

Military Law and Veterans Society (MLVS) Constitution

Constitution and Bylaws

I. Formation

a. Name: The name of this organization is Military Law and Veterans Society (MLVS).

b. Membership

- i.** Membership will be open to all current students of the University of Maryland Carey School of Law (UMSCL). MLVS will not discriminate against potential members on the basis of gender, age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious preference, sexual orientation, gender identity, family status, mental or physical disability, veteran status, appearance, education, socio-economic situation, organizational affiliations, beliefs, or public statements (provided such beliefs and/or public statements do not conflict with other provisions of the MLVS constitution, by-laws, or mission statement).
- ii.** Dues: The Executive Board (E-board) retains the right to impose membership dues. Any dues will be determined before the first general body meeting of the academic year.

II. Executive Board and Officers:

a. Positions: The elected positions shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Communications Chair/Secretary.

- i.** Additional elected and appointed positions may be created as needed by majority vote of the officers. Such positions will remain in effect for the duration of the academic year in which they are created, and can be made permanent via the amendment process described in this Constitution.
- ii.** The elected and appointed officers shall constitute the MLVS Executive Board
- iii.** The Executive board shall serve as the coordinating and executive body of MLVS, and shall have the sole and exclusive authority to carry out the objectives and mission of MLVS.
- iv.** Each member of the Executive Board shall have one (1) vote. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast an additional tie-breaking vote.
- v.** The MLVS executive board will meet regularly throughout the semester, at least once a month, unless extenuating events prevent it.
- vi.** The Dean of the School of Law shall appoint a member of the administration, with the approval of MLVS, to serve as the Faculty Advisor to the organization. The Faculty advisor shall serve at the pleasure of the Dean and MLVS, and shall assist the Executive Council at its meetings and in its operations.

III. Duties of Officers

a. The MLVS President shall:

Military Law and Veterans Society (MLVS) Constitution

- i. Be the Chief Executive Officer of the organization
- ii. Be the primary point of contact and delegate to the SBA, the Dean, and the Faculty Advisor
- iii. Ensure the accomplishment of MLVS's short and medium term objectives and progression towards its mission.
- iv. Bear ultimate responsibility for creating an organizational atmosphere that promotes and upholds the MLVS core values.
- v. Be responsible for representing the organization to the other organization within and without the Law School
- vi. Serve as a voting member of the MLVS executive board
- vii. With majority approval of the executive board, create ad hoc committees and appoint chairpersons for such committees in order to accomplish specific tasks in accordance with the mission. Such positions will exist for the remainder of the President's term, or until task completion or the President terminates such positions with cause.
- viii. Shall cast the tie-breaking vote in Executive board issues
- ix. Shall serve for a term of one (1) academic year per term
- x. Prepare the Vice President for assumption of duties under the conditions described in section b.i. *infra*, to include contingency planning

b. The MLVS Vice President shall:

- i. Assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in the case of absence, inability, or otherwise incapacity of the President to perform his/her duties.
- ii. Serve as a voting member of the MLVS executive board
- iii. Act as a primary liaison between the MLVS General Membership and the Executive Board, particularly with new and incoming students.
- iv. Coordinate and administer general body meetings
- v. Coordinate and administer, or recommend for appointment an Officer In Charge (OIC), the annual election of the MLVS executive board
- vi. Shall serve for a term of one (1) academic year per term

c. MLVS Treasurer:

- i. Maintain accurate and computerized records of all financial transactions of MLVS [and save for three years if needed], and will submit a report of all receipts and expenditures at least once each semester
- ii. Coordinate and administer the budget process as outlined later in this constitution
- iii. Serve as a voting member of the MLVS executive board
- iv. Manage the MLVS contacts database and produce follow-up communiques as needed to further the MLVS mission
- v. Serve as the primary representative to the administration and current/potential sponsors regarding funding for MLVS activities

Military Law and Veterans Society (MLVS) Constitution

vi. Shall serve for a term of one (1) academic year per term

d. The MLVS Communications Chair/Secretary shall:

- i. Maintain a current computerized copy, with amendments, of the MLVS Constitution, By-Laws, and Standing Rules.
- ii. Maintain accurate, digital, and permanent records of all proceedings of the executive board
- iii. Record and post all minutes of meetings of the executive board within a reasonable time
- iv. Coordinate and provide notice of MLVS activities with the Dean's office, Oyez, and the University Student government association
- v. Update the MLVS website as necessary
- vi. Serve as a voting member of the MLVS executive board
- vii. Serve for a term of one (1) academic year per term

IV. Election and Selection process

i. Elections

1. MLVS executive board will commence the nomination process no later than four (4) weeks before the end of class, and complete the election process no later than two weeks prior to the end of classes
2. The dates for informational meetings, the opening and closing of nominations, and election shall be set by the MLVS executive board.

ii. Eligibility and requirements for positions

1. Each candidate must certify that he or she will attend the Law School for at least one (1) full additional academic year, and must designate his or her expected class and division for the coming academic year, as well as his or her current class and division. The candidates must also certify to uphold the MLVS Constitution and By-Laws.
2. President and Vice President: Those wishing to be candidates for President and Vice President must be in good academic standing with the Law School. The executive board reserves the right to request disclosure by potential candidates of any past felonious conduct, professional misconduct, financial impropriety, or honor code violations at previous institutions. If the candidate is a Veteran, the executive board also reserves the right to request disclosure of discharge status. However, past negative history may not necessarily bar eligibility. Moreover, candidates shall not otherwise be barred from nomination based on service history or lack thereof, nor shall they be discriminated against on the basis of

Military Law and Veterans Society (MLVS) Constitution

race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, family status, mental or physical disability, appearance, education, socio-economic situation, organizational affiliations, beliefs, or public statements (provided such affiliations, beliefs, and/or public statements do not conflict with other provisions of the MLVS constitution, by-laws, or mission statement).

3. Treasurer : The treasurer must also be a law in good standing as describe in subsection (1) and (2) of this section above. Additionally, potential candidates to treasurer may be asked to demonstrate strong personal financial credibility and solvency. Nominees shall not otherwise be discriminated against as described in subsection (2).
4. Communications Chair/Secretary: The secretary must be a law student in good standing as described in subsection (1) and (2) of this section above .

iii. Campaign and Election Rules

1. At the beginning of each Spring Semester, the MLVS Executive Board shall appoint an officer and/or committee to oversee the election process, including dates, campaign rules, voting deadline, methods of voting, method for counting votes, and criteria for disqualification.

iv. Nominations

1. MLVS will make nomination forms available to all its members in any medium(s) that are appropriate. Such forms will include a brief description of MLVS, the positions up for election, the duties of the positions, and all dates for the election process.
2. Extensions: the officer in charge (OIC) of the election process may extend for up to one (1) week the nomination period for any office without an official nomination. Additional extensions may be made upon conferring with the remainder of the MLVS executive board.

v. Campaigning, forums, and informational meetings

1. The election process OIC/committee may choose to hold, as necessary:
 - a. an informational meeting for interested candidates as necessary.

Military Law and Veterans Society (MLVS) Constitution

- b.** a candidates' forum for all offices. Such a forum will place a special emphasis on contested offices.
- 2.** Campaigning for an office may begin once a valid nomination has been made and filed. Campaigning must cease after the commencement of voting.

vi. Write-ins

- 1.** All ballots shall provide a blank line for write-in candidates for each office. To be counted as a valid vote, a write-in candidate must be eligible for that particular office pursuant to this Article. If a write-in candidate wins a particular office, the election process OIC must immediately certify that the candidate is eligible.

vii. Polling

- 1.** The election OIC shall supervise all polling, by whatever medium, and shall insure that adequate voting times exist for both day and evening students.
- 2.** The election OIC shall create and enforce Campaign rules as necessary to ensure a speedy, accurate, and fair election process.
- 3.** The winner of an election will be determined by a simple majority vote of the votes cast for that office by the MLVS members. If no candidate has a simple majority vote of the votes cast, the top two (2) candidates will proceed to a run-off.
- 4.** The OIC will schedule a run-off and give adequate notice to all MLVS members no later than 5 school days after the voting.

viii. Results; Recounts; Protests and Appeals

- 1.** The election OIC shall certify the election results twenty-four hours after the end of polling. Upon certification, the OIC shall notify all candidates and the MLVS executive board. After notice, the OIC will then ensure the results are made known to the MLVS General Body.
- 2.** Any candidate may request, with or without cause, a recount, in writing, for the office in which he/she was a candidate within twenty-four (24) hours of posting the results.
- 3.** A candidate may also file a protest of the election, in writing, to the OIC, within twenty-four (24) hours of the conclusion of polling. The OIC shall have the authority to order a new election for a particular office. Decisions of the OIC may be appealed by anyone and overruled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the MLVS executive board.

ix. Removal

Military Law and Veterans Society (MLVS) Constitution

1. Any MLVS officer may resign from office by forwarding a letter, in writing, to the MLVS President.
2. Upon submission to the executive board of a petition containing the signatures of two-thirds (2/3) of the full MLVS General Body Membership, the officer named in the position shall be automatically removed from office.
3. The MLVS executive board may remove any elected or appointed officer of MLVS for malfeasance in office, which includes, but is not limited to: misuse of funds (including unauthorized incursion of debt or expenditure of funds without budgetary authority); conviction of any violation of the Honor Code; substantial and willful failure to perform their duties of office; conduct unbecoming a MLVS member (as defined in the proceeding section 4), or willful or grossly negligent violations of the MLVS constitution, mission, and/or core values.
 - a. Any executive board member may file a written impeachment petition to initiate the removal process. Said petition shall state with specificity the grounds for impeachment and removal from office.
 - b. The accused will have at least one (1) week to file a written response.
 - c. The accused member shall be removed from office only upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the entire attending general body of MLVS, taken by roll call vote in open session.
4. **Conduct Unbecoming, defined:** In addition to the types of malfeasance noted above, conduct unbecoming a MLVS member includes, but is not necessarily limited to knowingly, recklessly, or with gross negligence committing any of the following:
 - a. Being convicted for DUI or illicit drug use while in office.
 - b. Making extremist or violent statements/actions against the United States, her allies, or current and former service members and/or their families
 - i. "Extremist" is to be defined by what a reasonable person would find extreme.
 - ii. Examples under this section would include flag burning, writing threatening messages to soldiers, advocating the violent overthrow of government, etc.
 - c. Making hateful or bigoted statements against other students or people groups based on race, religion, culture, gender, sexuality, etc.

Military Law and Veterans Society (MLVS) Constitution

- d. Misuse of the military uniform, which includes wearing un-earned awards (“Stolen Valor,” whether or not it is used in the attempt to gain tangible benefits), or wearing the uniform at a rally or any other event or activity designed to promote or endorse a political party, political candidate, or partisan politics.
- e. Any other statements or conduct that would clearly and egregiously bring shame and discredit upon MLVS, the Armed Services and its members and Veterans, the Law School, or the United States.

x. Vacancies

1. Upon permanent vacancy occurring in the office of the MLVS President, the MLVS Vice President shall succeed to the Presidency. In the case of simultaneous vacancies, the MLVS Treasurer shall succeed to the MLVS Presidency.
 - a. In the event of complete vacancy of the above positions, the MLVS General Body will hold a special election to fill the vacancy.
2. Upon permanent vacancy of other offices in the executive board, the MLVS President may appoint a member to the office, with two-thirds (2/3) approval of the executive board.
3. In the event that MLVS may lack the personnel to fill the roles of all established executive board positions, the remaining executive board will delegate the duties of the unfilled position as necessary and by majority agreement of the remaining board.

xi. Term of Office

1. After elections, all successful candidates become MLVS officers-elect, and take office immediately upon the graduation of the outgoing class. All appointed MLVS officers shall take office upon appointment in writing.
2. An officer may be eligible for one (1) re-election to any given office he or she currently or has held.

V. Meetings of Executive Board

a. Standing Rules:

- i. Each term of the MLVS executive board may decide on standing rules to govern the conduct of executive board meetings. The standing rules will be approved by simple majority vote. Prior to the adoption each year of Standing Rules, the Standing Rules in effect during the prior MLVS executive board term shall govern the executive board meetings.
- ii. The MLVS President and Vice President shall enforce the standing rules.

Military Law and Veterans Society (MLVS) Constitution

- iii. This document takes precedence over any standing rules or other documents produced by MLVS members.

VI. Meetings: Notice and Quorum

- a. The MLVS Executive Board shall meet at least three (3) times each semester. The MLVS Vice President or Treasurer shall post and notify members of meetings at the beginning of each semester and before each meeting. The MLVS President, or the Executive Boards, shall determine days, times, and locations of the meetings.
- b. The MLVS President, or a majority of the members of the MLVS Executive board, may convene an emergency meeting of the executive board. The Vice President or Treasurer shall, as time permits, give notice of the meeting and the purpose to all MLVS members.
- c. Quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the voting members of the MLVS executive board, excluding vacant offices.

VII. Committees

- a. The President shall appoint ad hoc committees at his discretion, or at the recommendation of a majority of the Executive Board, to handle specific issues or events. The ad hoc committees shall expire at a time specified by the President, or at the end of the President's term, whichever comes first, unless extended by the MLVS Executive Board or the new President.

VIII. Budgeting Guidelines

- a. The MLVS Treasurer shall create and submit a budget proposal to the MLVS executive board, which may approve with a simple majority vote. The Treasurer shall then submit the approved budget to the SBA, on time, and according to the SBA Budgeting Committee rules and Article X of the SBA Constitution.
- b. The MLVS Treasurer will have the ability, if necessary, to create and request the assistance of a budget and fund-raising committee composed of MLVS members in good standing. The MLVS Treasurer will notify the MLVS executive board of the creation of any such committee.
- c. Public information: All records of the MLVS Treasurer shall be open to inspection, upon request, by any member of MLVS or by the Faculty Advisor. The Treasurer shall redact sensitive and confidential information from the records, including card and bank account information, and any individually identifying information.

IX. Disciplinary

- a. In order to ensure the good reputation and higher standards expected of MLVS's constituency, the executive board, by majority vote, may subject General Members of MLVS to censure or revoke their membership for any behavior falling under Article IV (ix)(4), "Conduct Unbecoming."

Military Law and Veterans Society (MLVS) Constitution

- b.** The executive board may only take such disciplinary actions after consulting with any appointed Faculty Advisor and the office of the Dean of Student Affairs, and only after executing reasonable Due Process under the circumstances.

X. Amendment Process to Constitution, By-Laws, Standing Rules

- a.** Any member of the MLVS Executive Board may propose, in writing, an amendment to this document or the Standing Rules. The SBA and Law School Administration may also propose changes to this Constitution. Changes mandated by SBA at confirmation hearing on 25 January, 2015, hearing is exempt from a formal amendment process.
- b.** The MLVS Executive board must approve a proposed amendment by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the entire voting membership of the board, taken by roll-call in open session.
- c.** The Amendment shall state its effective date.
- d.** The MLVS President or any officer so empowered must incorporate any approved amendments into this document, and the Executive Board shall notify the MLVS General Body membership of the approved amendment and changes.
- e.** Standing rules may be suspended for a given issue at a meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the executive board.

XI. Ratification:

- a.** This Constitution was ratified by unanimous agreement of the founding members, prior to 25 January, 2015.