

The Constitution of
Latino Law Student Association

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

This organization shall be officially known as the LATINO LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION (hereinafter, “LLSA”). This organization may utilize the acronym LLSA in all publicity materials and correspondence.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION

As outlined in the RSO Classification Policy, the Latino Law Student Association is considered a General Registered Student Organization. As a GRISO, our organization is a separate 3rd party entity, not considered a part of the University of Florida. Through registering with the University, our student group agrees to follow its policies and operate on campus with access and/ or eligibility for specific campus benefits.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Latino Law Student Association is to create an environment for Latino/Hispanic Students at UF Law that facilitates professional growth, career opportunities, and a community of acceptance and belonging.

ARTICLE IV. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT & UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Upon approval by the Department of Student Engagement, LLSA shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. LLSA 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.

Section A: Non-Discrimination. LLSA 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 University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policies) is prohibited.

Section B: Sexual Harassment. LLSA 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. LLSA 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 LLSA becomes aware of any such conduct described 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: Latino Law Student Association 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 may not be members or not vote or hold office. All members and associate members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

ARTICLE VI. BYLAWS FOR LLSA LEADERS

LLSA may elect to maintain a separate bylaws document to outline 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 Student Engagement constitution requirements. Amendments and changes may be made to the bylaws and shall be consistent with the Student Engagement approved constitution on file and student engagement'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). Blue Leaders 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 VII. STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR: Each registered student organization must have an eligible student organization advisor. The student organization advisor must be a full-time, salaried faculty or staff member not on extended leave for 4 consecutive weeks or longer during their advisor term. The student organization advisor shall serve as a resource person providing advisory support to officers and members and may not vote or hold office in the organization.

The advisor shall serve as a resource and provide advisory support for the officers and members of the organization. The advisor is welcome to attend executive and general meetings. The advisor shall be nominated by the officers and confirmed by a majority vote of the members. The advisor will serve for one academic year. After that time, members will vote to reinstate the faculty member for another academic year or to nominate another, majority vote rules.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS

Section A: In General The officers of LLSA shall be the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Social Chair, Community Service Chair, IL Representatives, and Faculty Advisor. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Social Chair. All officers shall be elected by a majority vote.

Part 1: President

Ultimate decision-making authority lies with the President, to the extent that it does not conflict with any provisions in the Constitution. The President has the duty of supervision. The President shall:

1. Be the spokesperson of the organization;
2. Preside over all meetings;
3. Schedule all meetings;
4. Be conscious of scheduling conflicts with other Executive Board members for the scheduling of meetings;
5. Authorize any payment on behalf of the organization;
6. Supervise all elections;
7. Form all necessary committees and appoint a chairpersons on all such committees, to the extent that it does not conflict with any provision in this Constitution; and
8. Make sure that the organization is registered organization of the University of Florida and that any and all forms are properly submitted per The Department of Student Activities and Involvement handbook.

Part 2: Vice-President

The Vice-President shall:

1. In the absence of the president, have all the authority and responsibilities vested on the President;
2. Assist the President in the management of the organization, including organizing events and overseeing all meetings; and

3. Oversee or chair the committees appointed by the President.

Part 3: Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

1. Keep all financial records of the organization;
2. Report financial status of the organization to the Executive Board;
3. Be responsible for any funding request by Student Government, the Board of College Council, and the Law College Council; and
4. Make any payments on behalf of the organization, provided that they are authorized by the President.

Part 4: Professional Development Chair

The Professional Development Chair shall:

1. Seek out and provide timely networking and professional opportunities for members;
2. Select topics and speakers for professional development events;
3. Plan on how to implement strategic goals.

Part 5: Social Chair

The Social Chair shall:

1. Take the lead in organizing social events and at least one charity and one fundraising event per year;
2. Keep the Executive Board apprised of plans and organizing of social, charity, and fundraising events;
3. Contact businesses and negotiate discounts on behalf of LLSA; and
4. Be responsible for completing and making available tax exempt documents for necessary events.

Part 6: Internal Communications Director

The Internal Communications Chair shall:

1. Inform members of upcoming meetings and events;
2. Be responsible for the taking of the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board, and general LLSA meetings as well as maintaining those records;
3. Be responsible for maintaining a current membership list, attendance list, and Executive Board directory;
4. Be responsible for making a voting membership list for elections and any and all other duties involved with the election process;
5. Create sign-up sheets on TWEN for necessary events; and
6. Advertise events, including but not limited to writing/designing and posting ads through school, Facebook, Instagram and the Daily Calendar of Events, provided that they are authorized by the President.

Part 8: Communications Director

The Communications Director shall:

1. Facilitate communication with LLSA alumni for continuous improvement of alumni relations
2. Be responsible for communicating with other LLSA organizations across the nation for combined events
3. Be responsible for communicating with other Latino graduate associations for joint events and opportunities
4. Assist the Professional Development Chair in acquiring and communication with Latino attorneys attending LLSA events

Part 9: 1L Representatives

Each 1L Representative shall:

1. Serve as a primary liaison between LLSA and the first-year class;
2. Be responsible for promoting LLSA events and meetings;
3. Attend general LLSA meetings;
4. Attend executive board meetings when necessary; and
5. Help set up at least one event.

Part 10: Historian

1. Documents events, maintains documents and google drive.

Section B: Vacant Positions The executive officers, with the approval of the President, will appoint interim full members to open offices so long as he or she meets all of the requirements an elected member must meet to hold said office. Vacant positions applicable to this clause shall include those resulting from resignation, removal for violation of terms of the Constitution, or any reason leading an officer to vacate the position before the end of the term. The interim officer will hold the office until the next general election. In case the President resigns or is removed, the Vice-President will take his or her place and a new Vice-President will be appointed in accordance with the procedures stated above in this clause.

Section C: Impeachment An Officer may be impeached and removed by a two-third (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Board for conduct consisting of: non-performance of their responsibilities as stated in this Constitution, for violating UF regulations, and for any due cause. Members have the right to appeal to the Executive Board if they feel that a board member is not following his or her duties satisfactorily, in which case a general meeting for the purpose of impeachment will be scheduled.

Section D: Governance All major decisions affecting the structure of LLSA shall be made by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IX. ELECTIONS

Section A: Procedure **Nominations and elections** of all officers will take place annually during March. Nominations will occur on the meeting prior to the election meeting and on the date of the election meeting. All members who have attended one prior meeting that semester shall be eligible to vote. There shall be no proxy voting. Elections must be

by secret ballot. The election shall be decided by a majority vote. There shall be a run-off vote if ties occur. Election procedure not stipulated in this Constitution shall be decided by the President.

Section B: Eligibility for Office Members who have attended at least one meeting or participated in at least one LLSA activity prior to the election are eligible to hold office positions. The requirement of prior participation may be waived by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board. All elected officers shall have **a term of one year**. 1L representatives must be in their first year of law school. All officers may run for re-election or new positions, with the exception of those who will no longer be students at University of Florida Levin College of Law for the next academic year.

ARTICLE X. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION

The association may be dissolved at any time by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of voting members at a meeting called for that purpose. In the event this organization dissolves, all monies left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid, shall be delivered to the Levin College of Law.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

To amend this Constitution, LLSA must:

1. Have any full member draft an amendment and submit it to the Executive Board,
2. Announce in advance and discuss the amendment at the next LLSA general body meeting,
3. Have a two-thirds majority vote in favor of the amendment by all full members present at the meeting in which the amendment is discussed, and
4. The amendment must be consistent with all of the rules and regulations imposed on all student organizations at UF Law and UF.
5. Submit all proposed amendments for approval by the Department Student Activities and Involvement.

All amended constitutions must be submitted directly to Student Engagement for review and approval.