**ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The official name of this organization is Trial Team, but the organization is better known as UF Mock Trial or “The Liti-Gators.” The Trial Team is affiliated with the American Mock Trial Association, or AMTA, operating in Joplin, Missouri. The website of AMTA is collegemocktrial.org.

**ARTICLE II. PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The purpose of the Trial Team is to educate members on courtroom trial procedures and practices, and to compete in American Mock Trial Association college mock trial competitions.

**ARTICLE III. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT**

Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, the Trial Team shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. The Trial Team shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University’s regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

**ARTICLE IV. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

Section A. Non-Discrimination

The Trial Team agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act. Discrimination on the basis of the protected classes described in the University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policies) is prohibited.

Section B. Sexual Harassment

The Trial Team agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment. Behaviors that could create a hostile environment include sexual harassment (which could include inappropriate sexual comments), sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking and repeated instances of cyber abuse. Sexual harassment as described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policy) is prohibited.

Section C. Hazing

The Trial Team agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization. Hazing as defined in the University of Florida Regulation 1.0081 (Prohibition of Hazing; Procedures and Penalties) and 4.040 (Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code) is prohibited. If found responsible for hazing, sanctions may be imposed against the organization, its leaders and/or members.

Section D. Responsibility to Report

The University of Florida identifies Responsible Employees and Campus Security Authorities to support the health, safety, and wellbeing of campus. If the Trial Team becomes aware of any such conduct describes in this article, they are encouraged to report it immediately to staff in Student Activities and Involvement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, the University’s Title IX Coordinator, or to their Student Organization Advisor, who are identified as mandated reporters.

Section E. Officer Eligibility

The Trial Team understands, acknowledges, and agrees to uphold and abide by the specific minimal requirements regarding officer eligibility as defined in the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy.

**ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-enrolled students, spouses, faculty, and staff are prohibited from holding membership, officer, or voting powers. All members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

**ARTICLE VI. STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR**

**The advisor and the Bob Graham Center holds the responsibility to oversee the day-to-day functions and operations of the Trial Team, including the management of its finances and ensuring the organization adheres to University and department policies**

**Section A. Selection Methods**

**The Bob Graham Center selects the advisor and the Executive Board ratifies them by a majority vote. If they are not ratified, there must be discussions between the Executive Board and the Bob Graham Center until a solution is found.**

**Section B. Term**

**The advisor serves one-year terms, with no term limits. If they must be reappointed in the midst of their term, refer to Article VI, Section A for a new advisor. At the end of each term (May of each year), the Executive Board will vote on whether or not to re-ratify the advisor.**

**Section C. Process of Replacement**

**If the elected officers of the Trial Team decide to replace their Organization and/or Advisor, they must vote to do so by an unanimous vote, and then the team must vote by a ¾ margin to confirm. The executive board will then begin the process of looking for a new advisor, all future decisions will need to be an unanimous vote by the executive board and then a ¾ margin from the general body.**

**ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS**

Section A. Elected Officers

The elected officers of the Trial Team shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Public Relations Director, Social Chair, Membership Coordinator, Tournament Director, and Logistics and Technology Coordinator.

*Part 1:* The President shall help to coordinate and preside over all team meetings with the Faculty Coach, coordinate and preside over all student executive board (SEB) meetings, communicate on the team’s behalf with other colleges and universities, work in conjunction with the Faculty Coach for the selection of invitational tournaments, and conduct any and all other duties not specifically denoted to another member of the SEB. The President will delegate duties and responsibilities as needed to other SEB members.

*Part 2:* The Vice President shall assist the President in all his/her duties, secure meeting spaces for Fall information meetings and tryouts, register the team with the University and maintain the Gator Connect account, and serve in the absence of the President.

*Part 3:* The Treasurer shall be responsible for coordinating all team travel (transportation, lodging, schedule, etc.), as well as team fundraising (subject to approval by the SEB and Faculty Coach), and collecting and organizing all financial documents (records of financial activity, receipts, payments, donation, etc.).

*Part 4:* The Secretary shall coordinate all team communication (email, phone, etc), take minutes from SEB meetings, take team attendance, and work with the faculty coach and the SEB to create and manage an SEB digital calendar.

*Part 5:* The Public Relations Director shall maintain the public face of the Trial Team**,** manage the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts, and work with the Membership Coordinator and Social Chair for recruitment purposes (coordinating tabling, creating flyers, advertising through all media possible). The Public Relations Director will also obtain all photographs of all competitive team members for website purposes, maintain the trophy cabinet, and assist in designing team shirts.

*Part 6:* The Social Chair shall create inclusive monthly team social events, maintain a digital calendar for team-wide said events, plan and execute the new member retreat alongside the Membership Coordinator, design specialty apparel, aid the President and Vice President in facilitating the mentor/mentee pairings, as well as plan and coordinate the End-of-Year Banquet.

*Part 7:* The Membership Coordinator will organize and execute recruitment alongside the Public Relations Director and the Social Chair. The Membership Coordinator will appoint a recruitment committee to aid in the process of recruitment (i.e. tabling, flyering, social media presence, etc.), conduct new member check-ins, and work alongside the Social Chair in planning the new member retreat.

*Part 8:* The Management and Logistics Coordinator shall coordinate with the faculty coach and President in creating a team practice schedule, ensure captain attendance at SEB meetings, as well as manage and monitor the Trial Team office space.

Section B. Assumption of Office

Officers shall assume their official duties at the conclusion of the competitive year at the end-of-year banquet and shall serve for a term of one academic year and/or until their successors are elected/appointed.

Section C. Impeachment

Officers shall perform their appointed duties or may be impeached by a unanimous vote by the remaining members of the SEB. In the event of an officer being removed from office, the SEB may then appoint a member of the general body to replace them until the end-of-year elections.

**ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS**

Section A. Election Process

Nominations for all officers will take place annually from the members starting in April. Any member may nominate any other voting member, including himself or herself. Nominations must be submitted to an appointed senior member of the team prior to the election meeting. Nominations will be publicly released via the official Trial Team Facebook Page on the morning of elections. Voting will occur by secret ballot and a simple majority vote is required to elect an officer. If there are more than two candidates running and no candidate receives a majority vote, there shall be a run-off vote between the remaining candidates after the candidate(s) with the lowest number of votes is eliminated. No person shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section B: Definitions

*Part 1:* A voting member shall be any member who is in good standing with the Trial Team (i.e. continued attendance for at least one academic year). Both competitive and non-competitive members are eligible to be voting members, as well as graduating seniors.

*Part 2:* The appointed senior member of the team shall either be an SEB graduating senior or a graduating voting member appointed by the President.

**ARTICLE IX. FINANCE**

The Trial Team shall not require membership dues. The Trial Team will not be requesting funding from student government and shall secure funding through the Department of Political Science and various donors.

**ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION**

In the event this organization dissolves, all monies left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid, shall be donated to The Innocence Project of Florida.

**ARTICLE XI…BY LAWS FOR THE TRIAL TEAM**

The Trial Team may elect to maintain separate bylaws document to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements sent forth by local, state, and federal laws, the university of Florida’s regulations, policies, and procedures, and the SAI constitution requirements. Amendments and changes may be made to the bylaws and shall be consistent with the SAI approved constitution on file and SAI’s constitution requirements. Should the organization transition leadership, all bylaws and guiding documents will be transitioned to new student organization leaders and/or advisor(s). [name of organization] agrees to provide all unaltered by laws and guiding documents and/or clarify its procedures in writing to any university of Florida student, faculty, or staff upon request.

**ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Any amendment to the constitution must be made by a motion of a team officer. The motion must be approved by all team officers. The motion must then receive a 2/3-majority vote of the general team body.  The same process shall be used for the approval of all by-laws. By-laws may be proposed by any member of the team and presented to the exec board. All updates to constitutions are subject to final review and approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement.