

# CONSTITUTION

of the Student Bar Association

of the Touro Law Center

The students of the TOURO LAW CENTER establish this Constitution to be the foundation of our Student Bar Association.

## ARTICLE I – Authority

Sec. 1 – The authority of this Constitution is the basis for the conduct of all business of the Student Bar Association.

Sec. 2 – All students admitted to the Law Center and properly enrolled during any semester are members of the Student Bar Association. Each member is granted the right to vote for the election of each representative to which his class is entitled or in any special election conducted by the Student Bar Association.

Sec. 3 – The responsibilities of the Student Bar Association are divided among the EXECUTIVE BOARD, the GENERAL COUNCIL, and the JUDICIAL REVIEW BOARD.

Sec. 4 – The Executive Board and General Council shall be elected for a single term, from and after the first week of May following the general election.

## ARTICLE II – Executive Board

Sec. 1 – (1) The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Day Vice President, Evening Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. (2) All candidates for the Executive Board must be in good academic standing. (3) All candidates for President must have a cumulative G.P.A. of at least 2.5 or, if the candidate's G.P.A. accumulated beginning August 22, 2007, then that candidate must have at least a 2.83 G.P.A.

Sec. 2 – The President shall (1) be the Chief Executive Officer of the Student Bar Association, (2) call and preside over all meetings of the General Council, (3) be responsible for the execution of all measures adopted by the General Council, (4) serve as the official representative of the student body outside the Law Center community, (5) make such appointments and delegations not envisioned by the Student Bar Association's Constitution or By-Laws as are necessary to perform the duties of President, (6) have the authority to conduct the necessary business of the Association on an expedited basis.

Sec. 3 – The Day Vice President shall (1) assume the shared responsibility of the President with the Evening Vice President in the event of the President's absence, (2) serve as the Executive Board's primary Student Affairs and Activities officer, and (3) perform such duties as the President or the General Council may assign in the administration of the Student Bar Association.

Sec. 4 – The Evening Vice President shall (1) assume the shared responsibility of the President with the Day Vice President in the event of the President's absence, (2) serve as the Executive Board's primary Academic Affairs officer, and (3) perform such duties as the President or the General Council may assign in the administration of the Student Bar Association.

Sec. 5 – The Secretary shall (1) maintain accurate records of the minutes of General Council Meetings, the attendance of its elected members, all motions passed by the General Council, and the balloting pursuant to each motion, (2) make the records available to any member who seeks their publication, (3) serve as the Executive Board’s primary Communications and Marketing officer, and (4) perform such duties as the President or the General Council may assign in the administration of the Student Bar Association.

Sec. 6 – The Treasurer shall (1) serve as the Chief Financial Officer of the Student Bar Association, (2) maintain the financial accounts of the Association, (3) administer the process for appropriations for qualified student organizations via a Finance Committee, (4) prepare and present financial reports as the President or the Council may direct, (5) perform such duties as the President or the General Council may assign in the administration of the Student Bar Association.

### ARTICLE III – General Council

Sec. 1 – The General Council shall consist of all elected Representatives, the voting members of the Executive Board, and the Student Bar’s representative to the American Bar Association. It will serve as the legislative body of the Student Bar Association.

Sec. 2 – (1) Each Division shall elect one Representative for every forty students. (2) Each Evening Year shall be represented by a minimum of two representatives.

Sec. 3 – The Representatives shall (1) be voting members of the SBA General Council, (2) exercise, by resolution, the legislative authority of the Association, (3) perform such duties as the President or the General Council may assign in the administration of the Student Bar Association.

Sec. 4 – The President of the Association shall only cast a vote in the event of a tied vote by the Council.

Sec. 5 – The Executive Board, by four-fifths approval, may veto a resolution passed by the General Council.

Sec. 6 – The General Council is empowered to override an Executive veto by a two-thirds vote of the entire elective Council.

Sec. 7 – The General Council is empowered to approve the proposed budget of the Treasurer and the Finance Committee.

Sec. 8 – Any legislation passed by the General Council is to be executed by the President and Executive Board of the Student Bar Association.

## ARTICLE IV – Judicial Review Board

Sec. 1 – The judicial and adjudicative powers of the Student Bar Association shall be vested in the Judicial Review Board.

Sec. 2 – The Judicial Review Board shall be composed of five members of the Student Bar Association who are in good academic standing and who are not members or candidates for offices on the Executive Board or the General Council, or a functioning member of the Association in accordance with its administration.

Sec. 3 – The Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Judicial Review Board shall be nominated by the President and subject to the approval of a majority vote by the General Council.

Sec. 4 – Any student or organization adversely affected by a matter concerning the Student Bar Association may submit their grievance to the Judicial Review Board. All complaints are to be made in writing and submitted to the Chief Justice. Complaints will be made available to the Executive Board and the General Council.

## ARTICLE V - Organization

Sec. 1 – At minimum, meetings shall be held by the General Council once per month that the Day and Evening Divisions are in session. It is the role of the General Council meetings to reflect the Student Bar's main purpose of representing student concerns, policy recommendations, and encouraging student involvement.

Sec. 2 – The Executive Board is empowered to call Emergency Meetings of the General Council if deemed necessary, within forty-eight hours of the proposed meeting, with notice being provided to all members.

Sec. 3 – Quorum shall be achieved by the presence of a majority of the elected members. Council business and reports may be continued in the absence of quorum, but no legislation may be passed.

Sec. 4 – Any member may participate in any meeting of the General Council unless the Chair or President has closed the meeting to only elected members for necessary

purposes. All members have the same legislative rights as elected members, save the ability to make motions and voting.

Sec. 5 – The Secretary of the Student Bar shall make all reasonable efforts to make the agenda of the Council available to the public.

## ARTICLE VI - Elections

Sec. 1 – To be placed on the ballot, a candidate for General Council shall (1) be an interested member of the Student Bar and be enrolled in good academic standing in the Year and Division for which he/she seeks to be a Representative, and (2) obtain a quarter of the signatures that represent the totality of that Year and Division, or a minimum of fifty signatures if the Year and Division are larger than two hundred members.

Sec. 2 – A candidate for representative to the American Bar Association shall (1) be an interested member of the Student Bar and be enrolled in good academic standing, and (2) obtain fifty signatures of interested members of the Student Bar.

Sec. 3 – A candidate for the Executive Board shall (1) be an interested member of the Student Bar and be enrolled in good academic standing, (2) obtain sixty signatures of interested members of the Student Bar, unless (3) a candidate for President, wherein the candidate shall collect seventy-five signatures of interested members of the Bar.

Sec. 4 – Candidates for the General Council shall be elected by a plurality of votes.

Sec. 5 – Candidates for the Executive Board shall be elected by a majority of votes. If there are more than one candidate for any given Executive Board position and no candidate reaches a majority of the vote, then there will be a run-off between the two highest vote getters and the candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast in that run-off will win the position.

## ARTICLE VII - Removal

Sec. 1 – (1) The General Council, by a majority vote, may remove an elected Representative for conduct unbecoming a student representative or for ineffective representation of the student body. (2) The removed member will then have the opportunity to either resign or bring the Removal to the Judicial Review Board. (3) The elected member is not removed until either he or she resigns or the Council's decision is upheld by the Judicial Review Board.

Sec. 2 – (1) The General Council may, by a two-thirds vote, remove an elected member of the Executive Board for conduct unbecoming a student representative or for ineffective representation of the student body. (2) The elected Executive Board member is not removed until either he or she resigns or the Council’s vote is upheld by the Judicial Review Board.

## ARTICLE VIII - Amendments

Sec. 1 – Amendments to this Constitution may be presented to the General Council by any member at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Sec. 2 – Upon approval of the Amendment by the General Council, the proposed amendment will be distributed by the General Council to the Bar at large, and the student body will have two weeks to consider it. The Amendment will be ratified into the Constitution upon a two-thirds vote.

Sec. 3 – The two-thirds vote of the student body must be from a total vote of at least one-half of those eligible.

## ARTICLE IX - Ratification

Sec. 1 – This Constitution shall be deemed ratified by a two-thirds majority of the eligible student body.

Sec. 2 – The name of the school for which this Constitution applies may be changed by a simple majority vote of the elected members present constituting a quorum of the General Council.

## ARTICLE X – By-Laws and Legislation

Sec. 1 – By-Laws of the Student Bar Association must be approved by a two-thirds vote of those present constituting a quorum of the General Council.

Sec. 2 – No by-law or legislation may conflict with this Constitution. Any by-law or legislation found to be in conflict with this Constitution is invalid.

Submitted to the Student Bar Association

April 2, 2008

by the President's Constitution Committee

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Todd M. Jones, President  
Student Bar Association

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William Cohen, Chief Justice	Bradly Marks, Associate Justice
Judicial Review Board	Judicial Review Board

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Richard Santos, Associate Justice	David Silverman, General Council
Judicial Review Board	Solicitor

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Ray Malone, 3LE Representative  
Student Bar Association

Unanimously approved by the Student Bar Association

April 7, 2008