

# **Constitution of The University of Akron School of Law**

## **Student Chapter**

### **Of**

## **The American Association for Justice**

(edited August 12, 2010)

### **ARTICLE I. NAME.**

The name of the chapter shall be the Student Chapter of the American Association for Justice (AAJ) at the University of Akron School of Law (Student Chapter).

### **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE.**

The Student Chapter has been established to encourage law students and future trial attorneys at The University of Akron School of Law to become actively involved in promoting the civil justice system and championing the cause of those who deserve redress for injury to person and property.

### **ARTICLE III. AAJ AFFILIATION.**

By the adoption of this Constitution and compliance with any other requirement of AAJ, the Student Chapter shall be recognized as an affiliated Student Chapter of AAJ and shall enjoy rights and privileges of affiliation as determined by the AAJ Board of Governors. The Board of Governors, through the AAJ Law Scholl Committee and the AAJ Law School Coordinator or other designee of AAJ, shall be entitled to review the programs, activities and policies of the Student Chapter and may, after appropriate notice to the Student Chapter, rescind affiliation status.

### **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP.**

SECTION 1. The Student Chapter, through the Executive Committee, may establish annual Student Chapter membership dues.

SECTION 2. Any law school student in good academic standing (with a G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher and not in violation of the Disciplinary Code of the University of Akron School of Law) attending the University of Akron School of Law is eligible for membership (Member) in the Student Chapter.

SECTION 3. To be a member in good standing in the Student Chapter, the Member must be a student member in good standing of AAJ and pay any periodic dues of the Student Chapter, provided, however, that the member also continues to adhere to the objectives of the Student Chapter as well as the Mission of AAJ.

SECTION 4. Membership will be revoked (removed) by the Student Chapter upon failure to pay annual Student Chapter membership dues as established through the Executive Committee, failure to remain in good standing with The University of Akron School of Law, violation of the Disciplinary Code of the The University of Akron School of Law, and/or failure to abide by the purpose of the Student Chapter as stated in this constitution or the mission of AAJ as stated in the constitution of AAJ.

SECTION 5. Voting and non-voting members. Voting members are members on a trial team participating in competition. Non-voting members are members not on a competing trial team.

#### ARTICLE V. OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The Officers shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

SECTION 2. The President shall be at least a second year law student who has been a Student Chapter Member for a minimum of one (1) year. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Student Chapter and shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee and Student Chapter.

SECTION 3. The Vice President shall perform such duties as are delegated by the President. The Vice President shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President. The Vice President 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 purpose.

SECTION 4. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Student Chapter and Executive Committee meetings, and shall be the official custodian of all Student Chapter records, direct all official Student Chapter mailings of notices, and keep an accurate census of membership. The Secretary shall also be responsible to submit to the AAJ Law School Coordinator or designee all reports on a timely basis as required by AAJ.

SECTION 5. The Treasurer may collect and keep a record of all Student Chapter dues and monies. The Treasurer shall receive, disburse and invest the funds of the Student Chapter in the manner directed by the Executive Committee.

SECTION 6. The recognized authority shall be Robert's Rules of Order. The Vice President shall advise the presiding officers on questions of parliamentary procedure in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as may be delegated by the President, Executive Committee, and Student Chapter on Constitutional questions.

SECTION 7. The term of office shall be one (1) year, which shall begin at the close of the last general Student Chapter meeting of each school year, and no officer may succeed himself or herself in the same office.

SECTION 8. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the duties, powers and responsibilities of President shall be assumed immediately by the next officer in the line of succession as follows: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President.

In the event of a vacancy in the other offices, notice of the vacancy shall be given to the Members who shall elect to fill the vacancy by majority vote a meeting to be held not sooner than thirty days after such notice has been given.

For purposes of this Article, a vacancy arises upon the death or resignation of an officer, or upon certification by two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee that an officer is mentally or physically unable to fulfill the duties of office.

#### ARTICLE VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

SECTION 1. The Executive Committee shall manage and direct the affairs of the Student Chapter.

SECTION 2. The Executive Committee shall total nine (9) Members including all elected Officers as well as five (5) Student Chapter members appointed by the President and approved by a majority of the elected Officers.

SECTION 3. The Executive Committee shall meet at least six times during the school year, with notification of such meetings going to all members of the Executive Committee at least ten (10) days in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION 4. Emergency or special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President, with notification to all Members at least two (2) days in advance of the meeting.

#### ARTICLE VII. FACULTY ADVISOR.

SECTION 1. The Student Chapter shall have a Faculty Advisor who is a full-time faculty member at The University of Akron School of Law.

SECTION 2. The Faculty Advisor shall provide guidance to the Executive Committee and the President as needed relating to the activities and programs of the Student Chapter.

SECTION 3. The Faculty Advisor shall be selected by the School of Law Dean's Office.

SECTION 4. The length of the term for the Faculty Advisor shall be for one year from April to April of the following year.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCE.

SECTION 1. Annual Student Chapter membership dues may be established by the Student Chapter, through the Executive Committee.

SECTION 2. Monies generated by a Student Chapter event or fundraiser shall be deposited into the outside account of the Student Chapter.

SECTION 3. The budget request of the Student Chapter shall be prepared by the Treasurer for submission to the University of Akron Extracurricular Affairs Subcommittee for the following academic year. Extracurricular Affairs monies shall be used to sponsor Student Chapter events and activities that further the mission of AAJ and the objectives of the Student Chapter during that academic year. Such monies shall be used in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Office of Student Development.

ARTICLE IX. POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION.

The Student Chapter shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, creed, disability, national origin, sexual orientation, or inability to pay the membership dues on account of indigence.

ARTICLE X. UNIVERSITY RECORDS.

The Student Chapter shall maintain the names and addresses of the current officers, the name of the required Faculty Advisor, and the most recently amended Constitution with the Office of Student Development.

ARTICLE XI. ELECTIONS AND VOTING.

SECTION 1. Only Members in good standing as provided hereinabove shall be entitled to vote in any election or hold office in the Student Chapter.

SECTION 2. The Executive Committee may promulgate election rules, which shall serve as permanent rules unless amended by the Executive Committee. The rules may be amended by the Executive Committee at any regular meeting of the Committee; however, any amendment shall not affect any election held within thirty (30) days of the approval of such amendment.

ARTICLE XII. GENERAL MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. General Student Chapter meetings shall be held at least four (4) times during the school year, with the final meeting held at the close of the school year for the purpose of electing officers for the following school year.

SECTION 2. Notification of a General Student Chapter meeting must be provided to all Members fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

### ARTICLE XIII. COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. The Executive Committee may create Standing Committees deemed necessary to operate the Student Chapter on a continuous basis. The Executive Committee shall elect members to fill positions on Standing Committees with staggered terms do that one-third (1/3) of all terms expire each year. The Executive Committee shall fill vacancies on each Standing Committee at the beginning of each school year. The President shall appoint the Chair(s) from among the members of the Standing Committee.

SECTION 2. The President may appoint such other Committees at her or her discretion. The President shall appoint Members to fill these Committees and appoint the Chair of each Committee.

SECTION 3. The Executive Committee shall by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members on the Executive Committee have the power to remove any Committee member or Chair.

### ARTICLE XIV. IMPEACHMENT.

SECTION 1. Impeachment charges may be brought against any officer for the reason of failure without written excuse to attend general Student Chapter and/or Executive Committee meetings or failure to fulfill the obligations as enumerated in Article V.

SECTION 2. Impeachment proceedings may be enacted upon three-quarters (3/4) vote of the Members present at the General Membership of the Student Chapter meeting or two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership, whichever is less.

SECTION 3. The following procedure shall be followed in impeachment proceedings are voted to occur. (1) The officer in question shall be notified not less than ten (10) days prior to the impeachment proceedings. (2) A special meeting shall be set to discuss the charges where all parties shall be permitted to respond. (3) A vote should be taken by the membership as set forth in SECTION 2 if the decision is made to proceed. (4) The office subsequent to an impeachment shall then be treated as a vacancy in accordance with SECTION 7 of ARTICLE V.

ARTICLE XIV. AMENDMENTS.

SECTION 1. The Constitution may be amended at the General Membership meeting of the Student Chapter by three-quarters (3/4) of the Members present or two-thirds (2/3) of the membership, whichever is less.

SECTION 2. An amendment must be proposed to the President or Secretary or Treasurer in writing not less than two (2) months prior to the General Membership meeting at which the amendment will be considered and (1) be approved by the Executive Meeting and (2) be circulated in writing to the Members fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.

ARTICLE XV. BYLAWS.

SECTION 1. The executive Committee may adopt a set of Bylaws subject to the approval of the majority of the Members.

SECTION 2. Adopted Bylaws shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution.