



**Akron**

**Student Animal Legal Defense Fund**

**Akron Law School Constitution and By-laws**

**Article One. Name.**

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

**Article Two. Purpose.**

The Akron Law 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, as well as and raising the profile of the field of animal law.

The Akron Law School SALDF strives to establish connections between animal, human and

environmental abuse and suffering in society and the justice system and strengthen awareness, scholarship, and action surrounding these issues.

The Akron Law SALDF is committed to scholarship and service in the Akron community and beyond.

The activities of Akron Law School SALDF shall include, but not be limited to hosting speakers, debates, and conferences 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 such as information tables and video screenings on pertinent issues; carrying on community service projects dedicated to helping animals to help animals outside of the law school; producing a newsletter and/or blog/website to keep students current on animal rights issues in the law and in the news; advocating sustainable and cruelty-free lifestyles and options.

### **Article Three. Criteria for Membership.**

Membership in Akron Law School SALDF shall be open to all students currently enrolled in Akron Law School and in good standing with the University (with a GPA of at least 2.0 and good financial standing), regardless of gender, race, creed, age, color, national origin, diet, physical disability, or sexual orientation. Individual membership in the Animal Legal Defense Fund is encouraged but not required for all Akron Law School SALDF members.

Membership will be revoked upon failure to remain in good standing with The University of

Akron or failure to abide by this constitution's purpose. The member will be allowed to reinstate their membership upon good standing with The University of Akron or, for constitutional violations, by a majority (two-thirds) vote by members.

#### **Article Four. Officers.**

Officer positions of the Akron Law SALDF will be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**PRESIDENT:** The President will be responsible for communicating with the designated contact person at the Animal Legal Defense fund, setting the agenda, coordinating meetings and overseeing all aspects of the Akron Law SALDF, representing the Akron Law SALDF at external functions, approving the newsletter or blog/website and any spending, events or activities. The President will also be the main contact and coordinator for events, will delegate duties to the appropriate officers and members for the events, and approve all correspondence from officers prior to the correspondence being sent to all members.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** The Vice President will assume all of the President's duties and responsibilities in the President's absence. The Vice President will also be responsible for maintaining and updating the newsletter or blog/website with approval from the President prior to publication. In the event of the Vice President's absence, the duty of updating the newsletter or blog/website will pass onto the Secretary.

**SECRETARY:** The Secretary will be responsible for taking notes at SALDF meetings, advertising SALDF functions and meetings, keeping track of current issues and news, and report on Akron Law SALDF activity. The Secretary shall report to the appropriate law school

administrator the details of any event that is performed in direct service to the community or as a fundraiser for a charitable organization outside the School of Law.

TREASURER: The Treasurer will be responsible for handling and distributing donations, managing the group's finances, and for handling the fundraising research necessary for fundraising events.

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

- registration as a student at Akron Law School,
- membership in Akron Law School SALDF,
- attendance at a minimum of two meetings of Akron Law School SALDF,
- agreement to uphold the goals and purposes of Akron 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. If an officer is not present at a minimum of two meetings per semester without just cause, they will be subject to removal from their office.

Multiple positions may be held by the same member with approval from the President and members.

Elections will be held during the Spring Semester. Officers are elected to serve a term

commencing on the date of their election and ending on the date of the election of the next year's Officers during the following Spring Semester.

#### **Article Five. Elections.**

Officers shall be elected each school year by a majority (two-thirds) vote of the members of Akron Law School SALDF who are in attendance at the election.

Students interested in serving as officers shall so inform and submit a statement of their interest to the advisor of the Akron Law SALDF no later than 48 hours prior to the election. In electing officers, each member who is in attendance at the election shall have one vote.

#### **Article Six. Meetings.**

Regular meetings of Akron 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 Akron 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.

**Article Seven. Affiliation with the Animal Legal Defense Fund.**

Activities of the Akron 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 Akron Law School SALDF, without prior approval of ALDF. All public policy positions taken by the Akron Law School SALDF shall be consistent with the mission of ALDF: "to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals." The Akron 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. Faculty Advisors.**

The Akron Law SALDF will have a faculty advisor or advisors.

The Faculty Advisor(s) must be a full time faculty member or contract professional at The University of Akron School of Law. The Akron Law SALDF shall recommend a faculty advisor to the Dean of the law school. The Dean shall select and approve the faculty advisor.

**Article Nine. 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 chapter members in attendance at the amendments meeting must vote on any amendments to this constitution.

#### **Article Ten. Finances.**

SALDF may undertake fundraisers for its own purpose. All fundraising shall be conducted in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations of The University of Akron. SALDF shall apply for Extracurricular Activity Funding (EAF) according to the calendar prescribed by The University of Akron. The President, Vice-President, and Treasurer are responsible for submission of all EAF applications on behalf of SALDF. SALDF shall manage its own finances, in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations of The University of Akron.

#### **Article Eleven. Non-Discrimination Policy**

It is the policy of this institution that there shall be no unlawful discrimination against any individual in employment or in its programs or activities at the university of Akron because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, status as a parent during pregnancy and immediately after the birth of a child, status as a parent of a young child, status as a foster parent, military status, genetic information, or status as a veteran. The University of Akron prohibits sexual harassment of any form in all aspects of employment and its programs and activities and prohibits discrimination

based on sexual and racial or ethnic orientation in employment and admissions. See UA Board Rule 3359-38-01 (A2).