

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The University of Mississippi Business Law Society is a student-led, project-oriented group established to connect students with an interest in business law. The Society strives to introduce students to practice areas under the business law umbrella while providing networking opportunities with practitioners and business professionals. The Society accomplishes these goals by conceptualizing and developing student projects designed to give members real-world interaction with business law topics. The Society is committed to fostering an enthusiastic community of business law students through projects, recruiting, and programming.

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **Article I – Name of the Organization**

This Association shall be known as “The Business Law Society of the University of Mississippi School of Law” (hereinafter “BLS”).

### **Article II – Objectives of the Organization**

Section A – To encourage students to conceptualize, design, and implement projects related to business law

Section B – To introduce students to business law topics and curriculum through speaking events and “flash classes” presented by practitioners and business professionals

Section C – To add value to the School of Law, the University, and Society members by providing a forum for education in business law and a medium through which students can develop projects

### **Article III – Membership**

Section A -- The BLS is open to all University of Mississippi students. No particular business experience is required.

Section B – Students may be considered active members by joining the BLS list serv and through regular attendance at meetings.

Section C – The BLS does not discriminate on any basis, including but not limited to: age, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or religion.

## **Article IV – Officers and Duties**

Section A – There will be an Executive Board to manage the BLS. The Officers comprising the Executive Board shall be the Executive Director, Deputy Director, Executive Project Manager, Financial Director, Communications Director, Public Relations Director, Operations Manager, and University Liaison.

Section B – The Executive Director is responsible for overall operations of the BLS. He or she works closely with the faculty advisor, Law School, and all other officers. The Executive Director schedules and runs regular Executive Board meetings and presides over all meetings. He or she serves as the representative of the BLS to the University.

Section C – The Deputy Director takes minutes at Executive Board meetings and works closely with the Executive Director to oversee all aspects of BLS operations. He or she oversees the Financial Director, Communications Director, Operations Manager, and Public Relations Director. The Deputy Director presides over all meetings in the absence of the Executive Director.

Section D – The Executive Project Manager works with each project manager to develop projects and ensure timely progress. He or she is responsible for evaluating new project ideas. The Executive Project Manager is in charge of assembling groups to work on each project and assists each project manager in dividing the workload amongst members. Each project manager reports directly to the Executive Project Manager with updates on project status.

Section E – The Financial Director drafts and manages the annual budget and provides reports to the Executive Board prior to budget submission in the fall. He or she works with the LSSB, ASB, and private parties to acquire funding for the BLS. The Financial Director is responsible for managing and allocating funds for projects, advertising, and other expenses. He or she ensures that the BLS is in compliance with applicable University budget rules and guidelines.

Section F – The Communications Director develops and maintains the BLS website. He or she manages the acquisition of web space and works with the faculty advisor to keep the site current. The Communications Director coordinates with the Executive Project Manager and Project Managers to post recent project developments to the website.

Section G – The Public Relations Director coordinate the “flash class” and lecture series. He or she recruits professors and business or legal professionals willing to speak on engaging topics to be sponsored by the BLS. The Public Relations Director works with the faculty advisor to identify and contact potential guests. He or she collaborates with the Operations Manager to advertise speaker events.

Section H – The Operations Manager takes minutes at full-group meetings, reserves rooms for meetings and lectures, and coordinates the catering of meetings. He or she works with the Public Relations Director to advertise speaker events.

Section I – The University Liaison develops and maintains relations with groups outside of the Law School such as the Business School, Accounting School, and undergraduate groups that may be interested in collaborating with or joining the BLS.

#### **Article IV – Projects**

Section A – One of the core objectives of the BLS is the development of student projects allowing real interaction with legal issues involved in business law. Projects can take many forms and result in videos, webcasts, presentations, articles, lectures, websites, and any other appropriate medium.

Section B – Any member may propose a BLS project. Subject to approval by the Executive Board, a project may receive full support, including financial assistance. A member proposing a project must submit a one-page proposal to the Executive Board detailing their project plan and objectives.

Section C – Members whose proposals are approved by the Executive Board become that project’s “Project Manager.” Project Managers recruit members to work on the project and divide the workload amongst the project team. Project Managers report to the Executive Project Manager.

#### **Article V – Elections**

Section A – Term and time of elections

1. Each officer of the BLS shall serve for a term of one year.
2. Elections shall be held annually during the third week of February.

3. If an officer resigns or is removed from office, the following process will be used:
  - a. Within one week of such officer's resignation or removal, nominations for such office shall be made to the Executive Director.
  - b. Elections will be held at the next general meeting in accordance with Section D.
  - c. An officer may be removed from office, in accordance with Section E of this Article.

#### Section B – Administration of the Voting Process

1. The Executive Director and Deputy Director shall be responsible for coordinating, supervising, and administering all BLS elections. The Deputy Director shall ensure that ballots are created prior to the meeting where voting will occur. The Deputy Director will be responsible for counting the ballots.
2. The candidate who wins a simple majority of the votes shall take office.
3. In the event of a tie between candidates, the Executive Director shall cast the deciding vote.
4. In the event that the Executive Director or Deputy Director is running for one of the positions being voted on, a member of the BLS who has no investment in the outcome of the election shall administer the election and count the ballots.

#### Section C – Eligibility

1. All active members as defined in Article III, Sections A and B are eligible to vote in the election and run for office.

#### Section D – Nominations

1. At least one week prior to the general meeting where elections are to be held, the Executive Director shall tender a request for nominations to the entire organization.
2. The nominations period shall end one week prior to the general meeting where elections are to be held.
3. Prior to the election, each candidate shall submit to the Executive Director a short statement listing their qualifications for each position and reasons why they feel they should be elected.
5. Prior to the election, the Executive Director shall compile and distribute to the entire organization a list of candidate statements.
6. The members nominated for officer positions will be listed on the ballot and put to vote of all members.

#### Section E – Removal from Office

1. Any officer may be removed from the Executive Board by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Board.

#### **Article VI – Meetings**

Section A – General body meetings shall occur regularly at times decided by the Executive Board.

Section B – Executive Board meetings shall occur regularly at times decided by the Executive Director.

#### **Article VII – Amendments**

Section A – This Constitution may be amended at a general body meeting by two-thirds of the members present or by unanimous decision of the Executive Board.

Section B – An amendment may be proposed by any member of the BLS and must be submitted no less than two weeks prior to the general meeting where the amendment will be considered. The amendment must be distributed by the Executive Director to the organization no less than one week prior to the meeting where the amendment will be considered.