

## THE DEMOCRATIC LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

### PREAMBLE

We, as members of the Democratic Party, seek to maintain a long and honored tradition as defenders of individual liberty and equal opportunity. We take great pride in our heritage as the Party of the People. In this role, we recognize the importance of a fair and responsive government and the value of an active citizenry. As law students, we realize that it is necessary for us to take an active role in the political process, and to encourage everyone to become informed and involved in public decision-making. To this end, we promote social awareness, community involvement and political activism as a means to achieve a more fair and just society.

### ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

- A. Name:** The name of this organization shall be Democratic Law Students Association at the University of Miami.
- B. Purpose:** The Democratic Law Students Association pledges itself to support the philosophy and candidates of the Democratic Party. Furthermore, the Democratic Law Students Association declares its intention to support all efforts to increase the participation of law students in Democratic affairs. To these ends, the Democratic Law Students Association shall educate and train its members so that they may be better able to:
1. Educate law students about the philosophy of the Democratic Party;
  2. Assist in the election of local, state, and national Democratic candidates;
  3. Affect political change on the local, state, and national level.

### ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

**Section A:** Membership in the Democratic Law Students Association shall be University of Miami students, staff, administrators, and alumni who have the best interests of the Democratic Law Students Association and the Democratic Party at heart, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, physical handicap, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation.

**Section B:** The advisor of this organization shall be full-time faculty, administrator, or staff.

**Section C:** The membership fees are \$10 payable per semester. If a member becomes delinquent in payment (s)he will not be allowed to vote or will be dropped from membership.

### **Section D: Procedure**

Candidates are nominated directly before their election.

1. **Speech length**
  - a. President – 4 minutes;
  - b. Vice-President – 3 minutes;
  - c. Other – 2 minutes
2. **Q & A**
  - a. President – 7 minutes;
  - b. Other – 5 minutes
3. Vote counting and declaration of winner will occur directly after that election.

## **ARTICLE VI: REMOVAL**

### **Section A: Cause for removal**

Cause for removal shall be defined as malfeasance or nonfeasance of duties assigned by the Executive Board or delineated within this document, or as ineligibility for Executive Board membership pursuant to Article 2 of this Constitution. Cause for removal shall also include grounds found by 3/4 members of the Executive Board to constitute good and sufficient cause.

### **Section B: Process for removal**

To begin the process for removal, another member of the Executive Board must charge the officer with the reasons for his or her removal publicly at a meeting of the Executive Board. The officer in question must be offered an opportunity to defend him or herself at that meeting. After a period of two weeks the issue shall be put to a vote. Three-fourths members of the Executive Board must vote for removal for an officer to be removed.

## **ARTICLE VII: VACANCIES**

**Section A:** A vacancy shall be declared when a member of the Executive Board dies, resigns, or is removed from office. If the vacancy occurs in an Executive Board position other than the President, the President shall appoint a successor with a 2/3-majority consent of the remaining Executive Board. If the vacancy is the President, then the Vice-President shall automatically be the replacement.

## **ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS**

**Section A:** Regular meetings are held twice a month during the school year.

**Section B:** Special meeting will be called by the Executive Board when necessary.

## ARTICLE IX: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert Rule of Order shall be used in all situations not covered by provisions of this constitution.

## ARTICLE X: AMENDMENTS

**Section A:** Amendments to this constitution shall be submitted to the President in writing for submission to the members for a vote.

**Section B:** A 2/3 of members at a specific meeting shall suffice for adoption.

**Section C:** New amendments are to be presented to the Committee On Student Organization (COSO) for final approval.

## ARTICLE XI: DISCIPLINE

**Article A:** Any violation of this constitution by this organization or any member of it will be presented to the Committee On Student Organization (COSO) for a hearing.

**Article B:** Any member may be expelled for the following reason:

1. Failure to pay dues
2. Failure to attend bi-monthly meetings

## ARTICLE XII: DISSOLUTION

**Section A:** This organization may be dissolved after dissolution is approved by the officers and by a 2/3 vote of its members, provided that notice of a vote on dissolution will be taken, is furnished to the members at least sixty (60) days before the vote is taken.

**Section B:** Upon dissolution, the officers shall utilize the assets of the organization to pay all obligations and expenses of the organization, including those arising from dissolution and distribution. The balance, if any, shall insofar as possible, be distributed equitably among the contributing organizations.

---

Signatures of at least ten (10) members who attest to the ratification of this constitution. Include C-numbers.