

**INTERNATIONAL LAW SOCIETY  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF LAW**

**CONSTITUTION**

**PREAMBLE**

We, the students of the University of Maryland School of Law, in order to fully understand and recognize the principles of international law, educate ourselves and our fellow students in the principles of international law, international organizations and institutions, and comparative legal system, provide for contract and communications among law students, school faculty, and the international community to promote peace, diversity, justice and mutual interdependence through international understanding and cooperation, Do hereby Ordain and Establish the following Constitution as the governing instrument of the University of Maryland International Law Society.

**ARTICLE I**

Name

Section 1 - The name of this organization shall be the "University of Maryland International Law Society" or "ILS," hereinafter referred to as the "Society."

Section 2 - The term for which the Society is organized is perpetual.

**ARTICLE II**

Purposes

The purposes of the Society are as follows:

1. To assist law students and lawyers in becoming internationally-minded and professionally skilled;
2. To assist in and encourage the development of international career resources and opportunities for internationally-minded students and lawyers;
3. To promote the study of international law, thus to encourage a just world order and cooperation among the citizens of all nations;
4. To promote the comparative study of the legal systems of the world, thereby to foster communication and understanding among citizens of different nations;
5. To promote greater understanding of international law, understanding of international organizations and institutions and their capacity to bring about the resolution of international disputes and the promotion of world objectives of economic, social, cultural and humanitarian character;

6. To educate ourselves and others in these areas of knowledge through discussion, speakers, research, publications and other appropriate means, and to promote the exchange of knowledge and experience between lawyers and students from around the world;
7. To promote the art of appellate advocacy in international areas by promoting the selection from among interested law students a team to represent the University of Maryland School of Law in the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court competition;
8. To provide law students with information about career opportunities in the area of international law;
9. To promote international understanding by providing law students with information about study abroad programs and overseas internships, and providing a forum for students and fellows to share their international public interest work experiences with the law school community.

### ARTICLE III Powers

The Society shall have all the powers necessary, appropriate, or convenient for accomplishing its purposes, pursuant to the SBA policies, including the power to receive, acquire and dispose of funds and other property, to accept grants in aid of its purposes, to enter into agreements, to elect officers, make reimbursement for services rendered or expenses incurred on behalf of the Society, to convene meetings of members, and generally to exercise the powers given by law.

### ARTICLE IV Membership

Section 1 - Any person who is an enrolled student at the University of Maryland School of Law shall be eligible for membership into the Society.

Section 2 - If it is determined that the collection of dues are necessary, ILS members shall submit the requisite amount in order to be eligible to vote and/or to run for office.

### ARTICLE V General Body of the University of Maryland International Law Society

Section 1 - The General Body of the Society shall consist of all members who are in good standing.

Section 2 - The General Body shall have the power to elect officers, approve any large expenditures of funds, vote on amendments to the Constitution, vote to expel members for good cause, vote to impeach officers

for good cause and any other matter which the Executive Board may present the General Body.

Section 3 - All General Body members shall have the option of serving on a standing committee. Each Event Coordinator shall act as a Committee Chair for one or more Committees as necessary. The Chair of each standing committee shall be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Executive Board. Each Chair shall coordinate with any interested General Body members who wish to serve as Committee members. However, the Executive Board may in the interest of the Society, apportion the number of members allowed to serve on the Committee.

## ARTICLE VI Officers

Section 1 - The Officers of the Executive Board of the Society shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and three to six Event Coordinators of equal status. All officers shall hold office from the conclusion of the election process - to be conducted at the time of the last General Body meeting of the Spring semester. No officer shall serve more than two terms in the same office. Officers shall serve without compensation and must be active members of the Society. Only elected Officers of the Executive Board shall possess the authority to vote on internal Executive Board decisions.

Section 2 - A vacancy in an elected office shall be filled by another elected officer if possible, for the remained of the unexpired term, by a majority vote of the General Body. A position is deemed to be vacant when an elected officer resigns or is impeached or if the elected officer will be overseas for either the entire fall or spring semester of that officer's term. Only the Vice President shall replace the President, should a vacancy in that position arise. If it is deemed not to be feasible for an elected officer to fill a vacancy on the Board, and if less than two months remain in the unexpired term, the President can appoint, confirmed by majority Board vote, a General Body member to fill the vacancy and that appointed officer shall carry out their responsibilities in the capacity of an Acting Officer.

Section 3 - In the event that three or more officers vacate elective offices at any given time, two weeks notice shall be given to the General Body, at which point, new elections for those vacancies will be held in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article X, Sections 2 through 5.

Section 4 - The officers of the Executive Board shall retain the discretion to make the following appointments, on a need basis, throughout the year: At Large Chair, 1L Class Representative, and/or an Acting Officer position. The Executive Board shall determine the selection process and define the

responsibilities for the appointed positions. Appointed officers shall be encouraged to attend and participate in meetings of the Executive Board, however, appointed officers are not empowered to cast a vote in the Executive Board voting processes.

## ARTICLE VII Powers and Duties of Officers

Section 1 - The President shall preside at all General Body and Executive Board meetings, supervise all Society activities, and perform other duties incidental to the office.

Section 2 - The Vice President shall work as closely as possible with the President wherever possible and shall preside at all General Body and Executive Board meetings in the President's absence.

Section 3 - The Treasurer shall submit a budget and an annual written report in compliance with SBA regulations and deadlines, and perform any other duties designated by the President and the Board. The Treasurer is encouraged to pursue other funding options, coordinate the submission of grant proposals, and strongly encouraged to submit an application for USGA funds. The Treasurer should also collect and pay out all Society funds as desired by the Executive Board, deposit funds to the SBA Treasurer, keep the accounts open at all times for inspection, and be prepared to announce current balance at meetings of the General Body and Executive Board.

Section 4 - The Secretary shall regularly check the ILS email account and facilitate communication between officers and the members. The Secretary shall maintain an accurate and updated list of members and relevant contact information. Prior to meetings, the Secretary shall distribute agendas prepared by the President and/or Vice President. During meetings of the General Body and Executive Board, the Secretary shall take minutes. Following General Body meetings, the Secretary shall upload an electronic copy of the General Body minutes to the ILS website.

Section 5 - Up to six Event Coordinators, being of equal status, shall perform all of the duties as detailed in Article XI of this Constitution and any further duties deemed necessary for the day-to-day functioning of the Society. These duties include, but are not limited to, communication with the Board and General Body regarding developments associated with their assigned responsibilities. The Event Coordinators shall be responsible for discussing and leading the following initiatives, and any others that arise as needed: fundraising, social events, event advertising, preparing speaker bios, event logistics (room reservation, food, etc), and serve as a liaison with the LL.M. program, USGA, CDO, and ILSA.

ARTICLE VIII  
Executive Board

Section 1 - The Executive Board (the "Board") shall consist of the elected Officers of the Society. The Faculty Advisor of the Society shall act as consultant to the Board and the Society. The Board shall be responsible for the management of all Society activities, subject to General Body approval, as required by this Constitution.

Section 2 - The Board meetings shall be held at times and places as the Board shall decide, and each Board member shall receive at least two (2) days notice from the Board. A majority of the voting Board members shall constitute a quorum. As far as practical, the class schedules of individual Board members should be considered when establishing times for Board meetings.

ARTICLE IX  
Meetings

Section 1 - Regular meetings of the Society shall be held as directed by the Board, written notice having been given to the General Body at least three (3) days prior to the meeting. At a minimum, each semester shall include one General Body Meeting, one Society-sponsored event, and one fundraiser.

Section 2 - Every General Body meeting shall consist of one daytime and one evening session, in accordance with SBA regulations. The same material issues shall be discussed at both sessions, to the extent that an attendee of one meeting is not in a less informed position than an attendee of the other meeting.

Section 3 - Special meetings of the Society may be held at any time by the Board, or by a signed petition of 10 General Body Members at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting. The written notice shall contain a summary of the matter to be considered and only such matters shall be discussed.

ARTICLE X  
Elections

Section 1 - The election of officers of the Society shall be held in conjunction with the last spring semester meeting of the year and the Officers-elect shall take office upon the conclusion of the election process.

Section 2 - Any member in good standing may be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting as a candidate Board member. A call for nominations shall be announced to the General Body at least two weeks prior to

the election. All eligible nominees shall have an equal opportunity to run for a position and to present an oral and/or written statement to the General Body.

Section 3 - Voting shall be by secret ballot. The following shall be predetermined and publicly announced: vacant positions, responsibilities of officers, voting method, mechanism for absentee voting, and voting window. Fifty percent plus one vote shall constitute a majority for election. If a majority is not obtained on the first ballot, the two candidates receiving the most votes shall be candidates in a run-off election. Follow-up elections due to any election irregularities shall only occur with the consent of 2/3 vote by the Executive Board.

Section 4 - The Board members not running for election shall collect and tabulate the vote.

## ARTICLE XI Standing Committees

Section 1 - The Committees of the Society may include, but shall not be restricted to, the following: Academic Events, Social Events, Fundraising, International Week Coordination, Publicity, Outreach. This section shall not prohibit the creation of ad hoc committees necessary for the operation of a special event as determined by the Board.

Section 2 - The President, along with the Board, shall assign Committee Chair responsibilities to the Events Coordinators, in accordance with Article VII of this Constitution.

## ARTICLE XII Outreach

Section 1 - The Society shall assist and support the International and Comparative Law Program, in any reasonable manner, by facilitating communication between the faculty and student body.

Section 2 - The Society shall assist and support the International Moot Court Board, in any reasonable manner necessary, to ensure the continued participation of the University of Maryland School of Law in the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition.

ARTICLE XIII  
Amendments

Section 1 - All proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to any Board Member.

Section 2 - Notice of the amendment shall be provided to all Society members at least one week prior to the next general meeting, at which time the amendment shall be voted upon.

Section 3 - This Constitution shall be amended by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the General Body members present and voting at any regular meeting, provided that the amendment has been approved by a majority of the Executive Board.

Section 4 - Amendment to this Constitution may be accomplished by revision of this document, by an addendum thereto, or as the Executive Board may approve under the particular circumstances. In such instances, the faculty advisor should be consulted prior to the enactment of any revisions.

ARTICLE XIV  
Assumption of Rights

The Society hereby assumes all of the rights stated herein.

Adopted this 17th day of February 1992. Revised this 18th day of September 1998. Revised this 9th day of November 2009.