

SOCIETY OF LITIGATORS CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

The Society of Litigators (SoL) strives to enhance litigation skills through educational programming and fellowship amongst future and current litigators. SoL recognizes that court room skills are essential for the fair and just practice of law regardless of the specific practice area in which an attorney works. As such, the SoL seeks to target oral advocacy, evidentiary knowledge and case and trial strategy skills which will benefit future attorneys in their chosen area of law. By bringing together a community of litigators, the SoL creates a space to advance the skills and abilities of future attorneys as they prepare for a diverse array of legal practices.

ARTICLE I **Identification**

This organization shall be known as the “Society of Litigators.” (SoL).

ARTICLE II **Statement of Purpose**

The SoL is a group of students who strive to enhance their litigation skills so that they can fairly and justly represent their future clients well both in preparation for and during advocacy before the court. Litigation skills are unique to the practice of law and require careful, focused study which must begin in law school and continue throughout a practicing attorney’s career.

Our objectives are (1) to provide educational programming throughout the school year which focuses on litigation and/or trial advocacy skills, (2) create a community of future litigators at Oklahoma City University School of Law (OCU Law) which provides support to members cultivating their future litigation practices, and (3) seek opportunities to learn from litigators in the broader community and provide networking opportunities when possible.

The SoL is a unique addition to OCU Law’s Clubs because no other club focuses on litigation as a whole. We do not seek to focus on any specific practice area as many of the current clubs do. Our club focuses on the specific skills any attorney could use as part of their advocacy regardless of the type of law the attorney practices. The SoL will be the only club on campus which focuses on applied skills future attorneys can use in both preparation for and during advocacy before a court such as knowledge of the rules of evidence, oral advocacy skills, and case and trial strategy. Our unique goal is to help future attorneys prepare to advocate on any matter before the court.

Our mission is to create a society where any student considering a practice in litigation can explore what litigation is while developing skills unique to advocacy which can apply to any practice area and build connections within a community of litigators who will serve as resources throughout the student's legal career.

ARTICLE III Membership

Membership shall be open to all OCU Law students.

ARTICLE IV Members and Executive Board

1. The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary shall comprise the SoL Executive Board. Additional executive board positions may be created as needed by a unanimous vote of the current board. Any officer position created by unanimous vote may later be dissolved by unanimous vote of the current board. The Executive Board will meet periodically to determine the general direction of the SoL and to decide issues of importance to the club. Furthermore, all organizational property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by the members of the Executive Board. Each officer shall inform the President and Treasurer of any items and/or funds they require to meet their conditional obligations.
2. Only current OCU Law students may serve as officers
3. There will be a Faculty Advisory who shall serve as a resource for SoL members, assist in the facilitation of speakers, and serve as a liaison when necessary. The faculty advisor at the time of founding is Tia Ebarb Matt.
4. The SoL officers shall be as follows:
 - a. President: The President shall call SoL meetings, coordinate the operations and direction of the SoL, serve as a liaison between the SoL and OCU Law leadership. It is the duty of the president to schedule the educational programming for the club. The President shall also serve as a guide for the future of SoL in accordance with the Preamble and Statement of Purpose. Additionally, the President shall make available a copy of the most recent and updated version of this Constitution and Bylaws electronically upon request at any meeting or event related to the SoL.

- b. Vice-President: The Vice-President shall call SoL meetings in the President's absence and coordinate the activities of any and all Chairs. Chair positions may be created and dismissed by unanimous vote of the current board. Chair positions are meant to serve as aids to the board in carrying out its duties.
 - c. Secretary: The Secretary shall compile and maintain the minutes of meetings and the records of the organization, keep a current list of members, and communicate essential information with club members such as meeting times and dates.
 - d. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall maintain the financial accounts and records of the SoL, set for the SoLs budget, submit the SoLs financial reports and requests to the Student Bar Association (SBA) according to SBA guidelines.
 - e. SBA Representatives: The Representatives shall be responsible for attending SBA meetings and informing the Executive Board about SBA meetings.
- 5. All officers will assist with educational programing, recruitment and retention, publicity and social media, community outreach, and any other duties necessary to ensure the vitality of the SoL.
 - 6. A simple majority vote of the Executive Board shall resolve any dispute involving the interpretation of the Constitution or Bylaws. In the event of a tie vote, the President's vote shall count twice.
 - 7. A simple majority vote of the Executive Board shall resolve any other matter in the organization with the exception of creating new officer or chair positions. In the event of a tie vote, the President's vote shall count twice.
 - 8. In the event a member is causing significant disruption to the organization, the President may remove the member after discussion with the Executive Board during a meeting called by the President and involving only the Executive Board members. Discussions within this meeting are strictly confidential and may not be discussed outside of the scheduled meeting.
 - 9. Only officers shall have voting responsibilities. Chair positions do not receive a vote.

ARTICLE V

Elections and Term

1. The elected officers of the SoL shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and SBA Representatives. Chair Positions shall be selected by the current board. Chair positions may become elective positions with a majority vote of the Executive Board. Elected positions shall be voted on by a majority of the members present at the last meeting of the Spring semester until all vacant positions are filled. The last meeting of the Spring semester featuring the general election shall be held before the second week in April, unless postponed by a simple majority of the Executive Board. This election meeting shall not be postponed past the end of Spring “Dead”/”Reading Week.”
2. An election occurring on the last meeting of the Spring semester shall be known as a “general election.” Any election other than a general election is a “special election.” including those after the general for filling vacancies and filling newly created positions. All elections must be announced at least seven (7) days before it occurs.
3. Each officer elected in a general election will serve for a term of one (1) year. Officers elected in a special election shall serve for the remainder of that year until the next general election.
4. The President shall oversee all elections, unless running for office. In this event, the President shall appoint an outgoing officer or a member not running for office, to oversee the election.
5. A single election shall not occur over multiple meetings.
6. All voting conducted for any election shall be done by secret paper or electronic ballot. Candidates shall cast their ballots first and immediately exit the room while the remaining members present cast their ballots and return once those ballots have been collected. All ballots shall be collected by the Chairperson. Outside of the general meeting area, the ballots will be tabulated verbally under the supervision of the Executive Board not running. Each candidate shall designate one (1) person, other than him or herself, to oversee the vote counting procedures. In the event there are not enough persons for each candidate to designate an observer, then the candidates may observe the count. Any candidate may request a single recount within ten (10) minutes of the announcement of the results and all ballots shall be destroyed immediately following the recount, or if no recount occurs, immediately.
7. In the event of a tie, the more senior candidate, i.e. a 2L over a 1L, shall win. If both candidates are in the same class, the outgoing officers who are not candidate’s votes will

vote again. If the tie remains, the highest ranking officer who is not running for any position will cast a final vote to determine the winner. The officers, from highest rank to lowest are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary.

8. To be eligible to vote, the member must have attended at least one meeting prior to the election in which the vote occurs.
9. Neither absentee nor proxy votes shall be allowed.
10. Upon being duly elected, all newly elected and re-elected officers must take an oath of office at the election meeting. The outgoing President, or if the outgoing president is unavailable the outgoing Vice-President, shall officiate the Oath of Office. The Oath of Office shall be read, upon conclusion of all electoral business, by the officiator and repeated by the elected officers while all persons have their right arm raised. The Oath of Office shall read as follows: "I [insert name of officer] swear or affirm to faithfully uphold the duties of the office of my office to the best of my ability. I further swear or affirm, to the best of my ability, to serve with honesty, dignity, and respect for myself, my colleagues, and each person I come into contact with. I will go beyond expectations to ensure the growth of the club and promote a positive member experience. I will uphold and protect the Constitution and Bylaws of the Society of Litigators, the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, and the Constitution of the United States of America."
11. No individual who has ever been impeached from a position within the Executive Board may seek any future election.
12. In the event any officer is unable to complete their term, a special election must be called within fourteen (14) calendar days to fill the position. If the position cannot be filled via a vote within 14 calendar days, the remaining Executive Officers may appoint a current member to that position until a vote may be held. Until the position is filled by appointment or vote, the remaining officers shall share the duties of the officer who could not finish their term.

ARTICLE VI

Removal from Office

Officers may be removed for good cause by the unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments & Internal Legislation

1. Amendments to this constitution and to the by-laws shall be adopted by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the general membership of the club in attendance at that meeting in which the vote is held. The President and Faculty Advisor shall have veto power. However, a Presidential veto shall be overridden by a three-fourth (3/4) majority vote of the other members of the Executive Board.
2. A piece of internal legislation may only alter, change, or amend the language of a single Article in the Constitution or Bylaws. In order to alter more than one Article, multiple pieces of internal legislation must be written.
3. Any member of the organization that has at least attended one (1) meeting may author a piece of internal legislation and a vote on the internal legislation must be held at the next regularly scheduled club meeting. If a piece of Internal Legislation is not submitted prior to the final meeting of the academic year, it shall be deemed untimely and shall not be put to a vote that year. A simple majority of the Executive Board shall have the ability to call a constitutional convention. A convention shall take place with at least fourteen (14) days of advanced notice in an environment in which all members shall be able to review and propose amendments to the Constitution.
4. All internal legislation of the club shall follow this format:

Society of Litigators
Oklahoma City University School of Law (YEAR)

SoL Bill No. #

By: NAME (Position)

AS INTRODUCED

An act to amend the Constitution of the Society of Litigators; creating ____; providing ____; providing short title; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SOCIETY OF LITIGATORS

.

Section 1. This act shall be known as the "SoL ____ Act of YEAR."

Section 2. AMENDATORY: A new section of text to be codified in the SoL Club Constitution under Article ROMAN NUMERAL and to read as follows: ____

TEXT OF THE AMENDMENT____

Section 3. This Act shall be effective immediately after passage and approval.

ARTICLE VIII

Governance

This organization shall be governed by this Constitution, its bylaws, and the rules and regulations of OCU Law.

Current as of 07-06-2025