Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the University of Maryland Carey School of Law Criminal Law Association. The name will be abbreviated as CLA.

Article II: Purpose

CLA provides a network for all students interested in getting involved in criminal law. It coordinates activities that provide forums for students to learn more about both the prosecution and defense of a criminal case. The association encourages debates on current issues in the criminal law and the field of criminal justice. It hosts panel discussions concerning platforms relevant to the pursuit of criminal justice.

Article III: Membership

Membership in CLA shall be open to all students currently enrolled in the University of Maryland Carey School of Law, regardless of gender, race, creed, age, color, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

Article IV: Officers

The Officers of CLA shall be:

• President
• Vice President
• Secretary
• Treasurer
• Communications Chair (If enough interest to fill)
• 1L Representative

Article V: Elections

Officers shall be elected each school year by a majority vote of the membership of CLA, shall serve a term of one year, and may be reelected. In the event that no candidate attracts the requisite number of votes for election, a runoff shall be held between the candidates with the highest number of votes. The voting may take place in person at the meeting, or via email. 3D/4E graduating members may not vote.
Members interested in serving as officers shall so inform the CLA President no later than one week prior to the election. In electing officers, each member shall have one vote.

In selecting a 1L Representative, following the first general body meeting the President shall send out an email to all 1L students that provided their email to show interest in CLA. The President will request a paragraph from the 1Ls stating any past experience with criminal law issues, their interest in CLA, and any ideas they have for the group. The Vice President and President will confer and choose a candidate that will then be confirmed by the rest of the board. The board reserves the right to select more than one 1L Representative if there are qualified candidates.

**Article VI: Meetings**

CLA shall hold at least one general body meeting each semester.

Decisions at meetings shall be made by a majority of the members, with every present party agreeing to, dissenting to, or abstaining from every action there decided. A necessary quorum for all decisions shall be at least 51% of all numbers present at the meeting and must include at least one officer.

Special meetings of CLA may be called by any number of members, who shall inform the President or the entire Executive Board at least two weeks prior to the date of the proposed meeting. The whole board will then decide on when to meet and what form the special meeting should take.

**Article VII: Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended under the following conditions:

1. A majority of the Executive Board votes to hold a special meeting of CLA members for the purpose of discussing and adopting new amendments.
2. Advance notice of the proposed changes, as well as the time and place of the special meeting, is provided to the membership.
3. Proposed amendments are given thorough consideration through discussion by the present members at the special meeting.
4. Amendments subject to ratification by a majority of the members present at the special meeting.