

# CONSTITUTION OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, there is a community need for lawyers practicing in the Public Interest;  
and

WHEREAS, the economic and social barriers confronting lawyers and law students  
interested in pursuing careers in Public Service must be removed; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana University Maurer School of Law has a responsibility to  
fulfill this community need;

NOW, THEREFORE, WE HEREBY ENACT THIS CONSTITUTION OF THE  
PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FOUNDATION.

ADOPTED upon this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

## **Article I: Title and Purpose**

A. TITLE: The Public Interest Law Foundation, organized with the knowledge  
and support of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law (“Law School”),  
shall be known as “PILF” and may be referred to as such.

B. PURPOSE: The purpose of PILF shall be to provide:

- i. moral and financial support for students participating in Public Interest  
Law;
- ii. a forum for exploring Public Interest concerns, including career and employment  
opportunities;
- iii. support for initiatives engendering Public Interest Law within the Law School;  
and
- iv. activities and events to unite the community and Law School in the name of  
Public Interest while furthering the purposes listed in this subsection.

## **Article II: Membership**

- A. PILF 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.
- B. PILF members must either be registered students of the Law School or have  
received written permission from the President of PILF to join the organization,

C. In order to become a member of PILF, students must pay annual dues set by the PILF Board.

D. All members must participate, to some extent, in Singing for Summer Salaries.

### **Article III: PILF Board**

A. PILF will be presided over by Executive Officers forming a PILF Board.

B. PILF board members shall be elected annually at a General Meeting of PILF.

C. Should a vacancy arise in the PILF Board, the President shall have the power to appoint a temporary replacement until the next General Meeting of PILF at which point a permanent replacement shall be elected.

### **Article IV: Executive Officers – Specific Duties**

A. The PILF Board shall be composed of a President, a Vice President, a Vice President of Administration, a Vice President of Finance, a Vice President of Public Relations, and three or four 1L Representatives (as the Board chooses).

B. The PRESIDENT shall:

- i. call and preside over all Board and General meetings;
- ii. frequently consult with PILF board members, the PILF faculty advisor, and Law School administration concerning PILF activities and Public Interest matters;
- iii. develop meeting agendas;
- iv. have the power to create PILF Committees and appoint Chairs of those Committees.
- v. ensure the completion of all University and Law School paperwork;
- vi. develop and maintain, upon consultation with the Vice President of Finance, an organization budget;
- vii. make all final decisions relating to the organization and operation of PILF;
- viii. set PILF goals, both short and long term; and

ix. possess all reasonable powers relating to PILF not herein reserved to someone else.

C. The VICE PRESIDENT shall:

- i. provide advice and support on all PILF activities; and
- ii. jointly preside over PILF in the absence or incapacitation of the President.

D. The VICE PRESIDENT OF ADMINISTRATION shall:

- i. maintain an accurate list of all PILF members;
- ii. act as liaison between the PILF Board and the PILF Membership;
- iii. take and distribute minutes at all PILF General and Board Meetings; and
- iv. publicize all meetings and PILF activities.

E. The VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE shall:

- i. maintain accurate records of PILF receipts and expenditures;
- ii. coordinate food and drink for all PILF General Meetings;
- iii. deposit all PILF funds;
- iv. regularly present to the PILF Board a specific report of the PILF account; and
- v. ensure the fiscal responsibility of all PILF activities.

F. The VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS shall:

- i. establish, foster, and/or maintain a PILF presence in the Law School and the local community;
- ii. interface with other Law School and community groups to increase awareness of and participation of PILF programs and activities; and
- iii. assist the Vice President of Administration with publicizing PILF meetings and activities.

G. the 1L REPRESENTATIVES shall:

- i. serve as liaisons between PILF and the 1L Law School Class;

- ii. encourage 1L membership in PILF and 1L attendance at PILF meetings and events; and
- iii. assist the PILF Board with planning and execution of PILF activities.

#### **Article V: Advisor**

PILF shall possess an official advisor, who shall be a member of the faculty of the Law School. The PILF Faculty Advisor shall advise the President on all PILF activities, including organization, direction, goals, and responsibilities.

#### **Article VI: Elections**

- A. PILF elections shall be held once a year, during the Spring Semester.
- B. All PILF members in good standing with the Law School shall be permitted to vote in PILF elections.
- C. Only non-graduating PILF members in good standing with the Law School shall be eligible to run for elected office.
- D. Elections shall be advertised and members given ample time to nominate themselves or others to positions on the PILF Board.
- E. Voting shall be by secret ballot and results shall be publicized to all PILF members within a reasonable period of time.
- F. The term of the PILF Board shall expire at 5:00 pm on the last day of Spring Semester finals each year; at this point, the newly elected officers shall officially take office.

#### **Article VII: Finances**

- A. PILF will apply for and maintain a Student Organizational Account with the University.
- B. PILF, PILF members, and the PILF Board shall operate in accordance with the Student Organization Accounts office policies and procedures.
- C. Upon dissolution of PILF, all remaining assets shall be distributed to charitable organizations within Bloomington, Indiana, that support the Public Interest of Public Interest Law.

#### **Article VIII: Statement of University Compliance**

This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state, and federal laws.

#### **Article IX: 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 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.

#### **Article X: 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.

#### **Article XI: Amendments:**

- A. Members of PILF shall be informed of all amendments to this Constitution within a reasonable period of time.
- B. All amendments to this Constitution must be ratified by either:
  - i. a majority vote of the PILF Board and a majority vote of the PILF membership present at a General Meeting; or
  - ii. a unanimous vote of the PILF Board.