

CONSTITUTION of LAW COUNCIL, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Last Revised: September 18, 2025

Article I. General.

Section 1. Name. The student government of the University of Minnesota Law School (hereinafter, the “School”) shall officially be known as Law Council (hereinafter, “the Council”).

Section 2. Non-Profit Organization. The Council shall operate as a nonprofit organization, but it may reimburse its members for services rendered.

Section 3. Compliance. The organization shall comply with all University policies and procedures, as well as local, state, and federal laws and regulation; with the provisions of this Constitution; and with the provisions of any bylaws that do not conflict with this Constitution.

Article II. Mission.

Section 1. Statement of Purpose. The Council’s purpose is to improve student life and facilitate communication between students, faculty, and staff at the School.

Section 2. General Duties. The Council shall:

- A. Spend such funds as are available for any purpose that the Council deems to be in the best interest of the students of the School (hereinafter, the “Student Body”);
- B. Conduct, manage, supervise, and direct any programs, activities, or projects that the Council deems to be in the best interest of the Student Body;
- C. Serve as the sole appointer of student representatives to any committee of the School or the University or any bar association to which the Student Body is entitled to send one or more representatives; and
- D. Serve as a liaison between the Student Body, other members of the legal community, and the broader University community.

Article III: Membership.

Section 1. Membership in the Council. The Council shall consist of one President, one Vice President, and student representatives. The student representatives shall consist of:

- A. One 3L representative for every 45 students in that class;
- B. One 2L representative for every 45 students in that class;
- C. One 1L representative for every 45 students in that class;
- D. One LLM representative for every 45 students in that class;
- E. If students(s) in the class stand for election, one transfer representative;
- F. If students(s) in the class stand for election, one Masters’ program representative; and
- G. If students(s) in the class stand for election, one SJD representative.

Section 2. Eligibility for Membership. In order to be eligible for membership in the Council, a student must be enrolled in good standing at the University for at least six credits. Membership in the Council shall be open to all students without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Section 3. Voting Membership. Voting membership is defined as those members who were elected by their constituents. Ex Officio Members shall not count for quorum and may not vote on any matter. No less than two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the voting membership shall consist of those who are not currently registered students at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities Campus.

Article IV. Votes by Student Body.

Section 1. Procedure. Every vote by the student body must remain open for the period set and announced with reasonable notice, or if no period is announced, until either half the student body has voted or 24 hours have passed. Unless this Constitution or the Council's bylaws specify otherwise, all matters requiring the approval of a certain fraction of the student body shall be presumed to only require the approval of that fraction of the student body actually voting.

Section 2. Elections. Elections shall be held every year in the Fall and in the Spring. The Spring election shall be held sometime after spring break but before spring final examinations. The Fall elections shall be held no later than 30 calendar days after the start of the academic year. Elected members shall serve from the date of their election until either Commencement if they are part of a graduating class, or until the next Spring Election.

- A. **President and Vice President.** Every year, in the Spring elections, the student body at large shall elect one President and one Vice President to serve on the Council.
- B. **3L Representatives.** Every year, in the Spring elections, the rising 3L class shall elect all 3L representative(s) from their class to serve on the Council.
- C. **2L Representatives.** Every year, in the Spring elections, the rising 2L class shall elect all 2L representative(s) from their class to serve on the Council.
- D. **1L Representatives.** Every year, in the Fall election, the 1L class shall elect all 1L representative(s) from their class to serve on the Council.
- E. **LLM Representative.** Every year, in the Fall election, the LLM class shall elect all LLM representative(s) from their class to serve on the Council.
- F. **Transfer Representative.** Every year, in the Fall election, the transfer class may elect all transfer representative(s) from their class to serve on the Council.
- G. **Masters' Program Representative.** Every year, in the Fall election, students enrolled in a master's program offered by the School may elect all Master's Program representative(s) from their class to serve on the Council.
- H. **SJD Representative.** Every year, students enrolled in the SJD program offered by the School may elect all SJD representative(s) to serve on the Council.

Section 3. Ratifications. A simple majority of Student Body votes shall ratify any referendum or constitutional amendment brought to the Student Body.

Article V. Officers & Duties

Section 1. In General. In addition to the President and the Vice President, the Council shall have five additional officers: a Treasurer, an Events Director, a Communications Director, a Wellness Director, and a

Secretary. All officers must be currently registered, student services fee paying students at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. Exceptions to this requirement are permitted for students upon receipt of a letter from the Director of Graduate Studies of the Law School certifying that the student is actively pursuing a degree. Officers must also be in good standing with the University and free of any sanctions defined by the Board of Regents Policy: Student Conduct Code, administered by the Office for Community Standards.

Section 2. Appointment of Officers. The Council shall vote to select a Treasurer, an Events Director, a Wellness Director, and a Communications Director from among representatives immediately after the spring election. The Council shall vote to select a Secretary from among its representatives elected in the fall election.

Section 3. Duties of Officers.

- A. The President shall serve as the official spokesperson of the Student Body. The President shall also attend all faculty meetings or appoint a Council member to attend these meetings in their place, serve as the primary liaison between the Council and the School's faculty and administration, and preside over Council meetings. The President shall chair and coordinate the Executive Board.
- B. The Vice President shall preside over Council meetings in the President's absence. The Vice President shall also chair and be responsible for the duties of the Appointments Committee.
- C. The Treasurer shall preside over Council meetings in the absence of the President and the Vice President. The Treasurer shall also chair and be responsible for the duties of the Budget Committee.
- D. The Events Director shall coordinate Council events. The Events Director shall chair and be responsible for the duties of the Events Committee.
- E. The Communications Director shall keep the Student Body apprised of Law Council events and other important matters in and around the School. The Communications Director shall also manage the Council's website and all social media.
- F. The Wellness Director shall be responsible for the Council's wellness initiatives—including Mondale Kitchen and Walter's Wardrobe. The Wellness Director shall also serve as the primary liaison between the Council and the Wellness Coordinator.
- G. The Secretary shall record attendance and be responsible for the minutes at all Council meetings. After every Council meeting, they shall make these minutes available to the Student Body as soon as the minutes are duly approved by the Council. The Secretary shall chair and be responsible for the duties of the Documents Committee.
- H. The Officers shall collectively comprise the Executive Board. The Executive Board is responsible for the duties of the Council if a full or ad-hoc Council meeting is infeasible, and responsible for matters explicitly delegated to the Executive Board by the Council.

Section 4. Duties of Council Members.

- A. **In General.** In all Council matters, Council members shall represent the interests of the Student Body diligently, competently, and with the utmost integrity.
- B. **Term.** All Council members shall serve for the entire term unless there are extenuating circumstances, or they are removed from office.
- C. **Successors.** The Council may vote to select an Assistant Treasurer, Assistant Events Director, Assistant Wellness Director, and Assistant Communications Director immediately after the Fall election. These members shall take on the corresponding Officer responsibilities in case of absence or vacancy. D.

Attendance.

- 1. **Council Meetings.** All Council members shall attend all Regular Council meetings unless their attendance is excused by the President.

2. **Committee Meetings.** All committee members shall attend all meetings of their respective committees unless their attendance is excused by their committee chair.
3. **Other Events.** All Council members shall attend all Council-sponsored events unless their attendance is excused by the President.

Article VI. Committees.

Section 1. Standing Committees.

- A. **Budget Committee.** The Council shall have a standing Budget Committee, chaired by the Treasurer and composed of additional Council members selected by the Council every fall. The Budget Committee shall be responsible for reviewing all budget requests from other student groups at the School.
- B. **Appointments Committee.** The Council shall have a standing Appointments Committee chaired by the Vice President. It may include additional Committee members selected by the Council every fall. The Appointments Committee shall be responsible for filling any vacancies on any committee of the School or the University or any other board, committee, or any association to which the students of the School are entitled to send one or more representatives.
- C. **Events Committee.** The Council shall have a standing Events Committee chaired by the Events Director. It may include additional Committee members to be selected by the Council every fall. The Events Committee shall be responsible for organizing events put on by the Council throughout the year.
- D. **Documents Committee.** The Council shall have a standing Documents Committee chaired by the Secretary. It may include additional Committee members to be selected by the Council every fall. The Committee shall be responsible for reviewing all governing documents at least once every three years to ensure that it complies with requirements from university bodies.

Section 2. Additional Committees. The Council may vote to create additional committees as necessary.

- A. **Term-Limited Committees.** Term-limited committees shall be created for one semester, to be extended each semester with the approval of the Council, for up to a maximum of five additional semesters.
- B. **Special Committees.** Every school year, the Council shall vote to retain or remove additional committees as necessary.

Article VII. Council Procedures.

Section 1. Meetings.

- A. **Regular Meetings.** The Council must meet at least once every two weeks during the academic year, except during vacations and exam periods. The President shall determine the time and location of the Council's meetings.
- B. **Ad-hoc Meetings.** Five or more members of the Council may call a meeting at any time so long as they notify all Council members of the meeting's time and location at least 24 hours in advance.
- C. **Student Attendance.** All Council meetings are open to all School students unless the President announces otherwise at least 24 hours in advance.

Section 2. Quorum.

Quorum shall consist of at least two-thirds of all Council members.

Section 3. Voting.

- A. Unless this Constitution or the Council's bylaws specify otherwise, all matters requiring a vote of the Council shall only require the support of a majority of the Council.
- B. Unless this Constitution or the Council's bylaws specify otherwise, all matters requiring the approval of a certain fraction of the Council shall be presumed to only require the approval of that fraction of the Council actually voting, not counting absences or abstentions. In a "complete vote" the entire Council is considered to be voting. As such, in a complete vote, abstentions and absences count as nays.
- C. A vote may only take place when quorum is present.
- D. The Council may vote to ratify a decision made in absence of quorum or at an Executive Board meeting.
- E. As necessary, members of the Council may vote on the matter remotely.
- F. The presiding officer at any meeting shall abstain from voting unless necessary to break a tie.

Section 4. Constitutional Disputes. All disputes regarding the proper interpretation of this Constitution shall be decided by a vote of the Council. The decisions of the Council shall be final and binding for the remainder of the school year.

Article VIII. Removal.

Section 1. Removal from a Council Committee. Any member of a Council committee may be removed from any Council committee by a vote of the Council. Alternatively, the Vice-President, with the consent of the Council committee's faculty advisor, may remove a committee member for cause and must notify the Council.

Section 2. Removal from Officer Positions. Any member of the Council may be removed for cause from any officer position upon a three-fourths complete vote of the Council.

Section 3. Removal from the Council. Any member of the Council may be removed for cause from the Council upon a three-fourths complete vote of the Council.

Article IX. Vacancies.

Section 1. Filling Vacancies in the Council.

- A. If the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall assume the President's position for the remainder of the term, and the Vice President's position shall remain vacant until the next spring election.
- B. If the office of the Vice President becomes vacant for any reason other than their succession to the Presidency, the Council shall promptly vote to select their replacement from one of the student representatives, and that student representative's position shall remain vacant until the next spring election.
- C. If the office of the Treasurer, Events Director, or Communications Director becomes vacant, if an Assistant to that office has been selected by the Council, the Assistant shall succeed to the office. If no Assistant has been selected, the Council shall promptly vote to select a replacement from one of the student representatives.
- D. If the office of the Secretary becomes vacant, the Council shall promptly vote to select a replacement from one of the student representatives.
- E. If the position of one of the student representatives becomes vacant, the next eligible candidate for the

position, as determined by the vote tally of the preceding election, shall automatically assume the position. If no eligible candidate is available to serve, a candidate may be appointed by the President at their discretion and confirmed by a vote of the Council.

Section 2. Filling Vacancies in a Council Committee. If any member of the Council is removed from one of the Council's standing committees, the Council shall promptly vote to select their replacement from one of the student representatives.

Article X. Dissolution.

In the case of dissolution, any funds remaining shall be returned to the University of Minnesota Law School.

Article XI. Bylaws.

Section 1. In General. The Council shall maintain a set of bylaws governing matters not covered in this Constitution. The Council's bylaws shall be binding on all decisions of the Council to the extent that they do not conflict with this Constitution.

Section 2. Amendments. The Council may amend its bylaws at any time upon a two-thirds vote. A proposal to amend the Council's bylaws must be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least 24 hours in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council.

Article XII. Constitutional Amendments.

Section 1. Proposing Constitutional Amendments. Any student at the University of Minnesota Law School may propose an amendment to this Constitution at any time. If the proposed amendment is sponsored by at least five members of the Council, it must be voted on at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. A proposed amendment must be submitted to the Student Body for ratification upon a three-fourths complete vote of the Council.

Section 2. Ratification. The Student Body may vote to ratify this Constitution (or any subsequently adopted amendment. If ratified, by the Student Body the Constitution (or any subsequently adopted amendment) will go into effect immediately or upon the date specified in the amendment.

Section 3. Witnesses. The following seven officers of the Law Council hereby act as witnesses to the ratification of this Constitution on August 14, 2023.

President, Nikita Deep (9/18/2025)

Vice President, John Patterson (9/18/2025)

Treasurer, Keegan Wulf (9/18/2025)

Communications Director, Brynn Ayers (9/18/2025)

Secretary, Fide Valverde-Riveria (9/18/2025)
