rather than for their repression.

Section 2: The objects of the organization shall be:

- a) To aid in making the United States and the State Constitutions and law and the administrative and judicial agencies of government responsive to the will of the American people;
- b) To protect and foster our democratic institutions and civil rights and liberties of all people;
- c) To aid in the establishment of governmental and professional agencies to supply adequate legal services to all who are in need and cannot obtain it;
- d) To promote justice in the administration of the law;
- e) To aid in the adoption of laws for the economic and social welfare of the people;
- f) To keep the people informed upon legal matters affecting the public interest;
- g) To encourage, in the study of law, a consideration of the social and economic aspects of the law;

- h) To improve the ethical standards which must guide the lawyer in the performance of his or her professional and social duties;
- i) To promote world unity through collaboration among the Bars of members of the United Nations; and
- j) Any other purposes adopted into the Constitution of the National Lawyers Guild to be found at <http://www.nlg.org/member/bylaws-resolutions>.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP/REMOVAL

Section 1: Membership is open to all in the University of Minnesota Law School community who agree with the statement of purpose in Article II.

Section 2: Voting membership is open to all students, faculty and staff at the University of Minnesota.

Section 3: No more than 1/3 of the voting membership shall consist of non-students.

Section 4: Membership is open to all students without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, age, veteran status, creed, marital status, public assistance status, sexual orientation, gender identity, social class, political beliefs, immigration status, or any other identity or status.

Section 5: Members of the Student Chapter are encouraged to join the Minnesota NLG chapter and the NLG national chapter.

Section 6: Members who are disruptive to the purpose of the organization may be removed from the organization by a 75% vote of the membership.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1: The organization does not utilize a hierarchical authority structure. All officers shall be recognized as co-chairs and will share cooperative responsibility for the official duties of the organization. All officers shall perform said duties in accordance with this Constitution and other procedures and rules adopted by the organization.

Section 2: All officers must be currently enrolled students at the University of Minnesota and registered for at least six credits. Officers should also be in good standing with the University and free of any sanctions defined within the Board of Regents Policy-Student Conduct Code administered by the Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. Exceptions to the requirement are permitted for graduate students upon receipt of a letter from the Director of Graduate Studies of the student's department certifying that the student is actively pursuing a degree.

Section 3: Officers shall be selected during the first month and last month of the academic year and shall serve for a period of one year. Officers shall be elected by plurality of the voting members present.

Section 4: At least one officer position shall be reserved for a 1L student.

ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES

Section 1: Permanent and temporary committees shall be established by a majority vote of the members of the organization.

ARTICLE VI – MEETING

Section 1: Regular meetings of the organization shall be held at least once each semester at a time to be determined by the officers of the organization.

Section 2: The duties of facilitating meetings and taking minutes of meetings shall rotate among members so as to follow our non-hierarchical organizational structure.

Section 3: A consensus of members present will provide the parliamentary authority governing any one particular meeting, with all members consenting to make decisions in accordance with the purposes and values stated in Article II.

ARTICLE VII - FINANCIAL MATTERS

Section 1: The club shall not provide monetary gain, incidentally or otherwise to its officers or membership.

Section 2: Unless otherwise specified by the membership at the time of dissolution of the organization, residual assets shall be returned to the Law Council.

ARTICLE VIII - BY-LAWS

Section 1: By-Laws may be proposed by the membership and may be adopted by a majority vote of those present at the meeting when a quorum is present.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This Constitution can be amended at any regular meeting of the organization with a consensus of the members present. Written notification will be provided to all members prior to voting on the proposed amendment, which may be accomplished via group email.

Constitution ratified: (month, day, year) _____

Officer _____ Date _____

Officer _____ Date _____

Officer _____ Date _____

Officer _____ Date _____

Officer _____ Date _____