

Pre-Law Division of the Black Law Students Association at Indiana University

Constitution

Article I: Organization Name

The name of the organization shall be the Pre-Law Division of the Black Law Students Association (“BLSA”) at Indiana University.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of the Pre-Law Division of the Black Law Students Association at Indiana University is to articulate and promote the educational, professional, political and social needs and goals of Black pre-law students at Indiana University.

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Membership in this organization shall be open to all students in good standing currently enrolled at Indiana University, regardless of major.

Section 2. In order to remain an active member of the pre-law division, each member is required to submit dues, which will be determined by the executive board.

Section 3. Dues must be paid in order to secure full benefits of membership, including voting rights and access to exclusive events.

Section 4. Members may be removed from organization if they don’t act in accordance with the organization’s values or if the student code of conduct is violated.

Section 5: The process for membership removal is as follows:

1. Member will meet with executive board to explain actions that caused possible removal.
2. Executive board will vote, and a majority will determine if member will be removed or not.

Article IV: Executive Board

Section 1. The executive board of this group shall consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Graduate Assistant(s).

Section 2. All officers shall be registered students at Indiana University.

Section 3. These officers shall constitute the executive board.

Section 4. The duties of these officers are as follows:

- The **President** shall be the chief executive officer of the group and shall have general supervision and control of its activities and programs. He or she will also set the vision and direction of the chapter and facilitate executive meetings. The President will also be responsible for re-registration of the organization through Student Life and Learning at Indiana University as well as correspondence with the national chapter.
- The **Vice President** shall assist the president and assume his or her duties when the president is unable to serve. The Vice President will also be responsible for all marketing needed for this organization.
- The **Treasurer** shall have general charge of the financial affairs of the group. He or she shall keep an accurate record of these affairs. In addition to these responsibilities, the Treasurer will have to act in compliance with SOA guidelines.
- The **Secretary** shall keep a record of all meetings of the group and of all activities and programs. He or she will handle all formal correspondence between members and officers of the group.
- The **Graduate Assistant(s)** will work as a liaison between the executive board and the faculty advisor. He/she/they will work closely with the daily functions of BLSA and other duties can be delegated as necessary by the executive board.

Section 5. The President and Treasurer shall be the only authorized signers on the organization's bank account.

Section 6. An executive officer may assist with any duties as necessary.

Section 7. A majority of officers must be present at all membership meetings.

Section 8. An officer cannot have more than three unexcused absences from meetings per semester.

Section 9. Officers must convene bi-weekly to discuss updates and plan out future meetings and events. These meetings will be advertised via email, social media, or any other means necessary, in advance of the meeting.

Article V: Elections

Section 1. Every officer will serve one term consisting of one academic year. Officers are not restricted from participating in future elections, however, they must partake in the re-election

process if they wish to retain their position. Interested members must submit an application to the executive board. Voting will be based on majority of the entire membership.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected annually by the membership. Elections shall be held during the month of April, to allow for a transition of the executive board. Elections will be announced, in advance, via email.

Section 3. Officers' terms shall begin following elections, or at the conclusion of the last general body meeting.

Section 4. The roster of newly elected officers shall be submitted to BLSA's pre-law division no later than the end of the spring semester.

Section 5. Should any position become vacant by the removal or resignation of an officer, the position shall be filled through an election at a succeeding general body meeting. Officers may appoint an interim officer to fill the position prior to such special election. Should the position of president become vacant, the Vice-President shall fill that position for the remainder of the term. A special election will be held to elect a new Vice-President following our standard election procedures.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1. Meetings of the groups shall be held on a regular (monthly) basis for the purpose of determining policy, activities, programs, regular meeting times, and other business. The President, or any member of the executive board may call special meetings. These meetings will be advertised in the same manner as executive meetings.

Section 2. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. The President shall govern all meetings. In the president's absence, the Vice President shall govern.

Section 4. All dues-paying members shall have one vote with respect to any resolutions put forward during a meeting.

Article VIII: Amendments

Section 1. The constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the dues-paying membership.

Section 2. Any financially active members of the group may propose an amendment. Proposals shall be filed in writing with the Secretary prior to the meeting so that the group may have time to debate the proposal.

Article VIII: Removal Procedures of Officers

Section 1. An officer may be removed on the following grounds:

1. Any individual not acting within this organization's mission.
2. Any individual not performing expected duties.
3. Any individual who violates the student code of conduct.
4. Unsatisfactory conduct deemed by members of the body.

Section 2: The process for removal of an officer is as follows:

1. Officer will meet with executive board and faculty advisor to explain actions that caused possible removal.
2. Executive board and faculty advisor will vote, and a majority will determine if officer will be removed or not.

Article IX: Ratification

Section 1. The constitution will be ratified by a majority vote. This number is to be determined based on the amount of members present at the ratification meeting.

Article X: Compliance with Indiana University Policies

Section 1. Statement of University Compliance:

The Pre-Law Division of the Black Law Students Association shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state, and federal laws.

Section 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.

Section 3. Personal Gain Clause:

The Pre-Law Division of the Black Law Students Association, 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.

Statement 4. Statement of Non-Discrimination:

The Pre-Law Division of the Black Law Students Association allows any interested student to participate in, become a member of, and seek leadership positions in the organization 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.

Section 2. Compliance with the Office of Risk Management:

The Pre-Law Division of the Black Law Students Association will adhere to all travel policies set forth by the Office of Risk Management.