

## **Constitution of Law Students for Reproductive Justice**

### **Preamble**

Law students for Reproductive Justice is a student-led, student-driven national non-profit network of law students, professors, and lawyers committed to fostering the next wave of legal experts for the reproductive justice movement. Mobilizing and mentoring new lawyers and scholars is a long-term strategy that will build capacity, vision, and leadership for a more successful reproductive justice movement. Law functions as both a catalyst to prompt the expansion of rights and a tool with which to hold governments and communities accountable for the delivery of liberty, equality, dignity, and fairness promised by those rights.

Reproductive justice will be achieved when all people and communities have access to the information, resources, and support they need to attain sexual and reproductive self-determination. We dedicate ourselves to ensuring access to medically accurate, age-appropriate, culturally competent sex and sexuality education, as well as comprehensive, quality reproductive healthcare, including prenatal care, postnatal care, contraception, abortion services, and alternative reproductive technologies for women and men, free from coercion, discrimination and violence.

Today, a growing number of law schools offer comprehensive courses in reproductive rights law, but opportunities for professional training remain scarce. As individuals, each of us faces difficulties obtaining the education and training we need to become strong, successful advocates for reproductive justice. Together, we can change the situation and become a powerful, educated force that defends and expands reproductive rights in the United States and around the world.

### **Article I: Name**

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be Law Students for Reproductive Justice hereafter referred to as LSRJ.

### **Article II: Purpose**

Section 1: The purpose of this organization shall be to educate, organize, and support law students to ensure that a new generation of advocates will be prepared to protect and expand reproductive rights as basic civil and human rights.

### **Article III: Affiliations**

Section 1: This organization is affiliated with Law Students for Reproductive Justice National Headquarters.

## **Article IV: Membership**

- Section 1: The general membership of Law Students for Reproductive Justice shall consist of matriculated students who support and further the purposes and goals listed in Article II, Section 1 of these by-laws and who regularly attend Law Students for Reproductive Justice activities. The majority of the membership of this organization shall consist of full-time enrolled Miami Law students.
- Section 2: This organization does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, national origin, gender expression, sexual orientation, immigration status, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disabilities.
- Section 3: Membership in this group shall be open to all who are interested and are full-time or part-time law students at the University of Miami.

## **Article V: Officers**

- Section 1: The officers of the organization shall consist of:
- A. President – The President shall preside at all meetings and will be able to appoint up to (3) advisors or administrative assistants, subject to the approval of a majority of the E-Board.
  - B. Vice President – The Vice President shall assist the President in all matters pertaining to official LSRJ business.
  - C. Secretary - The Secretary shall record minutes and attendance at meetings. The Secretary shall take the responsibilities of the Social Secretary, until that position is filled or at any time the position is not filled. The Secretary shall also send emails and updates regarding the organization.
  - D. Social Secretary-The Social Secretary shall plan and coordinate all LSRJ events, upon approval of the President and Vice President.
  - E. Treasurer-The Treasurer shall keep track of the organization’s finances and will work together with the Social Secretary for the planning and execution of all fundraisers, upon approval of the President and Vice President.
  - F. Membership Director- The Membership Director shall keep track of the members and work on recruiting efforts throughout the law school.
  - G. These positions and duties are subject to change with the approval of a majority of the E-Board.
- Section 2: The qualifications for office are to be active members and 2 or 3L’s, unless there are not enough upper classmen to fill these positions, where 1L’s may then fill them.
- Section 3: The term of each office shall be one year from the time of elections.

Section 4: Should an officer's position become vacant during his/her term, impromptu elections will be held.

#### **Article VI: Advisor**

Section 1: Our organization advisor is: Professor Mary Anne Franks.

Section 2: The duties and responsibilities of the advisor shall be to oversee the organization's proceedings. The advisor does not need to attend meetings.

Section 3: Should the position of advisor become vacant during the year the leadership board will have the discretion to choose a qualified replacement.

#### **Article VII: Meetings**

Section 1: Regular meetings of the organization shall be held monthly.

Section 2: Special meetings of the organization shall be held at the earliest possible time when a majority of the leadership can be present. They shall be held for special elections, amendments, or for any other reason which the leadership members deem appropriate.

#### **Article VIII: Amendments**

Section 1: This constitution shall be amended by a vote of 2/3 majority of active Law Students for Reproductive Justice members present at any regular or special meeting.

Section 2: Provision for advance notice of amendment shall be one week prior to the amendment meeting.