



THE ORDER OF BARRISTERS

University of Miami Chapter

BYLAWS

PURPOSE

The Order of Barristers is a national honorary organization whose purpose is the encouragement of oral advocacy and brief writing skills through effective law school advocacy programs. The Order seeks to improve these programs through interscholastic sharing of ideas, information, and resources. The Order also provides national recognition for individuals who have excelled in advocacy at their respective schools.

The University of Miami School of Law (hereinafter “School”), a chartered member of the National Order of Barristers, hereby enacts these bylaws to regulate the activities of the Order at the School. Specifically, these bylaws set forth the procedures and requirements for students to attain membership in the Order of Barristers, University of Miami School of Law Chapter (hereinafter the “Order”).

ARTICLE I. SCOPE & CONSTRUCTION

- A. These bylaws **shall** regulate only the Order of Barristers, University of Miami School of Law Chapter.
- B. These bylaws **shall** not regulate activities of the Moot Court Board, Mock Trial Team, or other any other advocacy related organization or event at the School.
- C. All provisions in these bylaws are subject to conformity with the Constitution of the National Order of Barristers (hereinafter “National Constitution”), which is incorporated herein by reference. Any ambiguity in these bylaws should be construed to conform to the text and purposes of the National Constitution.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

A. Student Membership

1. **Eligibility.** Only December and May graduates of the current academic year are eligible to apply during the annual selection process. This requirement is in conformity with Article III, Section 6 of the National Constitution, which provides that candidates must apply for membership within 6 months of their graduation from law school.
2. **Qualifications.** No single advocacy related event at the School will automatically afford an applicant membership in the Order. Applicants **shall** list and/or discuss their qualifications for membership based upon the specified “Criteria for Selection” below.
3. **Criteria for Selection.** Pursuant to Article III, Section Three of the National Constitution, the Criteria for Selection **shall** consist of the following:
 - a. Membership on interscholastic teams
 - b. Participation for tryouts for interscholastic teams
 - c. Participation and performance in intramural competitions
 - d. Participation and performance in the administration of the School’s Moot Court and Mock Trial program
 - e. Participation and performance in a teaching program for brief writing and/or oral advocacy skills to other law students (e.g. Dean’s fellows, writing clinics, etc.)
 - f. Performance record in the School’s brief writing and/or oral advocacy courses.
4. **Weightings of Criteria Elements.** No specific weight is given to any single element of the aforementioned Criteria for Selection.
5. **Annual Limit on New Members.** Pursuant to Article III, Section 4 of the National Constitution, the number of students per year that a school may select to the Order shall be related to the combined number of students who participate in the current academic year's advocacy related events at the School in a faculty supervised and sanctioned moot court or mock trial program. There **shall** be an annual limit of eight Barristers for annual student participation of up to 100, nine Barristers for annual student participation of up to 200, and ten Barristers for annual student participation over 200.
6. **Minimum Limit on New Members.** There is no minimum limit on new members selected to the Order.

B. Honorary Membership

1. **Authority.** Pursuant to Article III, Section Five, The Selection Committee may select honorary members to the Order.

2. **Qualifications.** Honorary members must be members of the legal profession who have obtained distinction in the community.
3. **Annual Limit on New Members.** Only one honorary member may be admitted to the Order per academic year.

ARTICLE III. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- A. Near the end of the fall semester of each academic year, the Dean of Students **shall** make available the Order of Barristers Application. The Application **shall** be available at the Dean of Students Office, or on the School website.
- B. All students in their last year of law school who seek membership in the Order must complete the Application and return it to the Dean of Students Office by the last day in January, unless otherwise specified by the Dean of Students.
- C. All applications timely received by the Dean of Students **shall** be delivered to the Selection Committee Chairperson.
- D. The Committee Chairperson **shall** coordinate the selection process with other Committee Members during the months of February and/or March, depending upon the time constraints of the Selection Committee.
- E. After the Selection Committee has reviewed all delivered applications, the Committee Chairperson **shall** deliver the list of new members to the Dean of Students, and to the President of the Moot Court Board.
- F. The Dean of Students **shall** announce new members during the month of March, or other appropriate time, to be decided by the Dean of Students.
- G. The President of the Moot Court Board **shall** notify the National Order of Barristers.
- H. New members to the Order **shall** be recognized in a manner deemed appropriate by the Dean of Students.

ARTICLE IV. SELECTION COMMITTEE

- A. New members are admitted to the Order only by the Selection Committee, with approval by the Dean of the School.
- B. The Selection Committee **shall** consist of the Committee Chairperson and Committee Members.

- C. The current faculty advisor of the Moot Court Board **shall** be the Committee Chairperson, unless otherwise directed by Dean of the School. The Chairperson is responsible for coordinating the selection process each year and announcing the list of new members to the Dean of Students.
- D. The Committee Members **shall** be comprised of regular and adjunct faculty members who are involved in various advocacy competitions and related activities at the School.¹

ARTICLE V. ADMINISTRATION

- A. The Order **shall** be administered through the combined efforts of the Dean of Students, the Selection Committee, and the President of the Moot Court Board.
- B. It **shall** be the responsibility of the President of the Moot Court Board to correspond with the Dean of Students and to verify that there is a Selection Committee in place to review applications.
- C. It **shall** be the responsibility of the President of the Moot Court Board to correspond with the Dean of Students and come to an agreement regarding the means of publicizing the Order, and the application process.
- D. It **shall** be the responsibility of the President of the Moot Court Board to notify the National Order of Barristers of all new members admitted to the Order.
- E. Filing fees for registration of new members with the National Order of Barristers **shall** be funded by the Moot Court Board. The President of the Moot Court Board **shall** budget for these expenses at the beginning of each academic year.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENT

- A. Where necessary to bring about conformity with the National Constitution or other relevant School prerogatives, these bylaws may be amended.
- B. Proposed amendments **shall** be delivered in writing to the Dean of Students.
- C. The Dean of Students **shall** call together an ad hoc committee consisting of him/herself, the Selection Committee Chairperson, and at least one other member of the Selection committee to weigh the merits of the proposed amendment. The ad hoc committee shall ratify or reject all proposed amendments to these bylaws.
- D. Any ratified amendments **shall** be added to these bylaws and made available to the student body.

¹ For example, for the 2004-2005 academic year, Professor Sepler (appellate law professor), Professor Anderson (Mock Trial Advisor), and Professor Williamson (Alternative Dispute Resolution Professor) will serve as the Committee Members.