

Student Animal Legal Defense Fund Constitution and By-Laws

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Article One. Name.

The name of this organization shall be University of Miami Law School Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (hereinafter referred to as UM Law School SALDF).

Article Two. Purpose.

The UM Law School SALDF is dedicated to providing a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system, and raising the profile of the field of animal law.

The UM Law School SALDF is dedicated to the goals of educating the law school and surrounding community about forms of institutionalized animal abuse, and engaging in projects that combat that abuse. The UM Law School SALDF is equally dedicated to protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system.

The activities of UM Law School SALDF shall include, but not be limited to: hosting speakers and events on current issues in animal rights and animal welfare law; carrying out research projects for lawyers and organizations promoting animal welfare and animal rights litigation; networking with students at other law schools, colleges, universities, and high schools; conducting educational events on pertinent issues; and advocating on behalf of vegetarian students within our law school.

The activities and events of UM Law School SALDF shall be open to all students of the University of Miami in order to increase awareness of current issues in animal rights and animal welfare law.

Article Three. Criteria for Membership.

Membership in UM Law School SALDF shall be open to all students currently enrolled in UM Law School, regardless of gender, race, creed, age, color, national origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation.

Individual membership in the Animal Legal Defense Fund is encouraged but not required for all UM Law School SALDF members.

The UM Law School SALDF may establish membership dues for all members to facilitate the purpose of UM Law School SALDF. Such dues shall be established at the beginning of the school year by majority vote.

Article Four. Officers.

The UM Law School SALDF shall have the following Officer positions:

- President: Identify activities to promote the mission; oversee events and committees; chapter liaison within law school, ALDF, and community; meeting facilitator
- Treasurer: Manage funds and conduct budget analysis; requests school and ALDF grants; represent chapter at budget meetings
- Vice President of Communications: Compose and distribute meeting minutes and agendas; maintain membership list
- Vice President of Community Affairs: Initiate contact with organizations; identify campaigning opportunities
- Vice President of Events and Activities: Organize semester functions at UM Law School and within the community

The President will be responsible for communicating with the designated contact person at the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Officer titles and duties may be amended prior to elections by majority vote.

Qualifications for persons who are eligible to serve as officers of UM Law School SALDF are as follows:

- registration as a student at University of Miami Law School,
- membership in UM Law School SALDF,
- attendance at a minimum of half of the scheduled meetings of UM Law School SALDF,
- agreement to uphold the goals and purposes of UM Law School SALDF, and to comply with the mission and goals of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

In the event that an officer, for whatever reason, expected or unexpected, is unable to continue in the capacity of their office, the vacated office shall be filled within two weeks.

Article Five. Elections.

Officers shall be elected each school year by a majority vote of the membership of UM Law School SALDF, shall serve a term of one year, and may be reelected. In the event that no candidate attracts the requisite number of votes for election, a run-off shall be held between the two candidates with the highest number of votes.

Students interested in serving as officers shall so inform the UM Law School SALDF no later than one week prior to the election. In electing officers, each member shall have one vote.

Article Six. Meetings.

Regular meetings of UM Law School SALDF shall be held at least once each semester. Decisions at meetings shall be made by a majority of the members, with every present party agreeing to, dissenting to, or abstaining from every action there decided. A necessary quorum for all decisions shall be at least 51% of all members present at the meeting and must include at least one officer.

Special meetings of UM Law School SALDF may be called by any number of members, who shall inform the President or the entire membership at least one week prior to the date of the proposed meeting.

Committees within UM Law School SALDF may hold separate meetings as needed for specified agendas, by giving notice to the President or the entire membership at least one week prior to the date of the committee meeting. The President or entire membership shall be informed of the proceedings from the meeting(s).

Article Seven. Affiliation with the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Activities of the UM Law School SALDF shall at all times be consistent with the mission of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (hereinafter "ALDF"). No litigation will be initiated, endorsed, or supported in the name of the UM Law School SALDF, without prior approval of ALDF. All public policy positions taken by the UM Law School SALDF shall be consistent with the mission of ALDF: "to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals." The UM Law School SALDF will not purport to speak for ALDF or commit it to any position on any matter of public policy or law on behalf of ALDF without ALDF's prior written consent.

Article Eight. Amendments.

Any two current members shall be entitled to propose amendments. Proposed amendments shall be consistent with these By-Laws, and shall be communicated to the ALDF and all current SALDF officers, who shall schedule a meeting for the purpose of approving these amendments. If the date of submission of these amendments is near the date of a regular or special business meeting, then no additional meeting need be scheduled. A two-thirds majority of all votes shall be required for any changes to this constitution.