

CONSTITUTION  
Environmental Law Society of Indiana University – Bloomington

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Article I - Name of Organization

As of January 1, 1982, this organization shall be known as the Environmental Law Society (ELS) of Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Bloomington, Indiana.

Article II - Preamble

The mission of the organization is to increase awareness and participation in environmental issues and activities on campus and the community; to influence public policy, law and jurisprudence; and to promote environmental careers and practice.

Article III - Purpose and Goals

The purpose of ELS is to promote environmental awareness and provide a forum for student participation in projects and action concerning current environmental issues. The ELS strives to affect global, national, statewide, and local issues by pursuing specific goals and cooperating with other environmental groups.

The specific goals of ELS are to promote the organization, local community awareness and education concerning the environment; to provide an interface between the student body and the legal community, to represent the student body's interest in environmental law within the law school community, throughout the State of Indiana, and in cooperation with other schools and environmental groups. The ELS seeks to provide a forum for critique and/or support of the legal system, current laws and regulations, and actions undertaken by other groups which concern the environment.

Article IV - Functions

The ELS, believing that an active role in environmental issues affecting Indiana is essential to furthering the goals of the organization, may engage in certain activities, including:

1. Monitoring state agencies involved in the resolution of environmental issues to insure that environmentally sound policies are being implemented;
2. Lobbying at the municipal and state legislative levels to insure that ELS positions are receiving representation in the law making process;
3. Studying, developing and presenting appropriate alternatives to state and local projects involving unresolved conflicts concerning uses of available land and resources;

4. Making available to state and local governments, individuals, and community organizations advice and information useful in restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the quality of the environment through public meetings, the presentation of speakers, and distribution of written materials; and
5. Taking any other action which will advance the quality of the environment and which is consistent with the American Bar Association Code of Professional Responsibility and the laws of ethics.

#### Article V - Membership

1. Membership in the ELS is open to all members of the Indiana University community committed to the purpose and goals stated herein. Other persons may obtain membership upon a vote of 50% of the general membership.
2. Membership dues shall be \$10 per year, subject to modification. Dues shall be collected for the purposes of advancing the mission of the organization.
3. \*\*\*Active status membership is reserved for all dues-paying members who attend a minimum of 2 meetings per semester.

#### Article VI - Executive Board

1. The voting members of the Executive Board shall be composed of the President, Vice President of Careers, Vice President of Outreach, Secretary, Treasurer, Trail Coordinator, and Student Sustainability Council Representative. The Faculty Advisors are recognized as non-voting members of the Executive Board.
2. With the exception of the Faculty Advisor, Trail Coordinator, and Student Sustainability Council Representative, the officers shall be elected by the general membership annually for terms of one year by majority vote after nominations and a minimum one week time period.
3. \*\*\*The Executive Board shall have the authority to act on behalf of the membership of ELS in all matters except:
  - a. Removal of Board members
  - b. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws
  - c. Endorsements
  - d. AffiliationsThe Executive Board may submit any issue to the membership, by a motion to that effect, approved by a majority of those voting at an Executive Board meeting. From time to time, the Executive Board may designate committees of ELS members-at-large to promote specific ELS activities.
4. The Executive Board shall meet prior to general business meetings to set the agenda.

5. The Executive Board shall meet prior to the Organization meeting (*See Article VIII*) to prepare an annual budget based on available monies, an agenda of the recommended projects for the upcoming year and all other necessary matters.
6. All persons testifying in the name of ELS must have the prior approval of the Executive Board. This includes both verbal and written testimonies.
7. Upon motion to overrule an Executive Board decision, debate on the motion will occur if 50% of active membership votes to consider the motion. Upon acceptance of the motion, debate occurs, and a 2/3 vote of quorum is needed to pass the motion.
8. \*\*\*Any active member can move for a vote of no confidence. To accept the motion, 50% of active membership must vote to consider the motion. Upon acceptance of the motion, debate occurs, and a 2/3 vote of active membership is needed to pass the motion. Elections are to occur within one week.

#### Article VII – Officers

1. Officers of ELS shall include a President, Vice President of Careers, Vice President of Outreach, Secretary, Treasurer, Trail Coordinator, and an SSC Representative..
2. President, Vice President of Careers, Vice President of Outreach, Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve for one year or until they graduate or leave the University, whichever comes first. The Trail Coordinator and SSC Representative may assume another position on the board concurrently or proceeding their tenure as the Trail Coordinator or SSC Representative.
3. Only ELS members with active status may accept nominations for officer positions, and such members must be students in the School of Law and in good standing.
4. The President shall:
  - a. Preside over all meetings
  - b. Be responsible for all matters in the efficient administration and operation of ELS.
  - c. Assist in planning events and programming of ELS.
  - d. Serve as a liaison to the law school faculty and administration. All official contact between ELS and the Indiana University community-at-large shall be conducted through the President.
5. The Vice President of Careers shall:
  - a. Assist with Presidential duties
  - b. Serve as President in the President's absence.
  - c. Coordinate with the Office of Career and Professional Development, School of Public and Environmental Affairs, and any other pertinent organizations in the development of career and professional opportunities related to environmental law.

- d. Be responsible for coordinating advertisements of ELS activities open to the law school and Indiana University community-at-large.
  - e. Assist in the general operation of the organization.
6. The Vice President of Outreach shall:
- a. Be responsible for serving as a liaison of ELS with outside organizations when planning co-sponsored events.
  - b. Promote the environmental education and consciousness of ELS members through such activities as those listed in Article IV.
  - c. Be responsible for the fundraising activities of ELS.
  - d. Serve as representation on the Student Sustainability Council (SSC) and attend at least three SSC meetings per semester.
  - e. Assist President and other members in communications with speakers, other organization leaders, event planners, and other key personnel
7. The Treasurer shall:
- a. Maintain, disburse, and account for all current monies raised by or donated to the organization.
  - b. Prepare and submit the budget of the organization to the Office of Student Affairs, Student Organization Association, and/or IUSA, as determined by the ELS Board.
  - c. Work directly with the Faculty advisor in securing and allocating funds for the organization.
  - d. Assist the Vice President of Outreach in fundraising activities.
  - e. Provide reports on the account status and make accounting records available for each board meeting.
8. The Secretary shall:
- a. Post notice of Executive Board meetings.
  - b. Post notices of general business meetings, agendas, and any other public functions of the organization in the appropriate publications and locations.
  - c. Record minutes of all Executive Board and general business meetings.
  - d. Make minutes available for review by ELS members, as well as other interested parties upon approval of the Executive Board.
  - e. Write thank-you notes and other similar correspondences for the organization.
9. Trail Coordinator shall:
- a. Organize, coordinate, and complete trail clean-ups at least once per month for 12 months of the year.
  - b. If the Trail Coordinator must be absent for any trail clean-up, he or she shall appoint an organizer in his or her absence and oversee and ensure the proper completion of the trail clean-up.
  - c. If weather or other similar obstacles prevents ELS's participation in the monthly trail clean-up, a notice shall be sent to all ELS participants and the trail supervisor from the trail organization, and a make-up session shall be offered, if available.

- d. The Trail Coordinator may be a 1L or 2L student, and his or her election will occur at the second general meeting so that the Trail Coordinator's term spans from October to October of each year. The Trail Coordinator may not, therefore, be in his or her final year of school at Indiana when assuming the position (3L or 4L year).

10. SSC Representative shall:

- a. Assist the Vice President of Outreach on the representation of ELS at SSC meetings.
- b. Attend at least three SSC meetings or events each semester.
- c. The SSC Representative will act as a "shadow" to the Vice President of Outreach, but he or she need not assume the Vice President of Outreach position in the following year and may be eligible for other board positions.
- d. The SSC Representative may be a 1L or 2L student, and his or her election will occur at the second general meeting so that the SSC Representative's term spans from October to October of each year. The SSC Representative may not, therefore, be in his or her final year of school at Indiana when assuming the position (3L or 4L year).

#### Article VIII – Meetings

1. There will be two official meetings scheduled each year: an Organizational meeting and a Summation meeting. Other general business meetings shall be held periodically by the Executive Board to address the business of the organization.
2. Any member may request a general meeting or submit an agenda item. Such requests and submissions should be directed to the President.
3. Notice of all official meetings shall be posted at the law school at least one week in advance with an accompanying agenda, when applicable.
4. Unless otherwise noted, 25% of membership or 10 active status members, (whichever is met first), must be in attendance to meet quorum at all general business meetings of the ELS.
5. The purpose of the annual Organizational meeting, scheduled during the first month of fall semester, will be to introduce new members to the society, discuss upcoming events for the school year.
6. The purpose of the annual Summation meeting, scheduled during the month of April, will be to discuss the previous year's activities, make recommendations for the coming school year, and to hold elections of Executive Board officers.
7. Official action may be taken by a quorum of the Executive Board. Official action is any action involving commitment of over \$100, elections, commitment of the ELS

name, and/or commitment of the organization's participation in public events or forums.

8. In the event that an Executive Board member is unavailable for an official meeting, said member may appoint a proxy from the general membership of the organization.

#### Article IX – Elections

1. The Officers shall be elected at the annual Summation meeting. Election shall be by secret ballot with a majority of the organization's quorum voting at the meeting. The quorum shall consist of at least one-fourth of the organization's dues-paying membership for the current school year.
2. In the event that any Officer is unable to serve his or her full term, the existing Board members may call an official meeting for the purposes of electing a successor to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

#### Article X – Compliance

1. Statement of University Compliance: This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state, and federal laws.
2. Anti-Hazing Policy: Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.
3. Personal Gain Clause: This organization, if raising funds, shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to either the organization or to members who provide a service that directly benefits the organization. Individual members may not receive compensation directly from for-profit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.
4. Statement of Non-Discrimination: Participation in the proposed organization must be without regard to arbitrary consideration of such characteristics as age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

#### Article XI – Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by any dues-paying member. All proposed amendments shall be brought before the members and approved by a two-thirds majority of the organization's dues-paying members. Copies of the proposed amendment shall be provided to all members at least one week prior to the date of the approval vote.

#### Article XII – Ratification

This constitution shall be considered ratified upon a vote of approval by a two-thirds majority of the organization's dues-paying membership.