

**The Constitution of the
Health Law Society
at
The University of Akron
School of Law**

Article I – Name

The official name of this organization shall be the “Health Law Society.”

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to provide law students and other interested parties with an opportunity to expand their awareness of health-related issues and their impact on the law. The organization will provide its members with a chance to interact with students, faculty members, legal practitioners, and health care professionals who share similar interest in health law.

Article III – Membership

- A. Those eligible for membership include law students, faculty, undergraduate students, administration, and alumni of the University of Akron School of Law, as well as health care professionals.
- B. Membership will consist of the following types:
 - 1. A voting member is defined as a member who is enrolled at the University of Akron School of Law during the applicable academic year. Voting membership may be revoked in accordance with section B of article VIII.
 - 2. A nonvoting member is defined as any member who is not a voting member.

Article IV – Officers

- A. Officer positions in this organization shall include, at a minimum, a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
- B. The powers and duties of the officers shall include:
 - 1. The President shall have the following powers and duties:
 - a. Maintaining order in the organization and at member and officer meetings;
 - b. Delegating responsibilities to other members of the organization;
 - c. Appointing committees and chairpersons for those committees;
 - d. Arranging times, dates, and locations for member and officer meetings;
 - e. Attending meetings of the Student Bar Association and reporting on the Health Law Society’s upcoming meetings and activities, or delegating that responsibility to another member;
 - f. Casting the deciding vote in the event of a tie during an officer election; and
 - g. Deciding the amount of dues required.
 - 2. The Vice President shall have the following powers and duties:
 - a. Assisting the President in all duties so delegated;

- b. Taking requests from members for activities and meeting topics;
 - c. Arranging and overseeing fundraising efforts, unless a committee is established for that purpose; and
 - d. Serving in place of the President in the event of the President's absence or impeachment at the time of a meeting or activity.
- 3. The Treasurer shall have the following powers and duties:
 - a. Financial bookkeeping;
 - b. Overseeing all financial operations of the organization, including, but not limited to, collection of dues, depositing of money, and arranging payments in accordance with University regulations and staff;
 - c. Reporting available funds, costs of activities, and results of fundraising efforts at member and officer meetings;
 - d. Applying to the University for EAF funds to be deposited or withdrawn for allocated activities.
- 4. The Secretary shall have the following powers and duties:
 - a. Taking and posting minutes from member and officer meetings;
 - b. Coordinating and conducting voting procedures;
 - c. Assisting the President in coordinating activities;
 - d. Maintaining the annual registration of the organization with the Office of Student Development; and
 - e. Maintaining a current list of members, voting and nonvoting.
- C. Except where the charter members of this organization appoint officers for the 2007-08 academic year, officers must be elected with the following requirements:
 1. To qualify to be an officer, a student must be enrolled in the law school and must pay dues, if required of voting members, for the term of office.
 2. Nomination of voting members for officer positions will be accepted for annual election by email from any person to the President prior to the final member meeting of the year, to be held no earlier than five weeks prior to the end of the spring semester. Nominations may also be made in person by any attendee at the final member meeting of the year.
 3. Annual elections will be held at the final member meeting of the year, utilizing a secret balloting process, whereby voting members write in their choices for the given officer position. Voting shall be performed one position at a time. Results must be announced to the attendees of the meeting before voting for another position. The order of voting shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.
 4. Where there is a tie for the winner of a position, a runoff will be held, whereby voters may choose only between the tying candidates, and the candidate receiving the majority affirmative vote will be declared the winner.
 5. Where a runoff results in a tie, the President will have the discretion to choose the winner from the candidates involved in the runoff.
 6. All terms of office shall be from the date a candidate is elected, until the date of the last member meeting during the next academic year when the

next year's officers are elected, except as set forth in section D of this Article.

- D. Notwithstanding section C of this article, should vacancies occur before the completion of a term of office, the vacancy will be filled by way of an election at a meeting of the members scheduled by the President. Where the vacancy is for the office of President, the Vice President shall schedule this meeting. Winners of such elections shall begin service immediately and shall complete the term of the vacated office.
- E. Upon recommendation by any member, impeachment charges can be brought by the Executive Committee, as defined in Article V, against any officer for either or both of the reasons listed in section G of this article..
- F. The Executive Committee may ask an officer to step down. If the officer does not step down, then impeachment proceedings may be initiated by majority vote of the other members of the Executive Committee, or upon a majority vote of the voting members of the organization.
- G. Reasons for impeachment of an officer include:
 - 1. Failure to fulfill duties in compliance with Article VII; or
 - 2. Any other justifiable reason as determined by the Executive Committee.
- H. If an impeachment proceeding is initiated, the following procedures will be followed:
 - 1. The officer in question shall be notified of the charges in writing at least two weeks prior to the proceeding.
 - 2. The proceeding will be closed, and all interested parties will be allowed to respond to the charges.
 - 3. A vote shall be taken at the end of the proceeding, whereby at least two-thirds of all voting members present at the proceeding must vote to remove the officer in order for removal to occur.
 - 4. If removal occurs, the organization shall select a replacement in accordance with the provisions in section D of this article.

Article V – Organizational Structure

- A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of this organization.
- B. The Executive Committee's duties shall be to achieve and sustain the organization's purpose as delineated in this constitution.
- C. Committees and chairpersons may be appointed by the President to perform duties in accordance with the purpose of this organization.

Article VI – Campus Advisor (or “Faculty Advisor”)

- A. The Faculty Advisor must be a full time faculty member or contract professional at the University of Akron School of Law. Health Law Society shall recommend a Faculty Advisor to the Dean of the law school. The Dean shall select and approve the Faculty Advisor.
- B. Only members of the Executive Committee, including the President, for the applicable academic year may nominate and vote for recommendation of a Faculty Advisor. The President may cast an additional vote in the event of a tie.

- C. The term of office for the Faculty Advisor will be from the time of final approval to the end of that academic year. Upon approval by the Faculty Advisor, the President, and the Dean, the term shall be renewed on a yearly basis.

Article VII – Rules or Organization Procedures

- A. Attendance at meetings and activities is not required of anyone, with the following exceptions:
 - 1. All officers, including the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, must attend all member meetings or activities.
 - 2. Unexcused, repetitive absences by an officer may subject that officer to impeachment proceedings for violation of subsection 1 of section A of this article. The President shall decide whether an absence is excused. If the President is absent, then the Vice President shall decide whether his or her absence is excused. If both the President and Vice President are absent, then the present voting members shall decide whether their absences are excused.
- B. In the event the Faculty Advisor is not present at a meeting, he/she must be served with a transcript or the minutes of the meeting. The Secretary will be responsible for this task.
- C. In order to conduct business, a quorum shall consist of more than fifty-percent of the voting members. Voting shall not take place without a quorum. Meetings or activities where no voting occurs need not include a quorum.

Article VIII – Finance

- A. The President, under the advisement of the officers of the organization, shall set the dues, if any, for membership to the organization.
- B. If any dues for membership to the organization are required, such dues shall be paid by the last day of the semester in which the individual became a member in order for that individual to remain a voting member of the organization.
- C. The organization may receive other sources of funding, including from the university, donations, and fundraising.
- D. The Health Law Society shall manage its own finances in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the University of Akron.

Article IX – Amendments

- A. Any individual may propose an amendment to this constitution by serving such a proposal upon the President.
- B. At the President's discretion, a meeting may be held, open to, at the least, all voting members, whereby discussion of the proposed amendment may take place followed by a vote. Only at such a meeting and a vote of at least two-thirds majority of voting members present, and approval by the law faculty, may a proposed amendment be accepted and adopted.

Article X – Nondiscrimination Clause

The Health Law Society shall not discriminate, consistent with federal and state laws, on the basis of race, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, age, handicap, veteran status, or sexual orientation in the selection of its members or in its programs.

Article XI – Student Life Clause

The Health Law Society shall maintain a current registration form, including a list of officers, their addresses, the name of the Faculty Advisor, and the most recently amended constitution with the Department of Student Life and the Office of the Assistant to the Dean for Internal Affairs at the School of Law.