

Constitution of the First Amendment Law Society

(FALS)

“Say it. Mean it. Make it matter.”

Article I: Name & Purpose

- **Section I: Full Name**
 - This Organization shall be known as First Amendment Law Society (FALS)
- **Section II: Purpose Statement**
 - The First Amendment Law Society is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to fostering a vibrant, inclusive community of law students united by a shared commitment to free expression, open dialogue, and constitutional literacy. We champion the First Amendment as a foundation for civil discourse and democratic engagement, transcending political divides and encouraging respectful debate across all viewpoints. Through education, advocacy, and collaboration, we empower future legal professionals to uphold the principles of speech, press, religion, assembly, and petition as tools for justice, understanding, and societal progress.
- **Section III: Statement of Values**
 - We are committed to the following foundational values, which guide our scholarship, advocacy, and community engagement:
 - **Part A: Intellectual Integrity**
 - We pursue truth through rigorous legal analysis, open inquiry, and respectful debate. We reject blind faith and embrace complexity, recognizing that First Amendment jurisprudence demands both principled consistency and contextual sensitivity.
 - **Part B: Non-Partisan Commitment**
 - We do not serve political factions. Our allegiance is to constitutional principles and the rule of law. We welcome diverse perspectives and foster dialogue across ideological boundaries, believing that expressive freedom thrives in pluralism.
 - **Part C: Expressive Freedom**
 - We defend the right to speak, write, protest, publish, and dissent; regardless of popularity or political convenience. We affirm that robust protections for speech are essential to democratic legitimacy, cultural vitality, and individual autonomy.
 - **Part D: Constitutional Literacy**
 - We promote a deep understanding of First Amendment doctrine, history, and theory. We will equip members with tools to interpret precedent, critique policy, and engage in meaningful legal reform.

- Part E: Scholarly Rigor
 - We value precision, clarity, and depth in legal thought. Our work is grounded in doctrinal analysis, interdisciplinary insight, and a commitment to advancing First Amendment scholarship that is both impactful and accessible.
- Part F: Justice Through Dialogue
 - We believe that expressive freedom is not an end in itself, but a means to justice. We support speech that challenges power, amplifies the voices of marginalized individuals, allows all political sides to speak, and fosters civic accountability.
- Section IV: Faculty Advisor
 - This Organization is required to have one faculty advisor
 - Selections
 - Students should select a faculty advisor passionate about this area of law and willing to do so
 - Faculty advisor roles
 - Help secure funding
 - Meet with the executive board at least once a semester
 - Offer connections from their network
 - Assist students in school-related and professional matters

Article II: Membership

- Section I: Eligibility
 - Any law student in good standing at the law school is welcome to join
- Section II: Rights & Privileges of Members
 - All members can attend all events
 - All members can vote in elections
 - Any member who has been a student at the law school for more than one semester can run for the executive board and chair positions when elections arise
- Section III: Nondiscrimination Statement
 - The First Amendment Law Society is committed to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and intellectually vibrant community. We do not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age, disability, socioeconomic status, political affiliation, or any other protected characteristic. We affirm that expressive freedom belongs to everyone, and that meaningful dialogue requires the full participation of diverse voices. We welcome disagreement, dissent, and debate, but never at the expense of dignity or equal access. Our programming, membership, and leadership opportunities are open to all who share our commitment to constitutional inquiry, non-partisan engagement, and the pursuit of justice through dialogue.
- Section IV: Maintaining membership

- Students on the email list are considered members
- As the organization grows, the executive board will make a decision about dues, and this statement can be amended at any time as this happens

Article III: Officers & Duties

- **Section I: Required Roles**
 - President, Vice President, Treasurer, Parliamentarian OR Secretary
- **Section II: Additional Roles**
 - Recruitment Chair
 - Event Chair
 - Social Media Chair
 - Class Representatives
- **Section III: Role Requirements**
 - **Part A: President**
 - Leads the society
 - Leads meetings
 - Helps prepare meeting slides
 - Has final say on catering, speakers, and event times
 - Oversees constitution with parliamentarian
 - Assists in creating media
 - Utilizes network to get speakers and events
 - Meets with the vice president and chapter advisor at least twice a semester
 - Oversees group emails sent by the secretary
 - **Part B: Vice President**
 - Assists in leading meetings and leads if the president is absent
 - Helps prepare meeting slides
 - Can assist with catering, speakers, and event times
 - Oversees constitution with the parliamentarian
 - Oversees media
 - Utilizes network to get speakers and events
 - Meets with the president and chapter advisor at least twice a semester
 - Assists in the duties of all other chairs
 - **Part C: Parliamentarian**
 - Adjusts the constitution as necessary
 - Holds election procedures
 - May assist in event planning and media
 - **Part D: Secretary**
 - Sets up meeting slides
 - Takes meeting notes
 - Sends out school-wide/member-wide emails with approval from the president or vice president

- Part E: Recruitment Chair
 - Tables at student association events
 - Tables in the mornings and off-hours to promote the events and goals of the society
 - Collects emails of members/potential members
 - At tabling events, the recruitment chair should be composed professionally, standing, and off of screens and engage with potential members
- Part F: Events Chair
 - Helps plan events with the president
 - Works with the treasurer and president on catering
 - Book rooms with the help of the president/vice president
 - Can reach out to network for speakers
 - Helps introduce speakers and special guests at events
 - Assists in setting up and taking down events
 - Takes photos at events with the Social media chair
- Part G: Social Media Chair
 - Works with the president and vice president on branding
 - Posts rigorously and consistently promoting the values of free speech, events, and highlighting student members
 - Post stories on Instagram during events
 - Takes photos at events with the event chair
- Part H: Class Reps
 - There can be a maximum of 6 reps across all law school classes
 - Reps are appointed by the executive board based on involvement in the organization, and students expressed interest
 - Once selected, class reps may vote with the executive board on proposed amendments
 - Class reps can assist with events and social media once appointed
- Part I: President Emeritus
 - The president may stay a second year and move into the president emeritus position
 - This is NOT an elected position
 - This is in the title only; however, they may assist with all events and vote as an executive board member
- Part J: Treasurer
 - In charge of all the money
 - Know the school's financial policies
 - In charge of p-card use with the president
 - Submit a budget promptly each semester

Article IV: Elections

- **Section I: Eligibility**
 - Students must have completed one semester of law school and be in good academic standing to run for a board position
- **Section II: Nomination Procedures**
 - **Part A: Executive Board**
 - Students should self-nominate and email the president or organization's email expressing interest and which position they want to run for
 - **Part B: If No One Runs**
 - The executive board will talk to the class reps about promoting them to the unfilled position
 - If no class reps are interested or are elected to another position, the president and vice president may appoint a person of their choosing
 - **Part C: Non-Required Positions**
 - If no one runs or is appointed to a non-required position, the executive board can choose to keep it vacant
 - **Part D: Class Reps**
 - New Class reps are to be selected at the midterm of each semester if there are vacancies
 - This will always mean more are filled in the Fall than Spring due to the graduation schedule
 - Anyone who wants to be a class rep should notify the executive board
 - The executive board will choose and appoint based on activity in the organization
- **Section III: Election Timeline**
 - **Part A: Standard Board Members**
 - Students have until the first Friday after Spring Break to alert the executive board of their interest
 - Elections will occur before reading week, with each candidate giving a 2-minute speech
 - Members will vote with a closed ballot in person on paper
 - Results will be announced after the votes are counted on that day
 - The executive board will send out an announcement to members about the new executive board and alert the dean and IT so they can gain email access
 - **Part B: Class Reps**
 - After the first meeting of the semester, where the number of class rep vacancies are announced, students interested have until a week before the midterm to announce interest
 - The executive board will meet at the midterm to decide who to appoint

- Class reps will be appointed at the first meeting after the midterm
 - ***Subsection (a)***
 - Given that this organization is starting close to the midterm, the inaugural executive board has until finals to announce class representative
 - This may be amended at any time
- Section IV: Voting Procedures
 - Part A: Voting When There Are Multiple Candidates
 - The president and vice president will prepare ballots and a ballot box prior to the election meeting
 - The president and vice president will recruit a neutral faculty member, meaning any faculty member who is not the faculty advisor, to count the votes
 - Students will vote on paper at the meeting and put their ballots in the ballot box
 - The faculty member will count the votes and announce the winner
 - Part B: Running Uncontested
 - If no one contests someone running, they become the automatic appointee if they meet all other eligibility requirements
- Section V: Installation & Transfer of Officers
 - Part A: Organization Content
 - The president and vice president will hand a Google Drive with organization materials down to the new president and vice president; even if there is overlap, they must share it with the appropriate board members
 - The old president will meet with the new president to go over essential duties
 - Subsection (a): Essential Duties
 - Where organization items are
 - Funding
 - Connections
 - Overview of the presidential position
 - IT & email
 - Part B: Old Board To New Board
 - The old board and new board shall meet by July 30, before the upcoming school year, to complete the transfer
 - The new board shall meet before 1L orientation to discuss yearly plan and 1L tabling

Article VI: Meetings

- Section I: Meeting Types
 - Part A: General Meetings

- 1-2 times a semester, FALS shall hold a general meeting to introduce the board members, talk about our mission, and discuss any current events in the world of First Amendment law
 - Shall always be held at 12 pm or after regular hours for part-time students to attend
- Part B: Speaker Meetings
 - 1 or more times a semester FALS shall host a professional speaker in the area of First Amendment law
 - These shall be held at 12:00 pm to align with the lunch hour
 - Speakers may be in person or virtual
 - If funding allows, meals shall be provided at these events
 - The event chair, president, vice president, and any other board member wishing to attend shall assist the speaker in any way necessary
 - Members and board members must have prepared questions ahead of time
- Part C: Open Debate Conversations
 - 1 or more times a semester FALS will host an open conversation to discuss matters related to the law school and current political events
 - Students attending these events are expected to be respectful, speak their turn, and not record anything at the event. Failure to follow means students can be removed by the executive board or present faculty members.
 - These events will follow Chatham House Rules
 - The existence of these events will be posted on social media, but no one in attendance is to post anything from the event
 - In the interest of ensuring trust, it is requested that law school administration does not attend these events to keep the discussion as open and honest as possible; non-administrative faculty (both tenured and non-tenured) are welcome to attend
 - The event must have one student and one faculty member moderating
 - ***subsection(a)***: this should be someone on the executive board unless a student volunteers and expresses great interest. Faculty member can be the faculty advisor or another faculty member expressing interest
- Part D: Board Meetings
 - The executive board should meet before or early in the semester to discuss plans and events
- Part E: Social Events & Outings
 - FALS will host social events and outings to events regarding speech, such as censored movies, banned books, movie screenings, drag shows, etc

- Members shall conduct themselves responsibly at events where alcohol is present, and anyone who drives shall not consume alcohol at these events
- Section II: Calling Meetings
 - The executive board shall decide when meetings and outings occur
 - The president and secretary may adjourn and call meetings

Article VII: Voting Procedures

- Section I: Who Can Vote
 - Any student who is a member (refer to the membership section for the definition of member) and in good standing at the law school can vote
- Section II: Methods
 - Voting is done as discussed in the Elections section of this constitution
 - Winning means receiving 51% of the ballots
- Section III: Officer Removal
 - Part A: Reasons For Removal
 - Misconduct: meddling in the elections, unethical behavior, inappropriate behavior at a social event, and any other C&F concerns the board may have
 - Falling into bad standing with the law school
 - Failure to perform their role in a reasonable capacity
 - Part B: Filling the removed role
 - If not required, the executive board may choose to leave it vacant
 - If required, the board can choose to have an emergency election as they see fit
 - OR appoint a person of their choosing
 - Part C: Tie-Breaking Timeline
 - To confirm there is a tie, the neutral faculty member shall recount the votes
 - If there is a tie, the students have two minutes on the fly to give a statement as to why they are qualified for the role
 - A vote of hand raising will occur, and a neutral faculty member will count, and the winner will be announced
 - *Subsection (a): If there is a still a tie*
 - The vice president and president get final say on who to appoint, and will appoint that person

Article VIII: Finances

- Section I: Reiteration of Treasurer Duties
 - The treasurer is in charge of all finances, and it is their duty to understand the school's policies
- Section II: Spending Authority

- The final duty on all spending can be allocated to the treasurer and the president
- The treasurer should complete any food orders, merchandise orders, and any other orders with oversight from the president
- Other members can use the p-card as allocated by the president and/or treasurer

Article IX: Amendments

- **Section I: Proposing An Amendment**
 - Any member can suggest an amendment idea to the Parliamentarian
 - The parliamentarian will bring it to the executive board, where they will decide if it should be voted on
- **Section II: Voting on Amendments**
 - The parliamentarian can choose how to do amendment voting, either as they come up at the beginning of meetings or wait until the end of the semester and have them vote then
 - Votes are done by hand raise
 - $\frac{2}{3}$ of the present members board and regular “YAY” are required to pass an amendment

Article X: Dissolution

- **Section I: Disbandment**
 - Funds shall go back to the school
 - Any personal items or funds put in my members shall be returned