

# **The Constitution of the Outlaws at The University of Akron School of Law**

## **Article I**

The official name of this organization shall be Outlaws.

## **Article II (Purposes and Goals) :**

The Outlaws shall endeavor in all equitable and practical ways to achieve the following goals and actualize the following purposes:

1. Foster the ideals of tolerance, respect, understanding, and equality in the community regarding the legal rights and privileges of all people, notably those individuals who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-gendered, or gay-friendly;
2. Develop law student interest and learning regarding gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gendered legal issues through educational programs;
3. Provide a forum in which students, faculty, staff, administrators, and alumni may come together to express themselves and discuss legal issues relevant to gay, bisexual, and trans-gendered people;
4. Work as an advocate in defense of the right against discrimination based on sexual orientation;
5. Encourage and support agencies that work at meeting the needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and trans-gendered communities;
6. Function as a supportive and educational resource for the entire community, especially the law school community.

## **Article III (Organizational Structure) :**

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2. Ad-hoc Committees

a. Should it be deemed necessary by the Executive Board, ad-hoc committees may be created to carry out duties of limited scope and duration.

2. Ad-

#### **Article IV (Membership) :**

1. Eligibility: Those eligible for membership in the OUTLAWS shall be any undergraduate, graduate, or law student, alumnus or alumna, faculty, staff member, or attorneys and individuals from the community who believe in the goals and purposes of the OUTLAWS.
2. Membership in the OUTLAWS shall not be construed as labeling an individual as gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, or trans-gendered. Any member found to be revealing the sexual orientation of another member shall be subject to the membership revocation process outlined in Article IV, Section F. The OUTLAWS shall not require any of its officers or members to be of a particular sexual orientation.
3. Nondiscrimination: The OUTLAWS shall not discriminate on the basis of race, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, sexual identity, gender, gender identity, age, physical challenge, physical or mental health, religious belief or affiliation, and/or organizational memberships in the selection of its members or in its programs unless federal or state laws allow such exceptions.
4. Voting Membership: Voting member status shall be extended to any University of Akron law student with a valid identification in good standing who has paid membership dues not less than two (2) weeks prior to the date of the vote the individual would like to participate.
5. Non-voting Membership: A non-voting membership shall be extended to any individual mentioned in Article IV, Section A, but who are not eligible for a voting membership in Article IV, Section C. Non-voting members may attend any OUTLAWS- sponsored event.
6. Revocation of Membership: If it has been shown by the policies and procedures outlined in this Constitution that any member, voting or non-voting, has been intentionally undermining any of the purposes and goals of the OUTLAWS (as outlined in Article II), be it publicly or privately, his/her membership may be revoked for the remainder of the academic year and reapplication may be denied until the following academic year. Revocation shall follow the procedure set forth in Article IV, Section G.
7. Hearing of Revocation or Impeachment: When addressing a matter of membership revocation or officer impeachment, the following procedures will be followed:

a.

The Executive Board shall be required to review and discuss any allegations of misconduct against a OUTLAWS member. After this review, the Executive Board shall determine by majority vote if action may be warranted. The Executive Board shall then notify the accused in writing of the allegations and the outcome of its review and vote.

- i. The Executive Board shall be required to give the name of the individual making the

on probationary status are prohibited from attending OUTLAWS-sponsored events, meetings, or entering the OUTLAWS office unless willingly chaperoned by a member of the Executive Board. Members on probationary status shall not have voting privileges for the length of the probation. If an officer is placed on probation, he or she shall be divested of all authority for the duration of the probation.

1. The accused must be notified in writing of the date of the disciplinary hearing. The accused shall be given the choice of being heard only by the Executive Board or the general membership body.

### C. Election to Office and Office Tenure

1. The terms of all officers will begin with the first meeting in April and terminate at the first meeting of April in the following academic year.
2. Nominations for elected offices will be held in the second meeting in February and will be taken in the following order: Vice- President/President-Elect, Financial Officer, Administrative Officer. A qualified member may be nominated for more than one office.
3. Elections will be held during the first meeting in March. There will be separate elections for each office in the same order that nominations were

taken. A simple majority among voting members present, or by signed proxy, will be observed. Any person elected to a superior office is ineligible to run for a lesser office.

### D. Duties and Descriptions of Officers a. President

- i. Coordinates the functions and activities of the OUTLAWS as determined by the Executive Board.
- ii. Maintains communication with an between members.
- iii. Serves as liaison between members, other student organizations, faculty, staff, the community, student government, the University, et al.
- iv. Is responsible for ensuring all administrative requirements of student organizations at the University of Akron are met.
- v. Oversees and ensures completion of all duties of the officers as delegated or described in



4. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Administrative Officer for any reason other than the election of a new Administrative Officer, the Executive Board will appoint a new Administrative Officer.
5. Any person filling a vacant office must be eligible to hold that office by the qualifications established in Article IV, Section B.

#### H. Resignation from Office

1. Officers, who serve voluntarily, may resign at any time.
2. To resign from office, the officer must submit in writing a letter of intent to the President. The President must then promptly present the letter to the rest of the Executive Board.
3. Vacancies created by resignation will be filled under the guidelines in Article V, Section G.

#### I. Impeachment of Officers

1. Impeachment of officers can be initiated by any member in good standing. Impeachment proceedings will follow the guidelines of Article IV, Section G.
2. Grounds for impeachment:
  - i. Elected Officers
    1. Intentionally undermining the goals and purposes of the OUTLAWS as set forth in this Constitution, be it publicly or privately.
    2. Non-performance of duties as outlined in this Constitution.
    3. Public Misrepresentation of the OUTLAWS.
  - ii. Appointed Officers
    1. Intentionally undermining the goals and purposes of the OUTLAWS as set forth in this Constitution, be it publicly or privately.
    2. Non-performance of duties as outlined in this Constitution.
    3. Public Misrepresentation of the OUTLAWS.
    4. Interference with the duties of an elected officer.
3. A separate proceeding must be used if the charges also warrant revocation of membership.

d. Following an impeachment, any vacancies will be filled under the guidelines of Article V, Section G

### **Article VI (Finance) :**

A. OUTLAWS shall manage its finances and funds in accordance with the rules and regulations of The University of Akron.

1. Annual dues for membership shall be set forth by the Executive Board and shall be collected at any time during the academic year. After the fourth meeting of the fall semester, payment of dues will be required for a member to be given voting status as described in Article IV, Section D.

2. OUTLAWS may accept funds given from outside The University of Akron in the form of donations, in-kind contributions, benefits, and/or fund-raising activities.

**Article VII (Dissolution):**

1. OUTLAWS shall be dissolved upon three quarters majority vote of the Executive Board, followed by three quarters majority vote of the membership of OUTLAWS. All members of OUTLAWS regardless of official voting status shall be allowed to vote on this matter.
2. OUTLAWS can be dissolved at any time that the officials of The University of Akron can offer proof that OUTLAWS violated the rules and regulations of The University of Akron and dissolution is the only recourse. Appeals of this dissolution may be pursued by the

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2. The Amendment will be discussed by the general membership and refined into a written statement.
3. The written amendment will be submitted to the Executive Board for review. The President must ensure the amendment will comply with the rules and regulations of The University of Akron. Any changes deemed necessary by the Executive Board can be instituted by unanimous vote of the Executive Board or by approval of the amendment's author(s). The Executive Board must report the amendment back to the general membership within three weeks of receiving it.
4. Upon receiving the amendment, the general membership shall discuss its merits prior to voting. A three-fourths majority of voting members is required for adoption.
5. Amendments become effective immediately upon being accepted.