

**THE CONSTITUTION OF**  
**THE PLAINTIFF ADVOCATES SOCIETY AT LOYOLA LAW SCHOOL**

**I. Name of the Organization and Statement of Purpose**

- 1.0 The name of the organization shall be Plaintiff Advocates Society (hereinafter “PAS”).
- 1.1 PAS exists to support law students looking to become plaintiff-side attorneys who will represent the interests of victims, advocate for consumers’ rights and equal access to justice, and ensure that any person who is injured by the misconduct or negligence of others can obtain justice in America’s courtrooms, even when taking on the most powerful interests.

**II. Membership**

- 2.0 Membership is open to all Loyola Law School students and alumni.
- 2.1 Members are obligated to abide by this constitution and its by-laws.
- 2.2 Members have the right to participate in all events sponsored by PAS and the right to vote in all PAS matters brought before the general membership.

**III. Leadership Structure and Powers**

- 3.0 The executive board is the governing body of the organization and will consist of at least the following officers and chairs:
- 3.1 The President acts as the primary representative of PAS in all external relations and presides over meetings of the executive board. This role involves directing and facilitating all general events and activities organized by PAS. Together with the Vice-President, the President is responsible for drafting the organization’s budget, which must then be reviewed and approved by the executive board. Additionally, the President is tasked with calling and overseeing all meetings of both the executive board and the general body.
- 3.2 The Vice-President primarily assists in organizing and facilitating events and activities for PAS. This role includes helping to draft the organization’s budget and fostering and maintaining relationships outside of Loyola Law School. Additionally, in the absence of the President, the Vice-President is responsible for calling and overseeing all meetings of both the executive board and the general body of PAS.
- 3.6 A Communications Chair coordinates all communications and publicity, manages the current membership directory, maintains PAS’s social media pages, and sends newsletters to the current membership and the alumni.
- 3.7 An Events Chair is responsible for all matters related to PAS events and the coordinating of support from the rest of the executive board to facilitate the planning of all PAS events.

- 3.10 A Secretary is generally responsible for archival of PAS executive board and general meetings minutes and maintenance of the organization website.
- 3.11 Removal of a Sitting Officer
  - 3.11.1 Failure to abide by the principles and laws of the constitution and/or negligence of the duties required of a member of the board will be cause for removal.
  - 3.11.2 The removal of a sitting officer requires more than two-thirds vote of the entire board, with the officer who is the subject of the vote not participating.
  - 3.11.3 The executive board at its discretion may hold elections according to the procedures outlined in Section IV to replace the removed officer.
- 3.12 The above list of executive board offices is subject to an amendment of the constitution.

#### **IV. Elections for Board Positions**

- 4.0 Elections will be held every spring no later than the third week in April or when the board decides.
- 4.1 Only current members may vote in an election. Absentee votes will be accepted on condition they are presented to the current board.
- 4.2 A member may run for more than one position; however, once elected for a position, they must hold only that position.
- 4.3 The length of election speeches and the order in which the positions are voted on shall be determined by the outgoing board.
- 4.4 No quorum will be required for the election to be valid.
- 4.5 To be elected, a member must win a majority of the direct and secret ballot votes of the members participating in the election.
- 4.6 In a run-off, absentee ballots will be recounted for the candidate originally selected by the absentee voter.
- 4.7 For any position that is not filled by a majority, a run-off between the two highest vote winners will be immediately conducted.
- 4.8 The date of the turnover to the new board will be determined by the outgoing board.
- 4.9 Candidates must run as individuals; no slates will be allowed.

#### **V. Meetings**

- 5.0 The executive board will hold regular meetings as they require.
- 5.1 Two-thirds of the executive board must attend for the executive meeting to be official.
- 5.2 On general business matters, the executive board will decide by majority vote.

- 5.3 General meetings when the entire membership is invited will be held regularly as the board decides.

## **VI. Endorsements**

- 6.0 Financial contributions that do not constitute a political endorsement shall be decided by the board's typical procedures.
- 6.1 The board may, upon providing a notice to the general body and an opportunity for comment, choose to publicly sign statements, letters, and/or endorsements on behalf of PAS with a two-thirds vote of the entire board.
- 6.2 The board may choose to send a proposal to publicly sign a statement, letter, and/or endorsement to a general body vote with a majority vote of the entire board.
- 6.3 When the general membership votes on a proposal to sign a statement, letter, and/or endorsement brought before it by the board, a majority of the member votes cast is sufficient for the proposal to pass; no quorum is required.
- 6.4 Members may use the referendum procedures in Section 7 to bring a proposal before the general body for a vote.
- 6.5 PAS is a non-partisan organization dedicated solely to supporting plaintiff rights. According to this constitution, any statements, letters, comments, endorsements, contributions, or positions taken on behalf of PAS on issues not directly and clearly related to plaintiff rights are prohibited. The final decision on this relatedness test rests with the President

## **VII. Referendums**

- 7.0 Any member may petition the board to consider signing a statement, letter, and/or endorsement on behalf of PAS under Section 6.
- 7.1 Any member may petition to bring a proposal or a constitutional amendment up to a general body vote. Petitions require the signatures of at least ten members to be brought to a general body vote.
- 7.2 A referendum must be approved by a majority of the membership to pass.
- 7.3 The board must abide by and implement any referenda passed by the general membership, unless doing so would violate any laws, this constitution, or requirements of Loyola Law School.

## **VIII. Ratifying and Amending the Constitution**

- 8.0 Amendments to the constitution may be proposed by either a two-thirds vote of the entire board or a referendum from the membership.

- 8.1 All amendments regarding the structure of the board may be passed with a two-thirds vote of the entire board. Amendments addressing issues other than the structure of the board require a general membership vote.
- 8.2 For those amendments that require a general membership vote, the proposed amendment must first be approved by two-thirds of the entire board or pass the referendum requirements in Section
- 8.3 For those amendments that require a membership vote, one-third of the entire membership is the quorum required. Two-thirds of the voting members must vote in favor to ratify any proposed amendments.