MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Business Law Society is to enthusiastically foster the business law curriculum at the University of Maryland School of Law, to gain practical knowledge of business, law, to meet other students with similar interests, and to gain insight from practicing attorneys in all areas of business law. The Business Law Society will accomplish this Mission by providing networking, educational, and career opportunities to members of the Business Law Society. Finally, the Business Law Society is committed to creating an encouraging and enthusiastic community of business law students through our membership and programming.
CONSTITUTION

Article I – Name of organization.

The name of this organization shall be the Business Law Society ("BLS") of the University of Maryland School of Law.

Article II – Objective of the organization.

The objectives of the BLS shall be to:

Section A – Promote the BLS to all students at the University of Maryland School of Law.

Section B – Encourage students to actively plan and participate in events geared towards a career in business law.

Section C – Facilitate knowledge of and participation in a business curriculum.

Article III – Membership.

Section A – The BLS is open to all students at the University of Maryland School of Law and does not discriminate on any basis, including but not limited to: age, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, disability or religion.

Section B – Students may join the BLS and be considered active members by joining the BLS list serve and participating in one fundraiser per semester. Members are also expected to attend at least one general meeting of the BLS per semester.

Article IV – Officers.

Section A – There will be an executive board to manage the BLS. The executive board will be comprised of the officers of the BLS. The officers of the BLS shall be:

1. President
2. Vice President (Executive and Administrative as needed)
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

Section B – The President’s responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to:
1. Presiding over all meetings and the BLS;
2. Setting the agenda for all BLS meetings;
3. Serving as the representative of the BLS to the University;
4. Overseeing all functions of the BLS.

Section C – The Vice President’s responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to:
1. Performing duties as assigned or delegated by the President; (Admin/Exec)
2. Supervising and coordinating the recruiting efforts of the BLS. This includes the recruitment of new members as well as the retention of existing members. (Admin)
3. Overseeing the structure and content of the BLS website. (Admin/Exec)
4. Presiding over all meetings in the absence of the President. (Exec)
5. Acting as head of all committees and organizing/maintaining strong student participation in committees. (Admin)
6. Acting as a liaison to other university organizations such as the Journal of Business and Technology and other University of Maryland business oriented groups, such as the Smith School of Business in College Park, Md. (Exec.)

Section D – The Secretary’s responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to:
1. Performing duties as assigned or delegated by the President;
2. Drafting and distributing the approved agenda prior to all meetings;
3. Recording the attendees and meeting minutes at Executive Board meetings;
4. Overseeing the maintenance of BLS information on the school bulletin board.
5. Unless there is a publicity committee, the Secretary must ensure that all events are publicized in the manner which the school permits.
6. Maintain an updated list of students who are members of the listserv.

Section E – The Treasurer’s responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to:
1. Performing duties as assigned or delegated by the President;
2. Drafting and monitoring the annual budget, including providing reports to the executive committee;
3. Meeting with the Student Bar Association ("SBA") Treasurer to reconcile the accounts of the BLS; and
4. Ensuring that the BLS is in compliance with applicable SBA Budget rules and guidelines.

Article V - Committees.

Section A – There shall be as many committees of the BLS as the executive board deems appropriate. Those committees shall at least be the following:
1. Curriculum Committee
2. Fundraising Committee
3. Networking Committee
4. Publicity Committee

Section B – Any active member of the BLS may serve on a committee. Each committee shall have at least one chairperson as appointed by the Executive Board. Appointment of the Networking, Publicity, and Curriculum committee chairs shall take place following the Spring election. The prospective committee chairs shall submit a short statement of interest and qualifications to the Executive Board for review and by majority vote, the committee chairs shall be appointed. The Fundraising chair, historically reserved for an incoming first year student, shall be appointed in a similar manner following the first general meeting of the semester. The President of BLS shall conduct the vote. The committee chairperson(s) shall serve for a term of one year.

Section C – Each semester, the Curriculum Committee shall:
1. Perform duties as assigned or delegated by the President;
2. Coordinate a guest speaker to lecture on current business law issues, or coordinate a workshop, seminar, or series of either, related to specific topics in business law; and
3. Maintain contact with the business faculty at the University of Maryland School of Law for at least the following purposes:
   a. To provide suggestions to the faculty in planning the business law curriculum; and
   b. To inform the faculty of upcoming speakers, seminars and workshops so that they may participate and/or incorporate those activities into their curriculum.

Section D – Each semester, the Fundraising Committee shall:
1. Perform duties as assigned or delegated by the President; and
2. Coordinate at least two BLS fundraising activities per semester in compliance with the University of Maryland School of Law Student Bar Association ("SBA") Budget Request and Financial Information Packet, section (d)(i)(e), or equivalent SBA requirement.

Section E – Each semester, the Networking Committee shall:
1. Perform duties as assigned or delegated by the President;
2. Coordinate one networking event per semester for students, faculty, and practitioners; and
3. Create and maintain an alumni contact list.

Section F – Each semester, the Publicity Committee shall:
1. Perform duties as assigned or delegated by the President;
2. Work with the Vice President to maintain and update the website format and content;
3. Advertise all BLS activities in the school and local community as appropriate, including working with the Secretary to post events on the bulletin board and plasma screen;
4. Design, edit, and solicit content articles for the Ovez school newsletter weekly and for the Raven school newspaper semestery.

Article VI - Elections

Section A – Term and time of elections.
1. Each officer of the BLS shall serve for a term of one year.
2. Elections shall be held annually during the third week of April with the exception of committee chairs who shall be appointed no later than the third week of September.
3. If an officer resigns or is removed from office, the following process will be used:
   a. An officer may be removed from office in accordance with Section E of this Article.
   b. Within one week of such officer’s resignation or removal, nominations for such officer shall be made to the President;
   c. Elections will be held at the next general meeting in accordance with Section D.

Section B – Administration of the voting process.
1. The President and Vice President shall be responsible for coordinating, supervising, and administering all BLS elections. The President shall ensure that ballots are created prior to the meeting where voting will occur. The Vice President will be responsible for counting the ballots.
2. The candidate who wins a simple majority of the votes shall take office.
3. In the event of a tie between candidates, the President shall cast the deciding vote.
4. In the event that the President or Vice President is running for one of the positions being voted on, a member of the BLS who has no investment in the outcome of the election shall administer the election and count the ballots.

Section C – Eligibility.
1. All active members as defined in Article III, Section B, are eligible to vote in the election and run for office.

Section D – Nominations.
1. At least one week prior to the general meeting where elections are to be held, the President shall tender a request for nominations to the entire organization.
2. The nominations periods shall end prior to the general meeting where elections are to be held.
3. The members nominated for officer positions will be listed on the ballot and put to the membership for vote.
4. Prior to the vote, each candidate, or his or her representative, will be permitted to briefly address the entire group.
5. Write-in candidates will be permitted. A write-in candidate must be nominated by at least one other member of the group. The person nominating the write-in candidate must notify the President of his or her intention to nominate the write-in candidate before the general meeting where elections are to be held. The President shall then announce at the meeting the existence of the write-in candidate and afford such candidate an opportunity to address the entire group.

Section E – Removal from Office.
1. Any officer may be removed from the executive board by the following process:
   a. A three-fourths vote of the executive committee is required before the officer may be removed from office.

Article VII – Amendments.

Section A – This Constitution may be amended at a general meeting by two-thirds of the members present at that meeting or by unanimous agreement by the Executive Board.

Section B – An amendment may be proposed by any member of the organization no less than one month prior to the general meeting where the amendment will be considered. The amendment must be distributed to the members of the organization no less than two weeks prior to the meeting where the amendment will be considered.