

# **Constitution for the Lambda Law Alliance**

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## **Article I: NAME & PURPOSE**

This organization is called the Lambda Law Alliance (Lambda). Lambda provides professional, social, and academic support for bisexual, lesbian, gay, trans, queer, intersex, and asexual members of the University of Virginia School of Law community. Lambda also aims to educate and advocate on issues concerning the LGBTQIA community. This includes raising awareness and advocating on issues regarding members of the community who have intersectional identities and the ways in which identities operate within system of power, privilege, and oppression.

## **Article II: MEMBERSHIP**

All students of the University of Virginia may become members of Lambda, and Lambda abides by the University's non-discrimination policy. The Lambda Law Alliance does not restrict its membership, programs, or activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, and family and genetic information. Matters pertaining to internal governance including elections and amendments may be restricted to dues paying members at the discretion of the Lambda Board; however, the failure to pay such dues shall not be a bar to admittance to an open event or participation in a public event's proceedings.

Membership in Lambda does not denote or imply any particular sexual orientation or gender identity.

## **Article III: OFFICERS**

Section 1. The governing body of the Lambda Law Alliance shall be the Executive Board constituted by the following officers and any ex officio officers that are added consistent with the remainder of this Article and

Articles V and VI. All officers are presumed to have executory power to meet their enumerated responsibilities.

**Section 2. President.** The President of the Lambda Law Alliance is the presiding officer of the Executive Board and shall be responsible for calling and directing meetings of the board; agendas for discussion and action; and, where discretionary action is allowed, is authorized to make executive decisions on behalf of Lambda. The President shall also be responsible for recruiting new members in conjunction with the Social Chair. The President shall be responsible for the successful direction of all Lambda activities.

**Section 3. Vice President.** Acts as the liaison between the President and the other board members, assisting the President in coordinating their various efforts. The Vice President also serves by building relationships with school administrators for the purpose of garnering stronger institutional support. In the event of the absence, death, resignation, or removal from office of the President, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President. The Vice President shall also serve as Chairperson of Elections.

**Section 4. Finance Chair.** The Finance Chair shall be responsible for securing funding for Lambda from the Law School Foundation, Student Council, Student Bar Association, and any other available sources, preparing the annual budget in consultation with the Board, and regularly accounting for income, reimbursements, and expenditures.

**Section 5. Programming Chair(s).** The Programming Chair(s) shall be responsible for planning and executing Lambda's educational and academic events including arranging the selection of a topic, and overseeing logistical arrangements related to the event including, but not limited to, speaker arrangements.

**Section 6. Social Chair.** The Social Chair shall be responsible for planning and executing Lambda's social overseeing logistical arrangements related to

the event including, but not limited to, the selection of themes and refreshments. The Social Chair shall also assist the President in recruitment efforts.

**Section 7. Allyship Chair.** The Allyship Chair shall be responsible for community engagement with LGBTQIA-allies to support Lambda events and LGBTQIA issues broadly, as well as for Lambda engaging with other minority communities in solidarity and allyship with them.

**Section 8. Career Development & Alumni Relations Co-Chairs.** The Career Development & Alumni Relations Co-Chairs shall be responsible for maintaining an alumni database and network of former Lambda members; producing updates and communications, in conjunction with the Director of Communications, to engage our alumni; working with the Law School Foundation to supplement and build on our alumni database; forwarding recruitment information to the Lambda membership; and coordinating fundraising efforts with the Finance Chair and Law School Foundation.

**Section 9. Communications Chair.** The Communications Chair shall be responsible for internal and external communications of Lambda. The Communications Chair shall publicize Lambda's activities; respond to requests for information or comment and general inquiries from any member of the organization or external sources; and maintain a history of the organization's accomplishments and membership roster.

**Section 10. 1L Representatives.** The 1L Representatives shall chiefly assist other members of the Board, but in particular, shall focus on publicizing Lambda's activities to first-year law students and recruiting the same.

**Section 11: Inclusivity, Service, and Advocacy Chair.** The Inclusivity, Service, and Advocacy Chair (ISA Chair) shall be responsible for planning and executing events related to raising awareness of members within the LGBTQIA community who have intersectional identities. The ISA Chair shall also lead advocacy efforts for nonpartisan LGBTQIA issues and identify service opportunities that enhance the lives of LGBTQIA

individuals. The ISA Chair shall also be responsible for ensuring that the culture within Lambda is one that is inclusive and supports all members of the LGBTQIA community, especially members with intersectional identities. The ISA Chair shall work with the Programming Chair(s), the Social Chair, the Allyship Chair, and the Career Development & Alumni Relations Co-Chairs to ensure that events are welcoming to all members of the community and make a good faith effort to invite speakers who have intersectional identities for Lambda's events.

Section 12. **Mentorship Chair.** The Mentorship Chair shall coordinate formal and informal mentorship, including events for mentors and mentees. The Mentorship Chair also oversees outreach to prospective LGBTQIA students, and may oversee outreach to prospective LGBTQIA students. The Mentorship Chair is also encouraged to work with the Social Chair to organize things like informal study sessions to encourage social interaction between the class years.

Section 13. **Financial Access.** Lambda shall, to the best extent practicable, maintain its funding in a bank account accessible by the President and Finance Chair. Access may be transferred from either officer to another upon a majority vote of the Board; however, there must always be at least two different persons with access to the account.

## **Article IV: OFFICERS GENERALLY**

Section 1. Any Lambda Board Member shall be granted honorary membership for life, including full privileges of membership. If Lambda distinguishes dues-paying members, such privileges as any dues paying member, excluding voting in elections, shall be granted to honorary members for life.

Section 2. **Term of Office.** All officers shall serve from one week following

their election until one week following the election of their successor. Should the transition occur over Spring Break, the Board may adopt a later transition date.

**Section 5. Election Date.** Elections for all offices except 1L Representatives shall be held in the Spring Semester, at a time to be decided by the Board. The date for elections may not be held after the deadline to apply for Law School Foundation funding or a time unreasonably close to that deadline. Should the deadline to apply for Law School Foundation funding be moved to a date more than 3 weeks away from April 1st, the applicable restrictions on the Board's discretion will no longer apply. The date of election for each office shall be set by the Board, which shall have discretion to elect different officers on different dates.

**Section 6. Removal.** Any officer may be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Board, sitting in special session. Alternatively, an officer may be removed by a majority vote of members in attendance of a special meeting of Lambda called with at least one week notice given to all members of Lambda. Authority to call such a meeting shall lie with any officer sitting on the Executive Board provided at least one-third of all officers concur on the necessity of the special meeting.

**Section 7. Vacancies.** If the Executive Board is unable to function until the next planned election, a special election may be held to fill a vacancy. Any member who runs must be a student of the university, in good standing, and able to complete the term of office before graduation. In the event the office of Lambda Law Alliance President is vacated, the remaining members of the Executive Board shall elect a temporary presiding officer who shall lead the Board until a successor is elected. Should one Co-Chair vacate their office, the remaining Chair shall assume full responsibility, and the Board will consider the question of replacing the vacated office. Should a vacancy be unable to be filled by open election, the position may be appointed, and/or dual office holding shall be permitted.

Section 8. **Eligibility.** Any member of Lambda in good standing may run for an officer position provided they are able to complete the term of office before graduation.

Section 9. **Other Officers.** The 1L Representative shall be a full voting member of the Executive Board and shall be elected on the soonest practicable date in the Fall Semester. At the discretion of the Executive Board, two people may be elected to any Chair position, except the Finance Chair.

Section 10. **The Executive Board.** All action undertaken by the Executive Board shall require a majority vote. The Board may substitute its will for the discretionary act of any officer. The Executive Board shall grant final approval for any speakers, themes, or budgetary matters brought to the Board by the appropriate Chair.

## **Article V: PROCEEDINGS**

Section 1. **Executive Board Meetings.** The Executive Board shall meet at least once a month during the academic year, but may waive this requirement upon a majority vote in the preceding month.

Section 2. **Lambda Events.** Events open only to Lambda members, prospective members, reciprocal members, and alumni shall be publicized as such and may be restricted to members in good standing.

Section 3. **Open Events.** The planning, logistics, or any requirements of any event open to the public sponsored or co-sponsored by Lambda shall be determined by the Executive Board.

Section 4. **Quorum.** There is no quorum requirement for any meeting.

Section 5. **Procedure.** Voice voting shall be the presumptive voting technique but is not exclusive; presiding officers have discretion in this matter. If a vote contains more than two options and none receives an absolute majority, a run-off shall be held with only the two options which

received the most votes previously. At elections, both proxy voting and absentee voting shall be permitted. However, votes and method must be clearly made prior to the commencement of the election.

## **Article VI: AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS**

Section 1. **Amendments.** This Constitution may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of Lambda's officers. Any such Amendments will take effect upon passage.

Section 2. **By-Laws.** There shall be no by-laws for Lambda. Lambda shall be governed at the discretion of the Executive Board, except insofar as such actions are inconsistent with the Articles of this Constitution.

## **CIO NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT**

A student organization is ineligible for CIO status when the organization restricts its membership, programs, or activities on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity, marital status, national or ethnic origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, veteran status, and family and genetic information. Notwithstanding these requirements, a CIO may petition to restrict its membership based on gender (e.g. all-male or all-female a cappella groups) or an ability to perform the activities related to the organization's purpose by filing a written request with the Office of the Dean of Students. In evaluating any such requests, the University will look not merely to the constitution of an organization but to its actual practices and operations.