

The Constitution of the Black Law Student Association (BLSA)
Loyola University New Orleans School of Law

Mission Statement

To increase the number of ethical and competent Black lawyers in the legal field. To build a support system to uplift the mental health, academic prowess, professionalism, and social responsibility of our membership. To create and sustain a community of lawyers that succeed professionally and positively impact their communities

Article 1: Membership

Section 1: Membership Qualifications

Membership shall be available to Loyola law students only.

Section 2: Duties of Membership

Regular participation in the activities of the A.P. Tureaud Chapter of the Black Law Student Association is incumbent upon each member.

Article 2: Elections Process

Section 1: Candidacy

All candidates must be in good academic standing by the end of the academic year and have attended at least two BLSA events within the academic year. All nominees must be in good academic standing, which shall be verified by an administrator in the Law Records Office of Loyola Law prior to being placed on the ballot for elections.

Section 2: Elections

The Black Law Student Association (BLSA) shall elect all officers, which shall constitute the Executive Board, from among its members in good academic standing by the end of the academic year. Good standing is considered to be a Loyola College of Law student, with a grade point average of a 2.0 or higher, which shall be verified by the Law Records Office of Loyola College of Law. Elections shall be held annually at a date, to be set by BLSA officers, during the first two weeks of February. The vote shall be conducted by virtual ballot. Upon elections, officers shall assume their duties at the end of the academic year or after a formal transition meeting.

Section 3: Vacancies

All vacant offices shall be appointed by the President and Vice-President. Appointees must be in good academic standing of a 2.0 GPA or higher and have attended at least two BLSA events.

Section 4: Removal from Office

Executive officers may be removed from office upon non-fulfillment of duties as stated in Article 4, Section 1. Three unexcused absences from executive board meetings on behalf of any executive officer will lead to automatic removal from office. In order to be removed from office, a two-thirds vote of the executive board is required.

Article 3: The Executive Board

Section 1: Officers

The Executive Board officers shall include the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Events Coordinator, and Marketing Chair

Section 2: Fiscal Responsibilities

A. Budget

The Executive Board shall be responsible for formulating a budget proposal. In formulating a budget proposal, the Executive Board shall consider all initiatives that support the mission of BLSA.

The President, Vice-President, and Treasurer shall approve any expenditure necessary to support the proposal.

B. Non - budgetary expenditures

The Executive Board shall have discretion to approve any non-budgetary expenditure as long as it supports the BLSA mission.

Section 3: Committees

The Standing Committees of the A.P Tureaud Chapter of the Black Law Students Association shall be the Gala committee.

Article 4: Duties of Officers

Section 1: Duties of Executive Board

President

The BLSA mission statement becomes the President's mission statement at all times pertinent to their active role as President. The President is responsible for running group meetings, upholding the mission statement, and leading the group on and off campus. The President will represent the group at all times, both professionally and personally. As the face of the organization, the President is the individual to whom new and existing members will be directed for their

questions/interest in involvement. The President will also be responsible for speaking on behalf of the entire group to donors, to event hosts, to the faculty if need be, etc.

Additionally, the President will oversee all executive board members, activities, and events, and ensure smooth execution in collaboration with the Loyola Law administration. The President will work closely with the Events Chair to coordinate e-board support for events, engage with alumni and potential sponsors for funding, and manage alumni communications for events and fundraising. Additionally, the President will attend administrative meetings and prepare presentations as needed.

Should the Executive Board choose a Co-President scheme, all presidential duties will be shared equally between them.

Vice President

Should the Executive Board choose a President/Vice President scheme (as opposed to Co-Presidents), the President will oversee event planning and communication broadly, while the Vice President will oversee group management (are officers doing their jobs, are people excited and involved, etc.) and communications among group members.

The Vice President plans and oversees the Annual BLSA Scholarship Gala and Silent Auction, working closely with the President to support e-board members and collaborate with Loyola administration. They help secure sponsors for the Gala, manage scholarship initiatives, and coordinate e-board meetings, including scheduling and logistical details. The Vice President also attends all administrative meetings with the Dean of Student Affairs.

Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for managing the BLSA email account, forwarding relevant messages to members and responding within 48 hours. They maintain updated email lists for members and alumni, draft forms and documents for events, and take minutes during general body and e-board meetings, sending out updates afterward. The Secretary assists the President as needed, attends meetings with administration when necessary, and oversees the mentorship program by coordinating with Dean Jones. They also manage the election process in the spring and order graduation stoles for 3Ls based on member submissions.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for managing all aspects of BLSA's funding, including maintaining the budget, tracking incoming donations and outgoing spending, and organizing any non-school-related event funds. They will seek out and communicate with donors, sponsors, and alumni contributing to the Annual Scholarship Gala, as well as keep accurate records of all financial transactions. The Treasurer leads the fundraising committee, overseeing activities such as

LinkedIn messaging and fundraising events, including the Gala. They will frequently communicate with the President/Co-Presidents regarding BLSA funding, spending, and donations, ensuring smooth financial operations and updates. Additionally, the Treasurer assists other e-board members with various operations as needed and attends meetings with administration to discuss budgeting and events.

Events Chair

The Events Chair is responsible for providing the organization with scholarship and volunteer opportunities, as well as planning events throughout the year. They work closely with the President to bring BLSA events to life. The Events Chair is responsible for placing food orders for meetings and events through HowlConnect, ensuring timely food delivery and adherence to the annual \$300 budget. They also handle room bookings for general body meetings via HowlConnect, coordinating with Ms. Michele Keifer and Dean Tori Luwisch-deLaurel, the current Dean of Student Affairs at LOYNO Law. Additionally, the Events Chair is responsible for sending out RSVP and food allergy Google forms before each meeting to ensure proper accommodations.

Marketing Chair

The Marketing Chair is responsible for managing BLSA's social media accounts, monitoring engagement, and creating content to maintain the organization's online presence. They capture pictures and videos of events for social media and ensure that content is edited and posted regularly. The Marketing Chair also creates flyers and marketing materials for events, such as the Gala lookbook, and manages email listservs and any websites associated with BLSA. They handle the majority of the group's communications, including advertising for meetings, events, and orientation. Additionally, they ensure that the group is updated on all platforms, promoting BLSA's activities and increasing visibility throughout the year.

Section 2: Duties of the Gala Committee

The Gala committee shall plan and execute the annual banquet. The Gala committee shall ensure that all publicity is circulated in a reasonable fashion. The Gala committee chair is the Vice President.

Article 5

Members' Bill of Rights

All members shall have a right to propose any initiative that supports the mission of BLSA. All initiatives shall be ratified by a simple majority of the general body.

Article 6: Disciplinary Proceedings

Section 1: Procedure

BLSA is empowered to make and enforce its own rules and to require that its members and officers refrain from conduct injurious to the Association or its purposes.

Section 2: Review

All disciplinary complaints shall be reported by a member of the general body or the e-board, and reviewed by the executive officers.

Article 7: Constitutional Amendments

Section 1. Amendments

To amend this constitution, the President shall submit, by reasonable means, any proposed amendment to members for approval. To be enacted two-thirds of all members who vote shall approve the amendment.

Section 2. Adoption

The Constitution and Bylaws of the Association shall be adopted by a simple majority of the general body.

Article 8: Ratification of the Constitution

This Constitution is ratified by the members of the A.P. Tureaud Chapter of the Black Law Students Association and shall take effect, upon adoption by a simple majority of the general body, at the end of the academic calendar year.