

Constitution of Akron Law Student Organization of the American Civil Liberties Union

ARTICLE I – NAME

The official name of this organization shall be the Akron Law Student Organization - American Civil Liberties Union.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE AND STATUS

- A. The purpose of this organization shall be to promote discussion and awareness of civil liberties issues and to safeguard civil liberties among the student body.
- B. The Organization will represent itself in a way consistent with the mission and views of the ACLU. The Organization will not claim to represent the ACLU in any media outlet other than those affiliated with The University of Akron; furthermore, the Organization will accurately represent the views of the ACLU in any campus media venue and will seek clarification on ACLU views from the Education Coordinator of the ACLU of Ohio when necessary.
- C. Upon receiving permission, the Organization may send a representative to Affiliate Board of the ACLU of Ohio meetings, but is not permitted to vote on Board issues.
- D. The ACLU is a non-partisan organization. The Organization will not endorse or oppose particular political parties or candidates and will consult with the Education Coordinator before endorsing or opposing any ballot initiative.
- E. The Organization will submit a new registration form to the appropriate representative of the ACLU of Ohio at the beginning of every academic year. The Organization will immediately notify the Education Coordinator of any changes in leadership or contact information and will maintain ongoing contact to update the Education Coordinator regarding status and projects, at least once per school term.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership will consist of voting members and non-voting members.
 - 1. To become a voting member, students must be currently enrolled and in good standing at the University of Akron School of Law with a GPA of 2.0 or higher, must register with the Organization, and must pay full Organizational dues as to be determined by the Executive Committee.
 - 2. To become a non-voting member students must be currently enrolled and in good standing at the University of Akron School of Law with a GPA of 2.0 or higher and must register with the Organization.
 - a. Registration shall consist of providing basic information to the Organization such as name of the student and student mailbox number.
- B. Membership will be revoked by the organization under the following conditions:

1. Failure to remain in good academic standing with the School of Law.
 2. Failure to abide by the constitution's purpose as stated in this constitution.
- C. All members of this Organization are encouraged to become members of the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, but it is not required.
- D. Members will meet from time to time to discuss and organize events.
- E. The Executive Committee will meet as necessary to plan and coordinate events.
- F. A duly convened meeting is one in which at least 3 officers are present and was announced to the members by electronic mail at least 3 calendar days prior to the meeting.
- G. A general meeting is one in which at least 3 officers are present and that was announced to the members by electronic mail at least 3 calendar days prior to the meeting AND at which 3 members are present who at the time of the meeting are not officers.
1. All resolutions and initiatives of the Organization shall be voted upon at a general meeting. All resolutions and initiatives will be passed by a majority vote when quorum is present.
 - i. A quorum will exist when 1/2 of the voting membership is present.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

- A. Officer positions in the Organization shall include an Executive Committee consisting of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
- B. The Executive Committee shall vote on any pressing decision facing the Organization. No officer has veto power.
- C. The President shall be the Primary Student Contact with the ACLU of Ohio office and shall be responsible for all contacts with the University of Akron Law School administration. The President shall be responsible for the general supervision of the Organization's events, committees, and programs.
- D. The Vice President shall assist the President as needed. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President if the President is unavailable. The Vice President shall be the Secondary Student Contact with the ACLU of Ohio office.
- E. The Secretary shall be responsible for the Internet site, publications, newsletters, posters, and all other applicable media. The Secretary shall be responsible for all non-financial records of the Organization.
- F. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the Organization, and shall keep accurate financial records.

G. All officers are expected to become members of the ACLU of Ohio and should encourage membership among other Organization leaders, members, and attendees at events.

H. Election of Officers

1. To qualify to be an officer, a student must be a voting member of this organization.
2. Nomination of officers will be from the floor at a general meeting. This meeting must occur in the month of April.
3. Election of officers and nomination of officers shall occur in separate general meetings, which may be no less than 7 calendar days apart.
4. The prescribed election process to be used will be by a vote for each office following nominations.
5. Candidates may be nominated for more than one office but no person may hold more than one office.
6. If a candidate is nominated for more than one office the elections will be proceed in a specified order with a separate vote taken for each office. The elections will be taken first for the President, then the Vice President, then the Secretary, and then the Treasurer.
7. The elections must be held in the month of April for terms beginning May first.
8. The terms of office shall be from May 1 until April 30.

I. Should vacancies occur before the completion of a term of office, the vacancy must be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee at a duly convened meeting.

J. Impeachment charges can be brought against any officer for the following reasons:

1. Failure to remain in good standing with the University.
2. Failure to abide by the constitution's purpose as stated in this constitution.

K. Impeachment proceedings may be commenced upon a majority vote of the voting membership.

L. If impeachment proceedings are voted to occur, the following procedure will be followed:

1. The officer in question will be notified of the charges in writing,
2. A special meeting will be set up to discuss the charges where all parties are allowed to respond.

3. If a decision is made to proceed, a vote shall be taken by the voting membership. A 2/3 majority of votes cast by voting members at the meeting will be needed for removal in order for the officer to be impeached.
4. If an officer The Executive Committee will appoint a voting member to finish the remainder of the current term.

ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES

Committees may be formed by the Executive Committee to address various topics. Committee chairs shall be designated by the Executive Committee to supervise the activities of each committee.

ARTICLE VI – FACULTY ADVISOR

- A. In order to qualify to be the Faculty Advisor, the individual must be a full time faculty member or contract professional at The University of Akron Law School.
- B. The Faculty Advisor will be recommended by the Executive Committee to the Dean of the School of Law.
- C. The Dean shall approve and select the Faculty Advisor.
- D. The term of office for the Faculty Advisor will be from August through July.

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCE

- A. This Organization is a non-profit organization. The Organization will manage its own finances, in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the University of Akron.
- B. Dues: Dues will be determined by the Executive Committee prior to the commencement of each academic year, not exceeding five dollars per member for each academic year. Rather than collecting increased Organization dues, all group members will be encouraged to become members of the ACLU/ACLU of Ohio by purchasing a student membership.
- C. Other sources of organizational funding, other than University funding, could be that which is generated by fundraising events or that which is provided by the ACLU of Ohio as it deems appropriate.
- D. Fundraising: The Organization will not solicit funds from individual donors and will notify the ACLU of Ohio of significant monetary gifts or offers of gifts. Plans for fundraising will first be cleared with the Education Coordinator.
- E. An accurate record of all income and expenses shall be maintained at all times. Receipts shall be written for all contributions. The financial records of this Organization shall be subject to audit by the Executive Committee and The University of Akron at any time.

- F. Financing events: In the event that financing is unavailable from other sources, the Organization will submit a well-organized budget proposal to the Education Coordinator at least one month in advance to request funds from the ACLU of Ohio for the programming of particular events.
- G. The Organization shall follow The University of Akron designated procedures for establishing and maintaining an account. This account will not be established in the name of the ACLU, the ACLU of Ohio, or the ACLU Campus Organization, but will rather be established in the name of the Civil Liberties Organization or other similar title.

ARTICLE IX – AFFILIATION

- A. This organization is an affiliate of The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio.

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

- A. A two-thirds majority vote of active full members as defined by this constitution shall be sufficient for the ratification of this constitution.
- B. The following process must make all amendments to this constitution:
 - 1. Any proposed amendment must be presented in writing to the membership;
 - 2. Discussion should occur at a general meeting;
 - 3. A vote for acceptance should occur at a following general meeting with a quorum present.
 - 4. The amendment shall become a part of this constitution upon a two-thirds majority vote of voting members, and approval by the faculty of the School of Law.

ARTICLE XI – NON-DISCRIMINATION CLAUSE

The Organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, age, disability, veteran status or sexual orientation in the selection of its members or in its programs unless federal or state laws require such discrimination.

ARTICLE XII – DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT LIFE CLAUSE

The Organization 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.