

# **Real Property, Trusts and Estates Organization (RPTE), University of Maryland School of Law**

## Mission Statement

The Mission of the Real Property, Trusts, and Estates Organization (“RPTE”) is to serve the interests of the greater legal community, specifically in the fields of real property, trusts, and estates, and also to serve the University of Maryland School of Law and the greater Maryland and D.C. populace. To meet this end, RPTE will develop projects that serve the legal community at large and will educate students on these fields through networking, educational, and career opportunities. RPTE will also focus on instilling practical knowledge and skills in its members in order to strengthen students’ practical contribution to the legal community and provide its members a stronger platform from which to interact with practitioners.

## Constitution

### Article I – Name of Organization

The name of this organization shall be the Real Property, Trusts, and Estates Organization (“RPTE”) of the University of Maryland School of Law.

### Article II – Objective of the Organization

The objectives of the RPTE shall be to:

Section A – Educate students to the fields of Real Property, Trusts, and Estates as fields of legal practice.

Section B – Train students in skills related to Real Property, Trusts, and Estates but that are applicable in any field of law, skills like contract drafting, negotiation, etc.

Section C – Develop and maintain projects that employ students to actively engage in the RPTE fields of law and its practitioners.

### Article III – Membership

Section A – The RPTE 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 RPTE and be considered active members by joining the RPTE list serve and participating in one fundraiser per semester. Members are also expected to attend at least one general meeting of the RPTE per semester.

### Article IV – Officers

Section A — There will be an executive board to manage the RPTE. The executive board will be comprised of the officers of the RPTE. The officers of the RPTE 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 RPTE;
2. Setting the agenda for all RPTE meetings;
3. Serving as the representative of the RPTE to the University;
4. Overseeing all functions of the RPTE

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 RPTE. This includes the recruitment of new members as well as the retention of existing members. (Admin)
3. Overseeing the structure and content of the RPTE 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 for collaboration, marketing, or otherwise.

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 RPTE 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 RPTE; and
4. Ensuring that the BLS is in compliance with applicable SBA Budget rules and guidelines.

#### Article V — Committees

Section A — RPTE reserves the right to create various committees during its lifetime to help develop and maintain various projects.

Section B — Any active member of the RPTE may serve on a committee.

## Article VI — Elections

### Section A — Term and time of elections.

1. Each officer of the RPTE shall serve for a term of one year.
2. Elections shall be held annually.
3. If an officer resigns or is removed from office, the remaining board members will consult with members of the organization to determine replacement. The ultimate decision of replacement will occur via vote from remaining board members.

### Section B — Administration of the voting process.

1. The President and Vice President shall be responsible for coordinating, supervising, and administering all BLS elections.
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 RPTE 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 of RPTE in that year 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.