

The Constitution of the Student Bar
Association at Northern Illinois University
College of Law



Preamble

We, the students of Northern Illinois University College of Law, in order to increase the value of the Juris Doctor degree, promote the mission of Northern Illinois University and the College of Law, enhance our professional network, and further our presence in the DeKalb community, hereby ordain and establish this Constitution for the Student Bar Association at Northern Illinois University College of Law.

Article I – Membership & Supremacy

Section 1. In General

- (A) This organization shall be known as the Student Bar Association at Northern Illinois University College of Law, hereinafter referred to as the “Student Bar Association” or “SBA” and “NIU-COL” respectively.
- (B) This Constitution may be cited as: N. Ill. Univ. SBA Constitution [Art.] [Sec.].

Section 2. Membership

- (A) All students enrolled at NIU-COL on either a full-time or approved part-time basis, who are pursuing the degree of Juris Doctor, are Members of this Student Bar Association.

Section 3. Supremacy

- (A) This Constitution is enacted in full force and effect by the Student Bar Association at Northern Illinois University College of Law. This document shall be the binding and primary authority for all executive, legislative, and judicial acts by the Board of Representatives of the Student Bar Association at Northern Illinois University College of Law, including the Executive Council of the Board of Representatives.
- (B) All actions by and for Members of the Student Bar Association shall abide by this Constitution and the accompanying Bylaws, unless amended by acts consistent with Articles VIII, X, and/or XII of this Constitution.
- (C) In the event of impossibility or circumstances beyond the control of The Board, the Executive Council shall have the liberty to create, modify, or act necessary to achieve the goals of the SBA in a timely and efficient manner. This includes the liberty to act pursuant to any of the sections set forth herein.

Article II – Board of Representatives

Section 1. Definition

- (A) The Board of Representatives is defined as, and shall consist of, twelve (12) Class Representatives, four (4) from each graduating class, and the Executive Council.
- (B) The Board of Representatives and the Executive Council may hereinafter be referred to collectively as “The Board” or “The Government” except where the Board of Representatives and the Executive Council are referred to separately or distinctly when necessary.
- (C) Apportionment of Class Representatives shall remain as twelve (12) in total, with four (4) deriving from each graduating class, unless and until changes to

apportionment are deemed necessary by The Board.

Section 2. Eligibility

- (A) To assume and maintain Office as a Class Representative on the Board of Representatives, a Member of the Student Bar Association must be and/or have:
1. A Member of the Student Bar Association, as provided in Article I Section 2 of this Constitution;
 2. Enrolled as a full-time student at NIU-COL;
 3. Remain in good academic standing at NIU-COL; and
 4. A member of the graduating class that their position is meant to represent when they enter into service.
- (B) Class Representatives shall serve their full term in the capacity enumerated in Section 2(A) of this Article regardless of advancement in class standing.
- (C) If an elected Class Representative is not a member of the graduating class that they were elected to represent at the time their service commences, the seat shall be declared vacant.
- (D) If an elected 3L Class Representative, or a person seeking election for such position, should fall below full-time student status during their 3L year by virtue of meeting or nearing the NIU-COL graduation requirements, the full-time student requirement enumerated in Section 2(A)(2) of this Article shall not apply so long as that individual will graduate either before or concurrent with a traditional full-time student in the 3L Class.

Section 3. Vestment of Powers

- (A) All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the Board of Representatives of the SBA and its Executive Council.

Section 4. Purpose & General Powers

- (A) The Board shall have the purpose and powers to:
1. Build relationships and create social opportunities that benefit NIU-COL and its students and alumni, and organizations with which the SBA may be affiliated;
 2. Enter into partnerships with other organizations to further the purposes of the SBA;
 3. Formulate policies, pass resolutions, and enact laws affecting the SBA;
 4. Institute and provide awards in recognition of merit as well as in recognition of contributions made by and for the community at the NIU-COL;
 5. Raise funds;
 6. Oversee elections and referenda;
 7. Regulate the activities of Student Organizations under the authority of the SBA; and

8. Carry out any other duties that may befall The Board from time-to-time.

(B) The Board may take any action necessary and proper for the implementation of the purposes and powers of The Board and for the administration of the SBA.

Section 5. Meetings

(A) The Board shall hold official meetings at least once per month, except during the months of May, June, July, August, and December, during which no official meeting is necessary.

(B) A quorum shall be met by the presence of two-thirds (2/3) of the elected and installed Members of The Board.

(C) Meetings of The Board shall be called at the discretion of The President of the SBA.

(D) The President shall ensure that all Members of The Board receive notice of all meetings of The Board prior to their commencement.

(E) The President may call a Special Meeting of The Board by submitting written notice to all Members of The Board at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the date and time of the meeting.

(F) During the months of May, June, July, August, and December, or during academic breaks and holidays, The President may bring business before The Board and authorize an electronic vote on such business.

(G) Meetings of The Board may be called at the discretion of The Chief of Staff of the SBA solely with prior consent of The President.

(H) This Constitution, and the Bylaws of the SBA, shall be made available at all meetings of The Board.

Section 6. Administration & Procedures

(A) The Board shall keep, maintain, and publish Bylaws governing the SBA. The Bylaws may be amended by a majority of The Board. All other Acts shall pass upon a majority vote of The Board.

(B) The Board shall be governed by parliamentary procedures developed for or adopted by The Board and integrated into the Bylaws of the SBA unless such rules are in conflict with this Constitution.

(C) Should a conflict arise between the Bylaws and this Constitution, this Constitution shall supersede the Bylaws.

(D) In the event that a conflict cannot be resolved, or neither the Constitution nor the Bylaws provides guidance, The Board may take any necessary steps to resolve the conflict, including but not limited to convening the Judiciary as provided for in Article IV of this Constitution.

(E) When present, Members of The Board shall be entitled to vote in all matters of business. The President shall cast a vote only when a vote is equally divided.

(F) Upon approval by The Board and with the signature and approval of The President, the Minutes of the proceedings of The Board shall be published to the Members of the Student Bar Association. All records shall be published by

the end of each academic year.

Article III – Executive Council

Section 1. Officers

(A) The Administrative powers and responsibilities of the Student Bar Association are vested in the Executive Council, which shall consist of the following Officers:

1. The President;
2. The Vice President;
3. The Chief of Staff;
4. The Secretary;
5. The Treasurer;
6. The American Bar Association Representative;
7. The Chief of Operations;
8. The Finance Officer; and
9. The Marketing Officer.

(B) All Officers of the Executive Council, with the exception of The President, are Members of The Board.

Section 2. Eligibility

(A) To assume and maintain Office on the Executive Council, a Member of the Student Bar Association must be and/or have:

1. A Member of the Student Bar Association, as provided in Article I Section 2 of this Constitution;
2. Enrolled as a full-time student at NIU-COL;
3. Remain in good academic standing at NIU-COL; and
4. Obtained 2L Status, Rising-2L Status, or higher at the time of assuming office.

(B) If an elected Officer on the Executive Council, or a person seeking election for such position, should fall below full-time student status during their 3L year by virtue of meeting or nearing the NIU-COL graduation requirements, the full-time student requirement enumerated in Section 2(A)(2) of this Article shall not apply so long as that individual will graduate either before or concurrent with a traditional full-time student in the 3L Class.

Section 3. The President

(A) The Executive authority of the Student Body and The Board shall reside with The President. The President shall be the Chief Ambassador of the Student Body and the SBA.

(B) The President is charged with the following duties:

1. Preside at meetings of the Executive Council, the Board of Representatives, and The Board as a collective;
2. Act as the primary communicator and mediator between The Board and the Faculty, Staff, and Administration of NIU-COL;
3. Serve as the primary liaison to all individuals and bodies outside of The Government;
4. Implement and enforce resolutions passed by The Board;
5. Create temporary committees and appointments;
6. Serve as the second authorized signatory for any external SBA bank account;
7. Appoint Members of The Board to standing committees; and
8. Perform any additional tasks that may befall the office from time-to-time.

(C) The President shall meet officially with the Dean of NIU-COL at least once during each Semester and shall give the Dean information regarding the State of the Student Body and recommend to their consideration, such measures as The President shall judge necessary and expedient.

(D) In addition to the eligibility criteria enumerated in Section 2(A) of this Article, persons holding or running for the Office of President must have at least one (1) prior year of service on The Board, in any elected position, prior to becoming The President.

(E) If no candidate having at least one (1) prior year of service on The Board seeks election for the position of SBA President, then the prior service limitation shall not apply and persons without prior service shall be permitted to run for and hold the Office.

Section 4. The Vice President

(A) The Vice President shall be a voting Member of The Board.

(B) The Vice President is charged with the following duties:

1. Assist The President and other Executive Officers in the administration of their duties;
2. Preside at meetings of the Executive Council, the Board of Representatives, and The Board as a collective in the absence of the President;
3. Appoint or act as the official Parliamentarian for the Executive Council, the Board of Representatives, and The Board;
4. Manage all communications to and from The Board of the SBA;
5. Perform any additional tasks that may befall the office from time-to-time

(C) In the event of a vacancy in the Office of President, The Vice President shall rise to and assume the Office of President, regardless of whether or not The Vice President has at least one (1) prior year of service on The Board.

Section 5. The Chief of Staff

(A) The Chief of Staff shall be a non-voting Member of The Board.

(B) The Chief of Staff is charged with the following duties:

1. Act as the mediator between the Board of Representatives and the Executive Council;
2. Present information obtained from Class Representatives to the Executive Council prior to each meeting of The Board. By the advice of The President and consent of the Executive Council, The Chief of Staff shall present such information during regularly scheduled meetings to promote efficiency;
3. Assist other Executive Officers in communicating between The Board and Student Organizations;
4. Maintain an accurate and up to date roster of executive board members for all Student Organizations;
5. Collect and maintain accurate and up to date constitutions and/or bylaws from all Student Organizations;
6. Act as the chief coordinator, in concert with The Chief of Operations, of all SBA events or activities planned by The Board;
7. During those annual and anticipated events, The Chief of Staff shall act as the primary operator and mediator for and between The Board, the Executive Council, Members of the Student Bar Association, and guests in attendance; and
8. Perform any additional tasks that may befall the office from time-to-time.

Section 6. The Secretary

(A) The Secretary shall be a voting Member of The Board.

(B) The Secretary is charged with the following duties:

1. Keep and maintain the records of the SBA;
2. Take minutes at all meetings of the Board of Representatives, the Executive Council, and The Board as a collective;
3. Determine the presence of a quorum at meetings of the Board of Representatives, the Executive Council, and The Board as a collective;
4. Post public records of the SBA;
5. Maintain and apply the Official Seal of the SBA;
6. Manage the SBA Campus Calendar, including making any additions, revisions, or cancellations;
7. Maintain a copy of all briefs given by The Chief of Staff to the Executive Council prior to meetings of The Board;
8. Provide this Constitution and the Bylaws of the SBA at meetings of The Board; and

9. Perform any additional tasks that may befall the office from time-to-time.

Section 7. The Treasurer

- (A) The Treasurer shall be a voting Member of The Board, unless it is appropriate that The Treasurer abstain in votes that involve financial matters.
- (B) The Treasurer, as Chief Financial Officer, is charged with the following duties:
 1. Maintain accurate records of all receipts and disbursements of SBA funds in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations;
 2. Act as the primary account signatory for SBA financial accounts;
 3. Receive all monies paid into the SBA and keeping a just and regular account of the same;
 4. Pay out funds when appropriated by The Board;
 5. Maintain accurate and thorough records of any SBA expenditures as well as any outstanding monies owed to the SBA;
 6. Submit regular reports to the Executive Council and the Board of Representatives regarding SBA finances;
 7. Train, assist, and oversee The Finance Officer in the performance of their duties; and
 8. Perform any additional tasks that may befall the office from time-to-time.
- (C) In addition to the eligibility criteria enumerated in Section 2(A) of this Article, persons holding or running for the Office of Treasurer must have at least one (1) prior year of service, in any elected position, on The Board prior to becoming The Treasurer.
- (D) If no candidate having at least one (1) prior year of service on The Board seeks election for the Office of Treasurer, then the prior service limitation shall not apply and persons without prior service shall be permitted to run for and hold the Office.

Section 8. The American Bar Association Representative

- (A) The American Bar Association Representative, hereinafter referred to as “ABA Rep.”, shall be a voting Member of The Board.
- (B) The ABA Rep. is charged with the following duties:
 1. Act as the primary liaison between the Student Bar Association at NIU-COL and the American Bar Association;
 2. Disseminate information from the American Bar Association to the Members of the SBA and The Board;
 3. Conduct at least one (1) recruitment event per academic year to encourage Membership in the American Bar Association Law Student Division (“ABA-LSD”);
 4. Engage in activities that promote Membership in the American Bar Association;

5. Attend events and engage in general outreach to the local bar associations;
6. Interact with other Bar Association representatives;
7. Promote activities for community outreach;
8. Conduct activities to increase alumni engagement with the College of Law; and
9. Perform any additional tasks that may befall the office from time-to-time.

Section 9. The Chief of Operations

(A) The Chief of Operations shall be a voting Member of The Board.

(B) The Chief of Operations is charged with the following duties:

1. Act as a liaison between the SBA and Student Organizations;
2. Hold primary responsibility for the planning of all SBA events or activities, whether they be annual and anticipated or otherwise.
3. Coordinate, in concert with The Chief of Staff, all SBA events or activities;
4. Assist The Secretary in managing the SBA Campus Calendar;
5. Train, assist, and oversee The Marketing Officer in the performance of their duties;
6. Communicate monthly with all Student Organization presidents regarding upcoming SBA and Student Organization events; and
7. Perform any additional tasks that may befall the office from time-to-time.

Section 10. The Finance Officer

(A) The Finance Officer shall be a voting Member of The Board, unless it is appropriate that The Finance Officer abstain in votes that involve financial matters.

(B) The Finance Officer, as an aide to The Treasurer, is charged with the following duties:

1. Manage all funding requests submitted to the SBA Board of Representatives, subject to the oversight of The Treasurer and, as applicable, The Board;
2. Assist The Treasurer in the performance of their duties; and
3. Perform any additional tasks that may befall the office from time-to-time.

Section 11. The Marketing Officer

(A) The Marketing Officer shall be a voting Member of The Board.

(B) The Marketing Officer, as an aide to The Chief of Operations, is charged with the following duties:

1. Manage all marketing, promotion, and SBA social media activity, subject to the oversight of The Chief of Operations and, as applicable, The Board;
2. Assist The Chief of Operations in the performance of their duties; and
3. Perform any additional tasks that may befall the office from time-to-time.

Section 12. Meetings of the Executive Council

- (A) Meetings of the Executive Council shall be called at the discretion of The President of the SBA.
- (B) The Constitution and the Bylaws of the SBA shall be available at all meetings of the Executive Council when practical.

Article IV – Judiciary

Section 1. Vestment of Powers

- (A) The Judicial Powers of the Student Bar Association are vested in the SBA Constitutional Court (“The Court”).

Section 2. Eligibility

- (A) Justices on the SBA Constitutional Court must be:
 1. A Member of the Student Bar Association, as provided in Article I Section 2 of this Constitution;
 2. Remain in good academic standing at NIU-COL; and
 3. An elected Class Representative currently serving on The Board, except for cases in which a Replacement Justice is appointed.

Section 3. Jurisdiction and Forum

- (A) The Court shall hear cases arising from disputes regarding the interpretation of the provisions of this Constitution. The Court shall make determinations based on its interpretation of this Constitution.
- (B) Plaintiffs must be Members of the Student Bar Association as defined in Article I Section 2 of this Constitution.
- (C) Plaintiffs wishing to bring claims before The Court shall submit a written document to The Secretary of the SBA, who shall then present it to The President and The Court. The written document must detail the following:
 1. The nature of the claim;
 2. The applicable provisions of this Constitution under which the claim is brought; and
 3. The relief desired.
- (D) Plaintiffs shall have until the end of the academic year to bring claims before The Court.
- (E) Should a claim be brought before The Court so late in the academic year as to

preclude judgment prior to the ending of that academic year, The Court may elect to delay ruling on the claim until the following academic year. In such circumstances, the claim must be ruled upon within the first forty-five (45) days of the following academic year.

- (F) The Court may hear cases arising from disputes regarding the interpretation of constitutions belonging to Student Organizations at NIU-COL. For those Plaintiffs who are dues-paying Members of a Student Organization, The Court shall be the final forum for seeking relief.

Section 4. Rules and Procedures

- (A) The Court shall be comprised of three (3) Justices, with one (1) Justice deriving from each of the three (3) graduating classes.
- (B) The Court shall be in session for the duration of the academic year with recesses occurring during academic breaks as defined in Article II Section 5 of this Constitution.
- (C) A Justice shall be replaced when a material conflict of interest exists or arises. The Board shall determine, by majority vote, whether such a material conflict exists. If such a conflict is found, The President shall promptly appoint, with the advice and consent of the Members of The Board in the graduating class in which the conflict exists, a temporary replacement Justice from the impacted graduating class or classes. Replacement Justices may be drawn from the Members of the Student Bar Association at large who are not Members of The Board.
- (D) All decisions of The Court shall be given the full authority of Law, and The Court shall observe and follow, as reasonably as possible in the interests of justice and continuity, the doctrine of *stare decisis*.
- (E) The Court may adopt any and all rules of evidence and procedure that are reasonable and necessary to bring about a conclusion in those matters before The Court. Such rules must be agreed upon and are subject to review by The Board and shall be made available to the Members of the Student Bar Association.

Article V – Terms of Office, Elections, Appointments, and Vacancies

Section 1. Terms of Office

- (A) The term of office for incoming Officers and Members of The Board shall begin on the last day of classes in the Spring semester of each academic year.
- (B) The term of office for outgoing Officers and Members of The Board shall end on the last day of classes in the Spring semester of each academic year.
- (C) Upon the conclusion of a term of office, the 1L Class shall not have Representatives until after a Special Election is held during the Fall semester of the next academic year. Such absence of 1L Class Representatives during this period does not preclude any action by The Board or the Executive Council, and shall not contribute for or against quorums and/or vote outcomes of The Board.

Section 2. Time, Place, and Manner of Elections

- (A) A General Election for the Executive Council shall take place during the

Spring semester of each academic year on a date prescribed by The Board.

- (B) A General Election for the Board of Representatives shall take place within two (2) weeks after the final results of the General Election for the Executive Council are certified and announced.
- (C) Notice shall be sent to all Members of the Student Bar Association of all eligible candidates at least three (3) days prior to the start of voting. Voting shall take place over a continuous forty-eight (48) hour period commencing from the time that polls are opened, including weekends.

Section 3. Eligibility of Candidates and Appointees

- (A) Candidates for Class Representative must satisfy the eligibility requirements in Article II Section 2 of this Constitution.
- (B) Candidates for positions on the Executive Council must satisfy the eligibility requirements in Article III Section 2 of this Constitution and any other office-specific eligibility requirements enumerated within this Constitution.
- (C) Appointees for Justice of The Court must satisfy the eligibility requirements in Article IV Section 2 of this Constitution.

Section 4. General Rules

- (A) The Board shall give notice to the Members of the Student Bar Association of upcoming elections at least ten (10) days prior to the date that voting commences.
- (B) Notice of a candidate's intent to run for any office must be submitted, in writing, to The Board at least five (5) days prior to the date that voting commences.
- (C) The Board shall promulgate all election and campaign rules. Such rules shall be communicated to candidates at the time notice of upcoming elections is given to the Members of the Student Bar Association.
- (D) With the exception of violations described in Section 4(E) of this Article, punishment for noncompliance with election and campaign rules shall not exceed declaring the candidate immediately disqualified from holding current elected office on The Board for the remainder of the term of office.
- (E) It shall be a campaign violation for any person to knowingly prevent, by force, intimidation, threat, deception, bribery, or forgery, any other persons from voting for, supporting, or opposing the election of any candidate or issue of referenda. Punishment for such violations shall be, but not exceed, declaring the candidate disqualified from attaining the position for which they are a candidate and, if applicable, disqualified from holding current elected office on The Board for the remainder of the term of office. Complaints regarding such violations shall be investigated by a Special Committee comprised of the 3L Class Representatives, by holding at least one (1) public hearing at which all parties may present their case. If the Special Committee by majority vote finds a violation has occurred, punishment shall be rendered.

Section 5. Special Election of 1L Class Representatives

- (A) A special election for 1L Class Representatives shall be held within the first forty-five (45) days of each academic year. Two (2) Representatives from each 1L class section, thereby constituting a total of four (4) Representatives, shall

be elected by the 1L class to serve on the Board of Representatives. The two (2) candidates from each 1L class section receiving the most votes shall be declared Representatives-Elect at the end of the voting period. The Representatives-Elect shall be sworn in at the next Stated Meeting of The Board.

- (B) The candidates from each 1L class section shall only be voted upon by members of their respective section.

Section 6. Vacancies, Special Elections, and Appointments

- (A) Vacancies in Government seats shall occur when a person serving on The Board is or has:
 - 1. Removed from office by process of impeachment;
 - 2. No longer eligible to hold office;
 - 3. Resigned from office pursuant to Article VI Section 1 of this Constitution; or
 - 4. Rendered unable to discharge the duties of the office.
- (B) Upon a vacancy occurring within the Executive Council, The President shall appoint, with the advice and consent of The Board, a replacement Officer from among the current Class Representatives serving on The Board. Upon confirmation, a vacancy shall then exist in the Board of Representatives, which shall be filled according to the provisions set forth in this Section.
- (C) Upon a vacancy among the Class Representatives occurring prior to the end of the current term of office, a Special Election shall be held as soon as is expedient to elect a new Class Representative to fill the vacant seat.
- (D) If a vacancy among the Class Representatives should occur within 90 days of the end of the current term of office, The President, with the advice and consent of The Board, shall appoint a replacement Class Representative, whose term of office shall expire at the end of the current term. In such a case, the appointed Class Representative must be a member of the graduating class represented.
- (E) All regular election rules and procedures shall be applicable to Special Elections.
- (F) If a vacancy persists among the Class Representatives following a Special Election to fill a vacant seat, such absence shall not preclude any action by The Board or the Executive Council, and shall not contribute for or against quorums and/or vote outcomes of The Board.

Section 7. Appointment of Justices

- (A) Justices of The Court shall be appointed by the President at the second meeting of The Board following the election of 1L Class Representatives in the Fall semester. Each Appointee requires a majority vote in favor by The Board to be confirmed.
- (B) A Justice of The Court shall serve in that position for the full academic year during which they are appointed. A Justice may serve consecutive terms but must be re-appointed.

Section 8. Declaration and Publication of Election Results

- (A) If only one candidate is declared and qualified to run for any particular position on the Executive Council, that candidate shall, at the end of the voting period, be declared the Officer-Elect. In the event of multiple candidates, the candidate receiving the most votes shall be elected and declared Officer-Elect.
- (B) If four (4) or fewer candidates are declared and qualified to run for Class Representative within a given graduating class, those candidates shall, at the end of the voting period, be declared Representatives-Elect. In the event there are five (5) or more declared and qualified candidates for Class Representative within a given graduating class, the four (4) candidates receiving the most votes shall be elected and declared Representatives-Elect. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to conflict with the procedures for the Special Election of 1L Class Representatives enumerated within Section 5 of this Article.
- (C) As soon as is expedient following the close of polls, voting totals shall be reviewed. After the final votes are reviewed and certified, the names of winning candidates shall be posted within twenty-four (24) hours in places reasonably calculated under all circumstances to inform the Members of the Student Bar Association of the results.
- (D) Every declared and qualified candidate retains the right to have a representative of their choosing present at the counting of votes.

Section 9. Oath of Office

- (A) Before entering into service, all Officers, Representatives, and Justices shall state, before The Board, the following oath or affirmation:

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully perform the duties of the office to which I have been elected (or appointed) and that I will serve and protect the Constitution of the Student Bar Association at Northern Illinois University College of Law.

Section 10. Contesting Elections

- (A) Any declared and qualified candidate for office may contest the results of an election by filing a complaint with The Board. The challenging party must file such complaints within three (3) days of the public announcement/posting of election results.
- (B) A Special Committee, comprised of the 3L Class Representatives, shall investigate the complaint by holding at least one (1) public hearing at which all parties may present their case. Upon concluding the investigation, the Special Committee shall recommend an appropriate remedy to The Board. The Board, excluding any who are a party to the complaint, shall vote on the proposed remedy at their next Stated or Special Meeting. Should the vote fail, this procedure shall be repeated until a remedy is approved.
- (C) Should an issue of interpretation of this Constitution arise during the investigation of a complaint brought under this provision, The Board shall promptly bring the issue of interpretation to The Court as provided in Article IV of this Constitution.

Article VI – Resignation and Impeachment

Section 1. Resignation

- (A) Any Officer or Class Representative who wishes to resign from The Board shall submit a written and signed letter of resignation to The President, and a vacancy shall occur in the seat.
- (B) Any Officer or Class Representative who has missed either two (2) consecutive or any three (3) Board meetings and/or events hosted by the SBA, without excuse, during any single semester shall be considered to have resigned office and a vacancy shall occur in the seat.

Section 2. Impeachment and Removal from Office

- (A) The Board, through a majority vote of its Members, may bring charges of impeachment against any member of The Government. When charges are brought, The Board shall appoint a presiding officer and form a Special Committee to investigate the propriety of impeachment proceedings. No person who is subject to the investigation may serve on the Special Committee, and Special Committee Members serve at the pleasure of The Board. If the Special Committee determines that an impeachment proceeding is proper, The Board shall schedule a timely hearing.
- (B) The accused individual shall be afforded a full opportunity to present an explanation and provide any defenses at a hearing in front of The Board. The accused may appoint or hire an attorney to speak on their behalf.
- (C) A two-thirds (2/3) majority of The Board is necessary to convict an individual. Upon conviction, punishment shall not extend beyond removal from office and other reasonable actions.

Article VII – Student Organizations

Section 1. Formal Recognition

- (A) Each recognized Student Organization shall maintain a formal constitution and bylaws outlining its aims, duties, and procedures.
- (B) A prospective Student Organization seeking formal recognition shall submit an application to The Board of the SBA. The application must include the following:
 - 1. Proposed constitution and bylaws;
 - 2. A letter of intent describing the importance of creating such a Student Organization;
 - 3. The name of a willing faculty advisor;
 - 4. A roster of executive board members along with emails and student identification numbers (“Z-ID”); and
 - 5. Any other information deemed necessary by The Board.
- (C) The application must be forwarded to The Secretary of the SBA. The Secretary shall then provide The Board with the application prior to the next Meeting of The Board. The Board shall vote on the prospective Student

Organization's application at the second Stated or Special Meeting after receiving the application or when appropriate by electronic vote if authorized by the President of the SBA.

- (D) The Board may ask representatives of a prospective Student Organization seeking formal recognition to attend a Stated Meeting to discuss the application if it is reasonable to do so.
- (E) The Secretary must provide notice of the results of a vote to the representatives of the prospective Student Organization no later than seventy-two (72) hours after the results of the vote are known to The Board. Upon receiving approval from The Board, the organization shall receive formal recognition from the SBA, and be subject to the jurisdiction thereof, effective immediately.

Section 2. Term of Recognition and Renewal

- (A) Each recognized Student Organization must renew formal recognition every year after establishment of the organization.
- (B) Renewal of formal recognition shall be done by submitting to The Secretary of the SBA a written statement outlining the organization's intentions to continue benefitting the Student Bar Association in the ensuing academic year. Statements shall outline any and all planned events for the coming year which are known at the time of submission. Upon receipt, The Secretary shall then convey the application to The Board for consideration at the second scheduled Meeting after receiving it.
- (C) The Student Organization shall affix a copy of its most current constitution and bylaws with the statement.
- (D) Upon The Board's approval of a Student Organization's request for renewal of formal recognition, the organization shall be recognized for the ensuing academic year.
- (E) A Student Organization shall affix the date of the most current renewal within its constitution or bylaws.
- (F) Student Organizations shall submit requests for renewal of formal recognition to The Secretary of the SBA no later than May 1 of each academic year.

Section 3. Failure to Renew

- (A) Any Student Organization that has failed to qualify for or request renewal shall, thereby, forfeit any right to renewal and shall no longer be recognized as a Student Organization under the Student Bar Association.
- (B) Any Student Organization which fails to submit a request for renewal by May 1 of each academic year may receive formal recognition by submitting a written statement to The Secretary of the SBA no later than September 15 of the ensuing academic year for approval by The Board. Such written statements must comport with the provisions set forth in Section 2 of this Article.

Article VIII – Referenda from the Student Body

Section 1. Referenda Procedure

- (A) A referendum may be called at any time by a majority vote of The Board.

- (B) Any Member of the Student Bar Association may Petition for a referendum. Any such Petition must contain the signatures of at least twenty (20) percent of Members of the Student Bar Association.
- (C) Upon submission of the Petition to The Secretary of the SBA; the referendum shall be announced at the next meeting of The Board. The referendum shall then be submitted to the Members of the Student Bar Association for a vote. Notice of a proposed referendum shall be given at least one (1) week in advance of voting, and results must be posted in all places which, reasonably calculated under all circumstances, shall communicate the results to all interested parties.

Article IX – Declaration of the Duties and Rights of Members

Section 1. Duties and Rights

- (A) Members of the Student Bar Association shall retain, and be subject to, the following Duties and Rights:
 - 1. Members shall have the right to view any documents and proceedings of The Government, unless otherwise stipulated within this Constitution
 - 2. No person shall hold more than one (1) elected position on The Board during any given term of office.
 - 3. The Student Bar Association shall not infringe upon, nor call for the prohibition of, the rights of the free exercise of speech, religion, or peaceful assembly.
 - 4. Any powers not expressly granted to The Board of the Student Bar Association under this Constitution shall be reserved exclusively to the Members of the Student Bar Association.
 - 5. The Duties and Rights herein listed do not exclude or supplant others retained by the Members.
 - 6. All Members are guaranteed equal protection under this Constitution.
 - 7. Membership in Student Organizations shall be open to all Members of the Student Bar Association. Organizations may, with the consent of The Board, recognize and institute mutual exclusivity.
 - 8. At meetings of The Board, The Board shall honor requests to record the particular, public opinion of a Member of the Student Bar Association for or against a particular issue being considered.
 - 9. Decisions on whether to extend funding or formal recognition to Student Organizations shall be made on a viewpoint-neutral basis; such decisions shall respect the rights of free speech, religion, and association of Members.
 - 10. The Student Bar Association shall not infringe upon the right of Student Organizations to affiliate or cooperate with other local and national entities to further the interests and missions of that Student Organization.

Article X – Amendments to this Constitution

Section 1. Proposing Amendments

- (A) Any Member of the Student Bar Association may propose amendments to this Constitution at a Stated or Special Meeting of The Board.

Section 2. Procedure for Adoption

- (A) The Board shall take a proposed Amendment under consideration. If The Board should approve of the Amendment by a majority vote in favor, the Amendment shall then be voted upon during the next regularly-scheduled election.
- (B) A Petition containing the signatures of twenty (20) percent of the Members of the Student Bar Association shall place an Amendment on the ballot of the next regularly-scheduled election following the submission of the Petition to The Secretary.
- (C) Notice of a proposed Amendment shall be given at least one (1) week in advance of voting. Results following a vote must be posted in all places which, reasonably calculated under all circumstances, shall communicate the results to all interested parties.
- (D) Amendments shall be adopted upon approval by two-thirds (2/3) of the voting Members of the Student Bar Association.
- (E) Any Amendment, upon taking effect, shall be placed in the records of The Board and be affixed within this Constitution.

Article XI – Dissolution

Section 1. Governmental Dissolution

- (A) Should the Student Bar Association be dissolved, all proceeds, monetary, or otherwise, shall be transferred into the care of the Northern Illinois University College of Law in order to promote the vibrancy and diversity of the student body. A portion of these proceeds shall be reserved for the establishment and administration of a new Student Government.

Section 2. Dissolution of Other Bodies

- (A) All enacted bodies and Student Organizations recognized and under the authority of the Student Bar Association, unless otherwise stipulated in applicable statute, shall dissolve with The Government.

Article XII – Ratification

Section 1. General Ratification

- (A) This Constitution shall be approved, enacted, and in force upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Members of the Student Bar Association or upon ratification by an available majority of the Members of the Student Bar Association.
- (B) This Constitution, upon enactment, shall be the official Constitution of the Student Bar Association at Northern Illinois University College of Law. All

previous Constitution(s) and amendments to the same are hereby revoked.

Section 2. Effect on Terms of Office

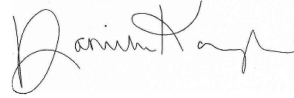
- (A) No provision of this Constitution shall, at the time of adoption, be construed to alter or modify the length of the terms of office for the existing Officers and Representatives of the Executive Council and the Board of Representatives.



Upon the ADOPTION of this instrument by the Members of the Student Bar Association; in WITNESS thereof and under the authority herein vested; We, the various Members of The Board, HEREBY AFFIX our signatures in RECOGNITION of the RATIFICATION of this CONSTITUTION on this 22nd Day of March 2023.



Robert Harden
President



Danielle Kaczanowski
Vice President



Rabia Amin
Chief of Staff



Batoul Haidar
Secretary



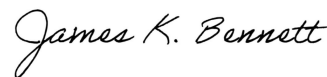
Jacquelin Pulak
Treasurer



Paige Gors
Chief of Operations



Arabella Gigliotti
ABA Representative



James Bennett
3L Class Representative



Grace Hannon-Geller
3L Class Representative



Samantha Malone
3L Class Representative



Jeffery Frimpong
3L Class Representative



Kashif Ahmed
2L Class Representative



Isaiah Harlan
2L Class Representative



Vivian Tadros
2L Class Representative



Kenneth Benz
2L Class Representative



Matthew Donahue
1L Class Representative



Mikayla Kelz
1L Class Representative



Mackenzie McCance
1L Class Representative



Fatma Wutwut
1L Class Representative