

CONSTITUTION

CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY STUDENT CHAPTER OF

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW

An Affiliated Student Chapter of the Christian Legal Society

Article I. Name

The name of this organization is the Christian Legal Society Student Chapter of UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW [insert name of educational institution] ("Chapter"), a group consisting of law students or pre-law students at the named law school or undergraduate institution ("School"). The Chapter is an affiliated student chapter of Christian Legal Society ("CLS"), an Illinois non-profit corporation with its principal offices in Annandale, Virginia.

Article II. Mission and Purposes

Mission. The mission of the Chapter is to maintain a vibrant Christian Law Fellowship on the School's campus which enables its members, individually and as a group, to love the Lord with their whole beings--hearts, souls, and minds--and to love their neighbors as themselves. (Matthew 22:37-40).

Purposes. In striving to accomplish this mission, the Chapter shall be guided by the ten purposes set forth in Art. I of the CLS bylaws (see appendix 1, Student Chapter Manual) and by the LSM Threefold Ministry Model, which entails three interrelated activities to be carried out by the Chapter:

- Cultivating spiritual growth through communal prayer, fellowship, and worship; learning to share one's faith; and devotional study of the Bible and classic Christian works.
- Showing the love of Christ to the campus community and the community at large by proclaiming the gospel in word and in deed, such as through a life of integrity and charitable good works; as Martin Luther put it, "to be as Christ to our neighbor."
- Addressing the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian in law?" that is, learning to submit every aspect of one's calling in the legal profession to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Article III. Statement of Faith

3.1 *Statement of Faith.* All members and officers of this Chapter must agree to and affirm the following Statement of Faith:

Trusting in Jesus Christ as my Savior, I believe in:

- One God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

- The Deity of our Lord, Jesus Christ, God's only Son conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary; His vicarious death for our sins through which we receive eternal life; His bodily resurrection and personal return.
- The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration.
- The Bible as the inspired Word of God.

3.2 *Adherence.* All members and officers must endeavor to live their lives in a manner consistent with the Statement of Faith.

Article IV. Membership

4.1 *Equal Opportunity and Equal Access.* In the conduct of all aspects of its activities, the Chapter shall not discriminate on the basis of age, disability, color, national origin, race, sex, or veteran status.

4.2 *Membership.* Membership in the Chapter shall be open to all students at the School who agree with the mission and purposes set forth in Art. II, who sign, affirm, and endeavor to live their lives in a manner consistent with the Statement of Faith set forth in Art. III, and who submit an appropriate application for membership to the CLS. Any Chapter member who, for any reason, ceases to be a student at the School or whose CLS membership expires shall immediately cease to be a member of the Chapter.

4.3 *Eligibility to Vote.* Chapter members are the only persons eligible to vote for Chapter officers and for amendments to this Constitution.

Article V. Officers

5.1 *General.* The Chapter shall adopt bylaws delineating the titles, duties, qualifications, and terms of service of at least three officer positions and shall implement a procedure to insure the election or selection of at least three new officers by April 30. At a minimum, the election of an officer requires a majority vote of the Chapter members. In addition to any local requirements consistent with this Constitution, officers must be enrolled as students at the School, agree with the mission and purposes set forth in Art. II, sign and affirm the Statement of Faith set forth in Art. III, submit an appropriate application for membership to CLS, and endeavor to live their lives in a manner consistent with the Code of Conduct set forth in Paragraph 5.2. Chapter officers shall encourage local participants to join CLS. Any Chapter officer who, for any reason, ceases to be a student at the School or whose CLS membership expires shall immediately cease to be an officer of the Chapter.

5.2 *Code of Conduct.* Officers must exemplify the highest standards of morality as set forth in Scripture, abstaining from "acts of the sinful nature," including those in Galatians 5:19-21; Exodus 20; Matthew 15:19; Romans 1:27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. This does not, however, bar all who have ever committed such sins from holding office, so long as they have since repented of these sins (1 Corinthians 6:11, Ephesians 2:1-9, Titus 3:3-7) and so manifest "the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23) that their profession of Christian faith is credible.

5.3 *Transition of Authority.* To insure the continual well-being of the Chapter, outgoing officers shall facilitate the orderly transition of authority by taking adequate time in the winter and spring to train new officers. No later than April 30, the outgoing officers shall mail the Law Student Ministries Annual Reporting form, included as appendix 3 of the Student Chapter Manual, to CLS Law Student Ministries, 4208 Evergreen Lane, Suite 222, Annandale, VA 22003-3264. A copy of this report shall also be provided to the Chapter advisor.

5.4 *Forcible Removal of an Officer.* The removal of a current officer prior to the end of term requires a 75% majority vote of Chapter members.

Article VI. Chapter Advisor

The Chapter officers shall assist the LSM staff to identify a CLS faculty member or local attorney to serve as an advisor to the Chapter. The Chapter advisor must exemplify the same high standards of Biblical morality as set forth in Paragraph 5.2 above. The officers shall meet with the advisor on a regular basis and shall keep him or her informed of chapter meetings, special events, financial matters, problems within the Chapter or the School, and other relevant matters.

Article VII. Meetings

Chapter meetings shall be held with enough frequency to accomplish the mission and purposes enumerated in Art. II; at a minimum at least four (4) general meetings shall be held during each school year. One of the principal goals of meetings shall be to carry out and to plan events and activities designed to carry out LSM's Threefold Ministry Model (see Art. II). The officers, in consultation with the chapter members and advisor, shall determine the frequency, time and place, and agenda of each meeting and shall insure that adequate notice is given of each meeting.

Article VIII. Finances

8.1 *General.* The Chapter may raise revenues through contributions, fundraising activities or by applying for school funds available to student groups. A chapter shall never charge for local dues. If the Chapter chooses to raise revenues, it shall insure that the highest standards of Christian morality and financial integrity are met. At a minimum, the Chapter shall: maintain its funds in a segregated checking or savings account managed according to School standards; require the signatures of two officers to write a check or withdraw funds; incur financial obligations only when there is sufficient funding to honor the obligations; pay all debts in a prompt manner; and maintain accurate financial records showing all receipts and expenditures and all assets and liabilities of the Chapter. Upon request, the Chapter's financial records shall be made available to Law Student Ministries.

8.2 *Distribution of Assets Upon Chapter Dissolution.* Upon dissolution of the Chapter by the termination of this Constitution or otherwise, all funds and any other assets of the Chapter shall be distributed exclusively for charitable or educational purposes or to CLS or other organizations exempt from federal taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article IX. Restrictions on Activities

The Chapter shall not carry on any activities prohibited by CLS under its bylaws or by Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. Without the prior written consent of the CLS Executive Director, the Chapter shall not: be a voluntary party in any litigation; lobby (including the publishing or distribution of statements) or otherwise attempt to influence legislation; or participate or intervene in any political or judicial campaign on behalf of any candidate for office. No part of the net income of the Chapter shall inure to the benefit of its officers or other private persons, except that the Chapter shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services actually rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its purposes.

Article X. Affiliation Process

To become an affiliated student chapter of CLS, at least three officers who are members in good standing of CLS must sign this Constitution, complete the attached Application for Recognition as a Student Chapter of the Christian Legal Society (encl. 1, "Affiliation Agreement"), and submit the originals of the Constitution and Affiliation Agreement to **CLS Law Student Ministries, 4208 Evergreen Lane, Suite 222, Annandale, VA 22003-3264.**

The LSM Director shall forward copies of the Constitution and Affiliation Agreement to the CLS Executive Director. If the Executive Director accepts the application, he or she shall send a signed acceptance document (encl. 2, "Acceptance") to the LSM Director, who shall place the original Acceptance in the Chapter file and promptly forward a copy to the Chapter.

Once the affiliation process is successfully completed, the Chapter shall comply with all of the terms and provisions of the Affiliation Agreement, which is hereby incorporated into this Constitution. The affiliated status of the Chapter shall continue in perpetuity, subject to the condition your chapter membership at all times must include at least three student members of CLS. Either party may terminate this status at any time by written notice to the other party.

Article XI. Amendments and Interpretation

Amendments. The Chapter may amend this Constitution by a 75% member vote, provided, however, that no amendment shall have any force or effect unless it has been approved in writing by the CLS Executive Director. Such request for approval must be submitted in writing through **CLS Law Student Ministries, 4208 Evergreen Lane, Suite 222, Annandale, VA 22003-3264.**


Interpretation. Any conflict or disagreement among chapter officers or members as to the meaning or interpretation of this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the CLS Executive Director, through the LSM Director. The decision of the CLS Executive Director resolving the conflict or disagreement shall be final. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between this Constitution and the CLS bylaws, the terms and provisions of the latter shall control.

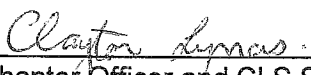
Article XII. Force and Effect of Constitution


This Constitution shall take effect when the CLS Executive Director executes the

Acceptance referred to in Art. X and shall remain in effect until terminated in writing by either party or until the Chapter ceases to meet the qualifications of a CLS student chapter as enumerated in Art. XIII of the CLS bylaws set forth in appendix 1 of this manual. If the Chapter Constitution is terminated, the CLS affiliated student chapter ceases to exist.

CONSTITUTION ADOPTED ON: SEPT. 21, 2004.

SIGNED: 
Chapter Officer and CLS Student Member
Print Name: GEORGE BRANDON SPARKS


Chapter Officer and CLS Student Member
Print Name: CLAYTON LYNAS


Chapter Officer and CLS Student Member
Print Name: WALTER SHIHANY