

# OWLS: OLDER WISER LAW STUDENTS

## CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

### PREAMBLE :

We, the members of University of Miami OWLS (Older Wiser Law Students) Organization, a self-identified group of “non-traditional law students,” hereby associate ourselves to serve as a support and mentoring system for fellow law students, specifically but not limited to, individuals who also consider themselves “non-traditional.” These individuals may be students with families, students with advanced degrees, students transitioning into law from another career, and students who may be older than the average law student. However, the organization is open to anyone and does not discriminate on the basis of age or any other factor. If you are over thirty, just feel that way, or simply like hanging out with people who are, this is the organization for you.

### ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be OWLS at the University of Miami School of Law.

### ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

**Section A:** The membership of OWLS shall be open to all University of Miami School of Law students, staff, administrators, and alumni who unite to promote their common interests.

**Section B:** The advisor of this organization shall be Joanne Koren.

**Section C:** The membership fees are payable per year. The fee will be set initially at twenty dollars per student per year. Any increase in fees will be determined by majority vote on a tri-yearly basis. Students who attend meetings, lectures, workshops, and/or social events regularly will be considered active members.

### ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

**Section A:** The officers of this organization shall be: President, Vice-President of Internal Affairs, and Vice-President of External Affairs.

**Section B:** All officers shall be full time law students who have paid the activity fee and are in good academic standing.

**Section C:** The length of the term of officers shall be August to August. Elections will be held in April.

**Section D:** Nomination for officers shall be from the floor or by email. One may nominate another or nominate him/herself. Nominations shall be made at least one week in advance of the elections.

**Section E:** The vacancy of President is filled by the Vice-President of Internal Affairs and other vacancies are filled by nomination from floor and majority vote at time vacancy occurs.

## ARTICLE IV: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

**Section A:** President: Organize meetings and other functions that the Executive Committee and sixty percent majority of members decide upon, and act as liaison between members and organization advisor.

**Section B:** Vice-President of Internal Affairs: Collect dues, record dues, and submit them into the treasury, and assist the President as needed.

**Section C:** Vice-President of External Affairs: Manage all email communication and email communication databases, assist the President as needed.

**Section D:** Executive Committee: Decide necessity and dates of summer meetings.

## ARTICLE V: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Section A:** Officers shall be elected by majority vote of all members at an election meeting.

## ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

**Section A:** Executive Committee will consist of the officers and one member at large representing each class/year (1L, 2L, 3L). Executive Committee shall have the delegated authority of the OWLS to the fullest extent allowed by law and may transact business between regular or special meetings of the members of the OWLS. It will provide guidance to the OWLS and will act in its name in routine matters, as well as in urgent matters when there is no opportunity.

**Section B:** Orientation Committee will organize and oversee activities for new student orientation at the beginning of every school year. These activities include but are not limited to procuring and manning a booth for the Student Organization Fair and helping with the Parents and Partners panel and reception.

**Section C:** Social Event Committee will organize and oversee social events during the school year.

## ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

**Section A:** Regular meetings are held once a month during school year and during summer if members are available.

**Section B:** Special meetings will be called by President, Advisor, Vice-Presidents, and/or Executive Committee. Any member may request that the Executive Committee call a special meeting. Meetings for new students orientation participation may be held in Spring semester or over the summer, but shall be held prior to the new student orientation week in August.

**Section C:** The Executive Committee will meet at least once per semester during the school year in addition to the monthly member meeting.

## ARTICLE VIII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Roberts Rules of Order shall be used in all situations not covered by provisions of this constitution.

## ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

**Section A:** Amendments to this constitution shall be submitted to the President in writing for submission to the members for a vote.

**Section B:** A majority vote of organizational members or members at a specific meeting' shall suffice for adoption.

## ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION

**Section A:** This organization may be dissolved if approved by the Executive Committee and by a 2/3 majority vote of its members, provided that notice that a vote on dissolution will be taken is furnished to all members at least sixty (60) days before the vote is taken.

**Section B:** Upon dissolution, the officers shall utilize the assets of the organization to pay all obligations and expenses of the organization, including those arising from dissolution and distribution. The balance, if any, shall insofar as possible, be distributed equitably among the organizations that contributed to the assets, or to LAFAC.

Signatures of at least ten (10) members who attest to the ratification of this constitution. Include ID numbers.

# RATIFICATION SIGNATURES

ON THIS 04<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2009.

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