

Constitution of the Jewish Law Students Association

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Jewish Law Students Association (“JLSA”), as a student organization at the Columbus School of Law (“Law School”) at The Catholic University of America (“University”).

Article II: Purpose and Mission

The purpose of the JLSA shall be to provide a community within the law school for those students interested in Jewish faith and religion. Additionally, the JLSA will also serve the purpose of connecting current law student members to Jewish alumni of the Law School. The JLSA also serves as a vehicle for students to combat hate speech, including, but not limited to, antisemitism.

The JLSA will offer community-enriching activities and events to promote knowledge and awareness of Jewish culture, as well as professionally-focused networking events to connect current law students with Law School alumni.

The JLSA will sponsor fora where all viewpoints are invited, discussed, and respected. The JLSA will also serve as a liaison between the Jewish professional law community and the student body through alumni mentoring programs and networking events that introduce students to Jewish alumni practitioners.

At all times, the JLSA will demonstrate respect for the University and Law School mission statements.

Article III. Social Media

The JLSA shall comply with the University’s Social Media policy, <https://policies.catholic.edu/marketing-communications/socialmedia.html>. The JLSA shall obtain approval from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs before posting on its social media sites. According to the University’s Social Media Policy, the JLSA “may only use the University’s approved names, seal, logos and other copyrighted or trademarked material in Social Media to identify themselves on matters of official University business.” The JLSA shall also obtain approval from the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs before submitting its name to be listed on websites or in directories belonging to third parties.

Article IV. Events

The JLSA shall comply with the University’s Presentations Policy, <https://policies.catholic.edu/students/studentlife/organizations/presentations.html>.

Article V: Membership

§1. Membership in the JLSA is open to all interested students enrolled at the Law School.

§2. The JLSA will not deny membership on the basis of race, sex, gender, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin.

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§3. JLSA members will not be expected to pay dues. Certain events may be held where members will be required to pay for events or activities. In the event that students want to come but are not financially able to attend, the JLSA will allow individuals to seek assistance from the organization to attend. This process can be done by reaching out to the President and Treasurer via email, who will consider the request and either approve or disapprove of sponsorship for the event or activity.

Article VI: Compliance

The JLSA shall adhere to all Law School and University rules, policies, and procedures. The JLSA shall adhere to its Constitution and to the laws of the District of Columbia. The Executive Board shall be responsible for educating the membership regarding the terms of the JLSA Constitution and all applicable Law School and University Policies. The Executive Board shall actively promote compliance with the JLSA Constitution and all relevant University Policies.

Article VII: Executive Board

§1. All the activities and programs of the JLSA shall be managed and governed by the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall have the power to administer and enforce the JLSA Constitution.

§2. The JLSA officers (“Executive Board”) shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, Alumni Relations Chair, an Evening Student Liaison, and two First Year Representatives, one from the Day Division and one from the Evening Division.

§3. Each officer shall be an upper-class member of the Law School (upper-class member is defined as any second, third, or fourth year day or evening division student), except the First Year Representatives, and shall be elected by the majority of votes cast by the JLSA general membership.

§4. In the event that Executive Board positions are not filled via elections, the duties and responsibilities of the vacant positions will be taken on by other members of the Executive Board in a manner decided by the Executive Board.

Section 4. The duties and qualifications of each officer shall be:

President: The President is charged with providing leadership and promoting the interests of the JLSA and its members. The President serves as a spokesperson, representative, and liaison of the JLSA to faculty, the University, and the greater community. The President must plan JLSA events and meetings in collaboration with the Vice President and Treasurer. The President must manage Public Relations for the organization within the Law School and with local Jewish groups. The President must complete necessary paperwork and attend required meetings. The President must serve as a liaison to the Faculty Advisor and collaborate with the Faculty Advisor wherever necessary. The President must be actively involved in all decision-making but reserves the right to delegate matters as he/she/they see[s] fit. Additionally, the President must represent the JLSA at all official functions, communicate with other student groups, remain fair and impartial during organizational decision-making processes, and perform other duties as directed by the Faculty Advisor or school administration.

Vice President: The Vice President must be prepared to assume the duties of the President in the President’s absence, assist in organizing events throughout the year in collaboration with the President, communicate with other related school student associations in the Washington metropolitan area, represent the JLSA at all official functions, remain fair and impartial during organizational decision-making processes, and perform other duties as directed by the President or Faculty Advisor.

Treasurer: The treasurer must prepare an annual budget and all budget requests, manage the disbursement of funds and receipts, coordinate and submit financial reports to the members and the faculty advisor(s) when requested, prepare purchase orders, assist in organizing events throughout the year in collaboration with the President and/or supply requests, represent the JLSA at official functions, remain fair and impartial during the organizational decision-making process, and perform other duties as directed by the President or Vice President.

Alumni Relations Chair: The Alumni Relations Chair shall facilitate all communications between the Executive Board and CUA alumni. They shall maintain the LinkedIn network, act as a liaison for JLSA alumni members, foster the JLSA's relationship with the Law School administration, represent the JLSA at official functions, remain fair and impartial during the organizational decision-making process, and perform other duties as directed by the President or Vice President.

Evening Student Liaison: The Evening Student Liaison shall facilitate all communication between the evening students and the Executive Board. They shall act as a liaison between the evening students and the Executive Board by informing them of events, meetings, and any important discussions during the aforementioned. Additionally, the Evening Student Liaison must represent the JLSA at official functions, remain fair and impartial during the organizational decision-making process, and perform other duties as directed by the President or Vice President.

First-Year Representatives: It is the role of the First-Year Representatives to facilitate enthusiasm among the first-year students for JLSA events and activities. Additionally, the First Year Representatives must represent the JLSA at official functions, remain fair and impartial during the organizational decision-making process, and perform other duties as directed by the President or Vice President.

Article VIII: Elections and Transitions

§1. Elections for the 1L Representative positions shall be held at a general body meeting during the first three months of the fall semester. Elections for all other Executive Board positions shall be held at a general body meeting during the spring semester. Elections shall take place either electronically or in person.

§2. The President shall coordinate and conduct a meeting to explain each of the Executive Board positions at least two weeks before the election deadline.

§3. JLSA members interested in running for a position shall submit their name, desired position, and a paragraph describing their qualifications to the President at least one week before the scheduled election. That information shall be provided to JLSA members no less than five days before the election.

§4. All JLSA members shall have the opportunity to vote for each Executive Board position. If only one member submits for a position, a vote for that position will be unnecessary. However, information on that candidate will still be provided to members for review along with the others.

§5. Executive Board positions shall be elected by a majority vote of the membership.

§6. In the event that an Executive Board member wishes to terminate their position, an Election will be held no later than one month after the individual terminates their position.

Article IX: Meetings, Committees, and Forums

§1. A general body meeting shall be held at least once each semester, and special meetings may be called by the President.

§2. Committees may be created when it is determined by the Executive Board as necessary to facilitate the organizing and execution of events sponsored by the JLSA.

Article X: Removal

§1. Any Executive Board member who desires the removal of another Executive Board member shall approach the President or Vice-President, with a written proposal and supporting reasons to remove that Executive Board member.

§2. The President or Vice-President shall contact the officer sought to be removed, in writing, at least one week before the removal meeting, and at that time, shall notify the officer sought to be removed of the Executive Board's removal proposal and supporting reasons.

§3. The President or Vice-President shall coordinate a removal meeting, during which the removal proposal and supporting reasons will be considered and adjudicated pursuant to subsections (a) and (b).

- (a) The Executive Board member sought to be removed shall have the opportunity to make a statement addressing the Executive Board.

- (b) Removal of an Executive Board member requires a simple majority vote by all Executive Board members, including the Executive Board member sought to be removed.

Article XI: Faculty/Staff Advisor

§1. The Assistant Dean for Student Affairs shall be an ex officio JLSA advisor. The JLSA will select at least one additional advisor(s) who shall be a member of the faculty or staff of the Law School.

§2. The additional faculty/staff advisor(s) shall be selected by the President.

§3. The faculty/staff advisor(s), other than the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, may be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

§4. If a faculty/staff advisor wishes to step down, she or he must notify the President so a new faculty/staff advisor may be selected.

Article XII: Amendments

§1. This Constitution shall be reviewed yearly by the President.

§2. Any member of the organization may propose amendments to the Constitution. Such proposed amendments shall be communicated in writing to the President.

§3. If the President determines that an amendment is appropriate, the President shall consult with the Vice-President and then submit the proposed amendment to the Executive Board for a vote.

§4. Amendments to this Constitution shall be approved upon majority vote of the Executive Board. They must also be approved by the Law School's administration.

Article XIII: Ratification

The Constitution, and any amendments thereto, shall be ratified by its members by two-thirds majority vote of the entire JLSA membership and must be approved by the Law School's administration.