



LEWIS & CLARK LAW SCHOOL  
STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION (SBA)  
CONSTITUTION



**PREAMBLE:**

On this day, August 22, 2024, we, the students of the Lewis & Clark Law School, in order to: promote the general welfare of the student body; facilitate communication and cooperation among students, faculty, and administration; enhance the educational experience of all students; and foster a sense of community and camaraderie within the law school—do hereby establish this Constitution for the Student Bar Association of Lewis & Clark Law School.

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the “Student Bar Association” (SBA) of Lewis & Clark Law School.

**ARTICLE II: OPERATIONS**

**§1: AUTHORITY CLAUSE:**

All power vested in this Constitution shall be derived from the Student Body of Lewis & Clark Law School. SBA shall have the authority to speak and act on behalf of the Student Body and shall be empowered to express the will of the Student Body through representation and the passage of ballot measures, initiatives, and resolutions.

**§2: UNENUMERATED POWERS:**

Student Government may exercise additional powers not inconsistent with this Constitution, nor barred by explicit school policy, nor barred by federal, state, or local law.

**§3: ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE CLAUSE:**

The Student Bar Association is an independent student-run organization, the purpose of which shall be to:

- ❖ Represent the interests and concerns of the student body to the faculty and administration of Lewis & Clark Law School.
- ❖ Foster a sense of community and promote the welfare of all students.
- ❖ Facilitate communication and cooperation among students, faculty, and administration.
- ❖ Provide resources, support, and opportunities for professional and personal development to students.
- ❖ Organize and coordinate social, academic, and extracurricular activities for the benefit of the student body.
- ❖ Uphold the principles of integrity, diversity, inclusivity, and belonging within the law school community.

§4 HIGHER LAW CLAUSE:

At all times the SBA will act in accordance with federal, state, and local law.

**ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

§1 MEMBERSHIP CLAUSE:

All currently enrolled students at Lewis & Clark Law School shall be considered full members of the Student Bar Association, empowered to attend general meetings, apply for available SBA funding, and propose ballot measures, initiatives, and resolutions. Membership in the Student Bar Association shall not be restricted on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, or any other characteristic protected by law.

§2 NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE:

The Student Bar Association of Lewis & Clark Law School is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment that respects the dignity and worth of every individual. Discrimination, harassment, or prejudice based on race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability, political affiliation or any other characteristic protected by law shall not be tolerated within the organization. All members are expected to uphold these principles of non-discrimination and to actively contribute to creating a welcoming and supportive community for all. Any violations of this Clause shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as determined by the Bylaws of the Student Bar Association.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, revocation of any of the rights enumerated in Article III, §1.

#### **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

##### **§1: EXECUTIVE CLAUSE:**

The officers of the Student Bar Association shall consist of a President, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging, Vice President of Student Affairs, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Programming, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other positions deemed necessary by the membership and incorporated into the Bylaws.

##### **§2: ELECTION CLAUSE:**

Officers shall be elected by a plurality vote of the student body.

##### **§3: TERM CLAUSE:**

Officers shall serve a term of one academic year, with the option for re-election.

##### **§4: DUTIES CLAUSE:**

The duties and responsibilities of each officer shall be determined by the Bylaws of the Student Bar Association.

#### **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS**

##### **§1: NAME CLAUSE:**

The Student Bar Association shall hold regular General Assembly meetings throughout the academic year. Extraordinary meetings may be called by the SBA President, a majority of the officers, or ten percent of the Student Body.

##### **§2: OPENNESS CLAUSE:**

Meetings shall be open to all Lewis & Clark students, undergraduate students, and graduate students. Meetings are open to faculty and staff with approval of the general assembly.

§3: QUORUM CLAUSE:

A quorum, consisting of at least one-third of the voting members, shall be required for the transaction of business.

§4: ATTENDANCE CLAUSE:

External and internal committee heads and all other non-executive members may have the two excused absences during the academic year, and one unexcused absence.

§5: FORMAL RESERVATIONS CLAUSE:

The SBA General Assembly shall reserve the right to express their formal reservations of votes or actions in the minutes by transmitting them to the Secretary within 48 hours of a meeting.

**ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS**

§1 AMENDMENTS CLAUSE:

The SBA may amend this Constitution including rules of parliamentary procedure, and policies that do not conflict with this Constitution, to establish the structure and proceedings of SBA.

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any member of the Student Bar Association.

The General Assembly will be notified regarding proposed amendments and presented with an opportunity for feedback not later than 1 week before the next General Assembly meeting.

Proposed amendments shall be presented at a regular meeting of the Student Bar Association and shall require a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) affirmative vote of the General Assembly for adoption.

**ARTICLE VII: RATIFICATION**

This Constitution shall be ratified upon approval by a majority vote of the SBA General Assembly of Lewis & Clark Law School.

## **ARTICLE VIII: BYLAWS**

### **§1 CONSISTENCY CLAUSE:**

The Student Bar Association may adopt such bylaws as necessary to further define and regulate its operations, provided that they are consistent with this Constitution.

### **§2 INTERPRETATION CLAUSE:**

In the event of any ambiguity or uncertainty regarding the interpretation or application of the provisions within this Constitution or its accompanying Bylaws, the Student Bar Association Executive Board shall convene to discuss and resolve such matters in good faith. The interpretation adopted shall be guided by the principles of fairness, equity, and the best interests of the student body, with due consideration given to the original intent and spirit of the Constitution.

### **§3 DISPUTES CLAUSE:**

Any disputes regarding interpretation shall be resolved by a majority vote of the Student Bar Association Executive Board, with the ultimate goal of upholding the integrity and effectiveness of the organization.

## **ARTICLE IX: SUPREMACY**

### **§1 SUPREMACY CLAUSE:**

This Constitution shall supersede all previous Constitutions and Bylaws of the Student Bar Association of Lewis & Clark Law School and any other conflicting bylaws. This Constitution is not subject to motions of suspension.

### **§2: CONFLICTS CLAUSE:**

In the event of any conflict between the provisions of the Student Bar Association Constitution and any adopted Bylaws, the provisions of the Constitution shall prevail. Any conflicting provisions within the bylaws shall be deemed null and void to the extent of such conflict, and the Constitution shall govern the operations and activities of the Student Bar Association of Lewis & Clark Law School. The Constitution shall take precedence over conflicting provisions within the Bylaws, and any necessary revisions to the Bylaws shall be made promptly following the adoption of such amendments to ensure consistency and compliance with the Constitution.

**ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the dissolution of the Student Bar Association, any remaining funds or assets shall be distributed in a manner consistent with the organization's purpose, as determined by a majority vote of the SBA General Assembly.

**ARTICLE XI: DEFINITIONS**

Throughout this Constitution:

- a. Use of the phrase "General Assembly" is defined as elected, voting members of the SBA.
- b. For the purposes of this document, the phrase "student organization" does not include official student journals administered by the Dean of Students office or student practice organizations or clinics.
- c. Use of the phrase "majority" is defined as a majority of the voting population who participate in the vote.
- d. The use of the phrase "plurality" is defined as the number of votes cast for a candidate who receives more than any other but does not receive an absolute majority.
- e. The phrase "officers" means any member of the Executive Board.

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Kathrine Coonjohn  
President

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Ava Mastrianni  
VP of Student Affairs

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Ananya Raghavan  
VP of DEIB

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Webster  
VP of Programming

\_\_\_\_\_  
Baylee Seeman  
VP of Communications

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Kelly  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Yuan  
Treasurer

RATIFIED BY THE SBA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THIS 8<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER,  
2024.