

# Constitution of the Federalist Society of The University of Akron

## ARTICLE I

### SECTION 1- Name

The official name of this organization shall be the Akron Law Federalist Society

### SECTION 2- Purpose

The purpose of the Akron Law Federalist Society (the “Society”) is to foster critical thought and debate about the application of conservative principles to the law. The Society embraces the principle that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to the integrity of the Constitution of the United States of America, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is--- not what it should be. The Society seeks to promote an awareness of these principles and to further their application through its activities. This entails reordering priorities within the legal system so as to place a premium on individual liberty, traditional values, and the rule of law. It also entails restoring recognition of these norms among lawyers, judges, students and professors.

### SECTION 3- Affiliation

The Society is a student organization of The University of Akron School of Law (“ALS”). The Society is also a student chapter of the Federalist Society for Law & Public Policy Studies (“national organization”), located in Washington, DC.

### SECTION 4-Membership

- (a) Membership in the Society is open without charge to any student at ALS, as well as any interested faculty or administration member of ALS
- (b) “Active members” are those currently enrolled students who are current on their dues to the Society. Annual local Society dues shall be determined by a vote at the first regular meeting. However, if the Society has established no dues for an academic year, “active members” are those members who are currently enrolled students at ALS, and who have paid dues to the national organization, or attended at least one Society-sponsored meeting or event during that academic year, prior to the year-end election meeting. National organization dues are five dollars per academic year.
- (c) Students must remain in good standing. No student currently under suspension or probation by any disciplinary committee of the university or law school shall be

eligible for membership unless this provision is waived by a unanimous vote of the officers.

### **SECTION 5- Faculty Advisor**

The faculty advisor of the society shall be a full time faculty or staff member of ALS.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **SECTION 1-Officers and Executive Board**

- (a) The Society shall have the following officers: President, Vice-President Night, Vice President Day, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- (b) The Executive Board shall be comprised of the five elected officers. The executive Board shall be the administration arm. A majority vote of the active members of the Society is sufficient to overturn a decision of the Executive Board.
- (c) A former President who does not run for re-election shall hold the honorary office of President Emeritus until his/her graduation from ALS. The President Emeritus may participate as a non-voting honorary member of the Executive Board, and may accept such duties as the Executive Board assigns.
- (d) The executive Board may direct the creation of other committees on an ad hoc basis. The committees' duties shall be as directed on creation.

### **SECTION 2-Duties**

- (a) **President**—The President shall be the chief executive of the Society. He shall call and preside over all Society meetings and Executive Board meetings.. The President shall supervise all club activities. The President shall have veto power of Society expenditures which can be overturned by two-thirds of all Active members. The President shall communicate regularly with the national organization. The President shall have the power to appoint assistants to help fulfilling the duties of the presidency.
- (b) **Vice-President**—The Vice-President(s) shall assist the President and shall preside in case of his absence or disability. The Vice President in attendance shall rule on all matters of parliamentary procedure. The Vice President Day shall maintain all society official records, including a member mailing list and any historical records. If the executive Board establishes committees, the Vice President(s) shall supervise through their committee chairpersons.

- (c) **Secretary**—The Secretary shall take all minutes of all Society meetings, maintain all Society correspondence, and notify Society members of upcoming meetings in any manner the Executive Board may deem appropriate, which may include posting notices on bulletin boards and using posters, leaflets, telephone, electronic mail, or other communications.
- (d) **Treasurer**—The Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of the Society and shall present and supervise the budget. The Treasurer shall be responsible for any fundraising activities and for the collection of Society dues. The Treasurer shall also encourage all members of the Society to become members of the national organization.
- (e) In addition to the duties described above , the Society’s officers shall fulfill any other duties that the president shall from time to time decide is appropriate to their office.

### **SECTION 3—Vacancies in Office**

In the event that any officer is unable to fulfill his term for any reason, an election for that office shall be held during the next regularly scheduled Society meeting following the vacancy. During the vacancy, the office may be filled on an interim basis by the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **SECTION 1—Annual meetings**

The Annual Meeting shall be held in April of each year. The Treasurer shall report the status of the budget at that time. Officers for the next year shall be elected at this meeting. The newly elected officers shall assume their responsibilities on the first Monday of May.

### **SECTION 2— Eligibility to Vote or run for Office**

- (a) Any active member may vote at the annual meeting.
- (b) Any active member who will be a full-time or part-time student in the following academic year is eligible to run for any office.

### **SECTION 3—Conduct of Election**

All elections of the Society shall be conducted following the procedures specified in the By-Laws, as set forth in Article V of the Constitution.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **SECTION 1—Amendment and By-laws**

Any active member of the Society may propose amendments or By-Laws to this Constitution. Amendments shall take effect upon ratification by two-thirds of the active members, and upon faculty approval. By-Laws shall take effect upon approval of a majority of the activity members, and upon faculty approval.

### **SECTION 2 –Parliamentary Authority**

The most recent edition of the Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the Society to the extent that such do not conflict with any express provisions, policies, or procedures of this Constitution. However, at any meeting, parliamentary rules may be suspended in favor informal procedure, by unanimous consent.

### **SECTION 3 –Nondiscrimination Clause**

Akron Law Federalist Society shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, age, handicap, veteran status or sexual orientation in the selection of its members or in its programs unless federal or state law allow for such exceptions

## **ARTICLE V**

### **SECTION 1—Student Development Clause**

Akron Law Federalist Society shall maintain a current registration form including a list of officers, their addresses, the name of the Faculty Advisor, and the most recently amended constitution with the Student Development Office.

### **SECTION 2—Finance**

- (a) Dues for membership are in two parts. Dues are five dollars to join the national organization and receive periodic publication, newsletters, and The Harvard Journal of Law and Pubic Policy. Dues for the local Society shall be established each academic year.
- (b) Funding from the University of Akron will be in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by The University of Akron in the Handbook for Student Organizations.

- (c) Funding support from the national organization will be available to defray the cost of speakers.

### **SECTION 3—Ratification and Effective Date**

This Constitution shall take effect immediately upon ratification by two-thirds of the active members at a meeting called for this purpose, and upon faculty approval. Each active member may receive a copy of the Constitution as well as any amendments or By-Laws subsequently adopted in accordance with Article IV.

### **SECTION 4—By-Laws of the Akron Law Federalist Society**

- (a) Each person desiring to vote at the Annual Meeting or to run for office must first be verified by the Treasurer as an active member. A person who is not an active member as defined by Article I , Sect, 3(b) may become an active member by paying dues. Dues may be paid to the treasurer at the annual meeting. If the Society has established no dues in the academic year, the Treasurer shall accept from any member a payment of dues to the national organization, or an affirmation that the member has already paid the dues to the national organization for the current year. Any member who makes a false affirmation of payment shall be subject to such sanctions as the Executive Board may determine, which may include termination of membership. Nevertheless, the results of a completed election shall not be questioned on account of the false affirmation.
- (b) Any active member may vote by proxy at the Annual Meeting, by providing a specific written proxy statement to any active member who will be in attendance at the Annual Meeting.
- (c) The Annual Election of officers shall be conducted according to the following procedures:
  - 1. Initial Method:
    - a. The organizer shall post notices announcing the upcoming election on appropriate bulletin boards/posters around the Law School
    - b. Nominations shall be by volunteer sign-up, or suggestion placed in the Society mail box.
    - c. The organizer shall print up a ballot with all nominees for each office.
    - d. Completed ballots shall be given to the Faculty Advisor for tabulation

e. In the event of a Tie a run-off will be held

2. Thereafter, annual elections shall be by the following method:

- a. The Secretary shall post notices announcing the upcoming election on appropriate bulletin boards around the Law School.
- b. The election shall be conducted by the highest ranking Society officer not running as a candidate for election to any office. If all officers are candidates for office, the president shall conduct the meeting, but the election for each office must be conducted by a person not running for that office.
- c. All nominations, speeches, and voting for the office of the President shall take place first, followed by nominations, speeches, and voting for the office of Vice President Day, Vice President Night, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- d. Any active members may nominate a candidate for office. Candidates for office may nominate themselves. All nominations must be seconded.
- e. When nominations are closed, candidates may choose to make campaign speeches immediately prior to the election. No candidate shall have more than three minutes to make a campaign speech. The president shall time each speech.
- f. If only one candidate is nominated for an office voting shall be conducted by voice.
- g. If two or more candidates are nominated, voting shall be by a show of hands. The candidates shall be excused from the room before and during the vote, to allow the members to discuss the candidates' merits. If any candidate requests a written vote, the vote shall be by secret ballot, and counted in the presence of the candidates. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding vote.

Constitution and By-Laws ratified on (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Organizer \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Advisor \_\_\_\_\_