

**University of Dayton School of Law
Black Law Students Association**

Constitution

ARTICLE I.

Section 1. –Purpose

This Constitution for the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) was ratified on September 6, 2000 with the purpose of:

- [1] Stimulating the pursuit of high ideals and ambitions of our members academically and socially,
- [2] Disseminating and instilling those ideals among those with whom our members come into contact,
- [3] Occupying a progressive, helpful, and constructive role in the civic and political life of our law school and of our community,
- [4] Preparing our members for greater usefulness in the causes of humanity, freedom, dignity of the individual, and
- [5] Aiding down-trodden humanity in our effort to achieve higher social, economic, and intellectual status.

Section 2. –Membership

- [1] Any member of the University of Dayton School of Law’s student body is eligible for membership in the UDSL Black Law Students Association.
- [2] BLSA is an equal opportunity institution extending membership to all students regardless of race, color, age, gender, or religious affiliation.
- [3] A member is in good standing if his/her dues are paid in full pursuant to Article I § 3, and s/he is an active member of, at a minimum, one of the standing committees enumerated in Article VI.
- [4] The Chapter Secretary shall maintain a membership list, consisting of the name and email address of all known members.
- [5] This list shall be updated annually at the third regular meeting.

Section 3. –Dues

- [1] The Executive Committee shall set annually the amount each member shall be assessed as Chapter dues.
- [2] The Chapter shall collect from each member an amount sufficient to enable the Chapter to meet its financial obligations to the National Black Law Student Association (hereinafter “National”).
- [3] Members that comply with the BLSA dues assessment shall be considered financial and in good standing.
- [4] Failure to comply with the BLSA dues assessment shall result in the revocation of BLSA voting privileges.
- [5] Failure to comply with the BLSA dues assessment may result in the revocation of other non-voting privileges as designated by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. –Voting Rights

- [1] Any member of the UDSL student body may attend and participate in discussions at regular meetings.
- [2] Only financial members of this Chapter may vote on issues confronting the Chapter during regular meetings or special sessions.
- [3] For voting purposes 50% (one-half) of all financial members constitutes a quorum.

ARTICLE II.

Section 1. –Meetings

- [1] The Chapter membership shall assemble monthly, at a time and place selected by the President or a majority vote of the general membership at a regular or special meeting.
- [2] The President, on his or her call or upon written request of at least 30% of the members in good standing, shall call special meetings of the Chapter to be convened to deal with extraordinary and/or emergency situations.
- [3] When the call for a special meeting is made by a written request of at least 30% of the members in good standing, there shall be no discretion in the President regarding the call for such meeting.

[4] Upon the call for a special meeting, the Secretary shall either mail or email proper notice of the meeting to each member in good standing of the Chapter, not less than seven days before such special meeting is to be held.

[5] This notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting, as well as the nature of the business to be considered. No business other than that specified shall be transacted at the special meeting.

ARTICLE III

Section 1. –General Officers and Duties

[1] The officers of the Chapter shall include: the President, the Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the Sergeant-at-Arms.

[2] The Chapter officers establish the Executive Committee.

[3] Each officer must be a member in good standing with the Chapter and National body of BLSA.

[4] All officers shall serve full period of one year and may succeed themselves if reelected.

[5] Should any elected office become vacant, the Executive Committee, by a majority vote, may nominate any member in good standing with the Chapter, until the next regular meeting at which time a new election shall be held to fill the vacancy.

Section 2. –The President

[1] The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Chapter and shall preside over all monthly and special meetings, as well as Executive Committee meetings.

[2] S/he shall serve as an ex officio member of all standing committees of the Chapter.

Section 3. –The Vice President

[1] The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence, as well as any other duties the President shall designate.

Section 4. –The Treasurer

[1] The Treasurer shall receive and supervise the safekeeping and expenditures of the funds and investments of the Chapter.

[2] S/he shall report the Chapter's financial condition at monthly meetings.

[3] S/he shall be a signee on the Chapter's bank accounts.

Section 5. –The Secretary

[1] The Secretary shall perform the duties of both a recording and corresponding secretary.

[2] S/he shall keep the respective minutes and records of monthly meetings and Executive Committee meetings, as well as the minutes of any special meetings of the membership which might be called.

[3] S/he shall be responsible for keeping, distributing, and archiving the Chapter's incoming and outgoing correspondence, as well as keeping a roster of the Chapter's membership and notifying all members of regular and special Chapter meetings.

[4] S/he shall keep a record of all financial members.

Section 6. –The Sergeant-at-Arms ***[n/a to 2004-2005]

[1] The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be charged with keeping order in the meetings of the Chapter, and any other duties assigned by the President.

Section 7 – The Historian ***[added 2004]

[1] The Historian shall be charged with keeping written and pictorial records of all BLSA events and functions, keep database of reference materials, and other duties assigned by the President

Section 8 – The Community Liaison ***[added 2004]

[1] The Community Liaison shall be charged with initiating and keeping contact with community groups outside the realm of UDSL, and other duties assigned by the President.

Section 9. –Removal

[1] An elected officer may be removed from office at a membership meeting by a vote of three-fourths of the financial membership present and voting.

[2] Prior to removal, a written statement of complaint must be presented to the body at a meeting outlining the specific charge(s) against the officer.

[3] All financial members must be transmitted a copy of the charges, and are to be notified of the date that the vote will be taken regarding the officer's removal.

[4] The removal vote shall occur at least one week after all financial members are presented with a copy of the specific charge(s).

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1. – The Executive Committee

[1] The Executive Committee shall retain general supervision of the Chapter, formulate policy, and administer the Chapter's affairs between regular meetings.

[2] The Executive Committee shall assemble monthly, at a time and place selected by the President, or a majority vote of the Executive Committee members.

[3] Four (4) Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum. The action of majority of the members present and voting shall be the action of the Committee.

ARTICLE V.

Section 1. –Elections

[1] All elections shall be conducted by ballot. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to elect.

[2] Ballots shall be distributed to members who in good standing of this Chapter.

[3] The Chapter Officer Elections shall occur in the month of April.

ARTICLE VI.

The Chapter shall maintain five (5) standing committees. The committees shall include:

[1] Community Service Committee

[2] Social Committee

[3] Fundraising Committee

[4] Academic Committee

[5] Joseph Cinque Committee

ARTICLE VII.

Section 1. –Constitutional Definitive

Notwithstanding Article VII section 2, this Constitution shall be considered the last word on all matters to which they address themselves. To that extent, they Supercede and overrule any previously promulgated Chapter Constitution.

Section 2. –Supreme Law

The Supreme Law of the Chapter shall be governed by the Chapter Constitution; any conflict between this Constitution and the National BLSA Constitution shall be resolved in favor of the National Constitution.

Section 3. – Constitutional Amendments

[1] This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Chapter by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.

[2] All amendments to this Constitution, upon passage, are to be typed and distributed to all members in good standing at or before the next regularly scheduled meeting.

ARTICLE VIII.

This Constitution shall be ratified at a meeting of the Chapter by a three-fourths vote of the Membership.