

ACLU-UM CONSTITUTION

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW

A CHAPTER OF THE GREATER MIAMI ACLU

ARTICLE I: Purpose and Status

Section 1: Organization Name

The name of the Organization is the “American Civil Liberties Union of the University of Miami School of Law.” The Organization may be referred to as the “American Civil Liberties Union of UM” or “ACLU-UM”

Section 2: Mission Statement

The purpose of ACLU-UM is to safeguard civil liberties by:

- 1. Working to achieve National ACLU and Florida ACLU objectives.**
- 2. Collaborating with the Greater Miami ACLU and fellow law school chapters.**
- 3. Working with UM organizations and clinics to achieve common goals.**
- 4. Connecting students with pro bono, employment, and internship opportunities.**
- 5. Providing students with networking opportunities.**
- 6. Hosting speakers and raising awareness of civil liberties issues.**

Section 3: ACLU-UM Views and Representations

ACLU-UM will represent itself in a way that is consistent with the mission and views of the ACLU. ACLU-UM will not claim to represent the ACLU in any media outlet other than those affiliated with the University of Miami School of Law unless given explicit permission by the ACLU. ACLU-UM will accurately represent the views of the ACLU in any campus media venue and will seek clarification on ACLU views from the Greater Miami Chapter of the ACLU when necessary. The ACLU is a non-partisan organization. ACLU-UM will not endorse or oppose particular political parties or candidates and will consult with the Greater Miami Chapter of the ACLU before endorsing or opposing any ballot initiative.

Section 4: Greater Miami ACLU Board Meetings

Upon receiving permission, the ACLU-UM may send a representative to Greater Miami ACLU Board meetings but is not permitted to vote on Board issues unless elected to the Greater Miami ACLU Board and given explicit permission.

Section 5: Annual Registration Requirement

The Organization will submit a new registration form at the beginning of every academic year. The Organization will immediately notify the Greater Miami Chapter of the ACLU of any changes in leadership or contact information and will maintain ongoing contact to update the Greater Miami ACLU regarding status and projects, at least once per school term.

ARTICLE II: Membership

Section 1: Nondiscrimination Clause

The ACLU-UM and its members shall not discriminate against any individual for reasons of race, religion, color, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, status as a veteran, or national origin.

Section 2: Membership Eligibility

Any student enrolled in the University of Miami School of Law is eligible for membership. To be a voting member, the student must be a dues paying member of the National ACLU. All ACLU-UM alumni and faculty of the University of Miami School of Law are eligible to be associate members. Associate members are non-voting members.

Section 3: Membership Termination

Membership terminates when an individual is no longer eligible for membership. A member may also terminate his or her own membership by informing the Board in writing that he or she no longer wishes to be a member. The Board may also terminate a membership. The Board terminates a membership by a motion of the Board and requires a majority vote of the Board, which must include at least three Executive Officer votes. The member must be notified at least forty-eight hours before any meeting in which a removal motion will be considered and may elect to speak for five minutes before the closed ballot vote. An elected or appointed individual must be removed from his or her position before termination may be considered.

ARTICLE III: Leadership

Section 1: Leadership Position Eligibility

All voting members are eligible for election to a leadership position.

Section 2: Leadership Composition

The Board of Directors is made up of nine voting members. The first four members are the Executive Officers. All nine members may vote on Board matters unless votes on the subject matter are specifically restricted to Executive Officers in the Constitution or Bylaws. There are four primary leaders (Executive Officers): the (1) President; (2) Vice President; (3) Treasurer; and (4) Secretary. There are five secondary leaders: the (5) Events Coordinator; (6) University Liaison; (7) Editor-in-chief; (8) Head of Community Involvement; and (9) Alumni Relations Chair/Historian.

Section 3: Leadership Duties and Responsibilities

The leadership duties and responsibilities are detailed in the Bylaws.

Section 4: Leadership Term of Office

The term of each office shall run from April 1 to May 31 and last for one year. Officers shall be elected before April 1. If the organization does not elect a President and Treasurer prior to April 1, the organization will become inactive in accordance with the rules of the University of Miami School of Law. The process for electing officers and filling vacancies shall be in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws. Leaders serve from the passing of the Gavel following their election until the following passing of the Gavel as detailed in the Bylaws.

Section 5: Leadership Vacancy

If an Executive Officer position becomes vacant during the Fall or Spring Semesters, an emergency meeting will be called where both nominations and a vote will be taken to fill the vacancy. If the Presidency is left vacant, the Vice President shall act as President until such time as elections can be held. Any secondary leadership vacancy shall be filled by the next leader in line (higher numbered), sliding into the vacant position. If an individual prefers his or her 'current' position, the next leader in line may fill the vacancy. The President shall appoint a voting member to temporarily hold the position of any remaining vacancies until an election may be held to fill said position (election should take place within 6 weeks). Temporary members may vote. If there are no voting members who wish to fill a particular leadership position, the position may be left vacant except that there must always be a President and Treasurer.

ARTICLE IV: Parliamentary Authority

ACLU-UM adopts Robert's Rules of Order as its official manual of parliamentary procedure. Terms of the ACLU-UM Constitution and Bylaws supersede those of the manual.

ARTICLE V: Meetings

Section 1: Meeting Requirements

The Bylaws set forth meeting frequency, format, and other requirements.

ARTICLE VI: Finances

Section 1: Membership Dues

ACLU-UM will not collect dues without amendment and approval by the Dean of Students.

Section 2: Fundraising

The Organization will not solicit funds from individual donors without ACLU permission and will notify the Greater Miami Chapter of the ACLU of monetary gifts or offers of gifts. Plans for fundraising will first be cleared with the Greater Miami Chapter of the ACLU. The University of Miami and the University of Miami School of Law may provide funds and these funds need not be cleared with the Greater Miami Chapter of the ACLU.

Section 3: Budget

The Executive Officers and Events Coordinator must develop a budget that is designed to achieve the ACLU-UM objectives. The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining and drawing up budgets, spending, and requesting funds in accordance with the priorities set forth by the Board. The President may direct changes to the budget or direct the Board to vote on any questions related to the budget or spending. The Executive Officers and the Events Coordinator must work together in good faith to quickly resolve budget questions. If the Executive Officers and Events Coordinator cannot come to an agreement on some term of the budget, the President must resolve the problem with a binding decision as to what the terms should be.

Section 4: Financing Events

The University of Miami and University of Miami School of Law may provide funding for events. All rules, regulations, and procedures must be followed.

The ACLU-UM may submit a well-organized budget proposal to the Greater Miami Chapter of the ACLU to request funds from the Greater Miami ACLU for programming that it wishes the Greater Miami ACLU to assist with, at least one month in advance of programming. The Greater Miami Chapter of the ACLU may make exceptions to the one-month rule at its discretion.

Section 5: Financial Accounts

The University of Miami prohibits establishing a separate bank account. In the event that this policy changes or other financial accounts are allowed, the account must not be established in the name of the ACLU or the Greater Miami Chapter of the ACLU and should not have “ACLU” in its title (to avoid confusion with the ACLU). Instead, it would be established with some other title that clearly refers to the Organization.

ARTICLE VII: Committees

Section 1: Ad Hoc Committees

The Board may establish and modify ad hoc committees by the Committee Amendment process detailed below.

Section 2: Other Committees

The Board may establish and modify committees by the Committee Amendment process detailed below. The Bylaws list the committees and define committee duties and responsibilities.

ARTICLE VIII: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments (Non-committee Amendments)

The Constitution and Bylaws of the ACLU-UM may be amended. Any Board member may propose a normal Amendment (Non-committee Amendment). At least two Executive Officers must be present for this vote. A two-thirds vote by the Board members present is sufficient for any normal Amendment (Non-committee Amendment) to the Constitution or Bylaws. Additions or changes decreed by an amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws of the ACLU-UM must be recorded and kept by the Secretary. Advance notice of Amendments (Non-Committee Amendments) must be emailed to the member list no less than one week from the date of the vote.

Section 2: Committee Amendments

Any Board member, Committee Chair, or Appointee may propose a Committee Amendment. At least two Executive Officers must be present for this vote. A majority

vote by the Board members present is sufficient to establish or modify a committee by Committee Amendment. The creation or modification of ad-hoc committees does not require modifying the Bylaws but should be recorded by the Secretary. The creation or modification of permanent committees does require modification of the Bylaws by the Secretary. Committee Amendments need not be announced to the member list.

Section 3: Construction

If terms of the Constitution and Bylaws conflict, the terms of the Constitution take precedent over the terms of the Bylaws. The initial Constitution may be passed by a majority vote of the Board members present at the first meeting.

Approved at the Organization’s First Meeting

Organizer Date

Initial Faculty Advisor Date