

Constitution of the WCL Intellectual Property Law Society

Preamble

In order to promote the progress of science and the useful arts at the Washington College of Law and across the world, to help educate people about the legal rights governing creations of the mind, to address contemporary issues affecting the public's access to knowledge, to provide a professional networking resource in the Nation's Capitol, and to foster a beneficial exchange of ideas that elevates the quality of art, science, and life in general for individuals across the world, We hereby ordain ourselves, with these goals in mind, as the Washington College of Law Intellectual Property Law Society. We recognize the increasingly complex, dynamic and important role of intellectual property in the world today, and accept as our mission the task of elevating student awareness of intellectual property issues at the Washington College of Law. Fully aware of intellectual property's growing importance in the world, We, the Washington College of Law Intellectual Property Law Society, hereby adopt this Constitution.

Article 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Washington College of Law Intellectual Property Law Society, hereinafter referred to as the IP Society.

Article 2: Purpose

The IP Society commits itself first and foremost to providing a professional forum for WCL students interested in pursuing a career in intellectual property to learn about this cutting-edge field.

The IP Society further commits itself to hosting educational events for its members.

The IP Society further strive to facilitate the establishment of professional relationships between students, professor, lawyers, judges, and anybody else interested in intellectual property.

Finally, the IP Society seeks to build cooperative relationships with other student organizations in the Washington College of Law community.

Article 3: Membership

Membership in the IP Society shall be open to any student currently or formerly enrolled at the Washington College of Law. The IP Society shall not discriminate on the basis of: ancestry, color, race, cultural or ethnic background, economic status, ideological, philosophical, or political beliefs or affiliations, marital or parental status, national or regional origin, physical disability, religion, or religious or denominational affiliation, gender or sexual orientation.

Article 4: The Executive Board

The Executive Board shall be composed of four Officers: the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary. Only current WCL students are eligible to be Officers of the IP Society.

The Executive Board shall determine the agenda and policy of the IP Society and coordinate all of its activities and event.

Article 5: Duties of the Executive Board Positions

All Executive Board members must maintain active involvement in all of the IP Society activities and endeavors.

Duties of the President. The President shall:

- (1) Preside over all meetings of the IP Society;
- (2) Define the agenda of the IP Society during his or her tenure;
- (3) Act as the official representative of the IP Society to other groups and the media;
and
- (4) Be capable of co-signing checks for SBA-approved events.

Duties of the Vice President. The Vice President shall:

- (1) Assist the President in the performance of his or her duties, including helping to define the agenda for IP Society events during his or her tenure, and evaluating the progress of the Executive Board and organization as a whole;
- (2) Act as President when the President is unable to perform his or her duties;
- (3) Assume the office of the President upon the President's death, resignation, removal, or inability to perform duties until an election can be held; and,
- (4) Take on projects of his or her choosing.

Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall:

- (1) Manage the bank account and SBA-approved budget;
- (2) Be capable of co-signing checks for SBA-approved events; and
- (3) Take on projects of his or her choosing.

Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary shall:

- (1) Take minutes of all formal IP Society meetings;
- (2) Have supervisory power over all of the IP Society's Committees; and,
- (3) Take on projects of his or her choosing.

Article 6: Committees

Formation. Committees of the IP Society may be formed when two (2) or more people are working on a common area of interest related to Intellectual Property Law.

Supervision. Committees are only subject to supervision by the IP Society if they receive funding from the IP Society's SBA-approved budget. In the event a Committee does use any of the money from the IP Society's SBA-approved budget for its own purposes, the Committee is subject to supervision by the IP Society Secretary until the next SBA budget meeting.

Procedure. The Secretary shall appoint a Committee Chair, or the Committee members can vote to decide who shall be the Committee Chair, if the Secretary consents to such a vote. A majority vote is required to assume the role of Committee Chair. In the event no committee member receives a majority vote, the Secretary shall either appoint a committee chair, or assume the role of Committee Chair himself or herself. Committees shall perform such duties as the Committee Chair may assign. The Secretary has the power, with the consent of the President, to dissolve any funding for the Committee from the IP Society's SBA-approved budget, if good cause can be shown.

Article 7: Elections

In general. Elections shall occur when:

- (1) The President calls an election;
- (2) An Officer is no longer a student of American University or resigns, or
- (3) The Executive Board, by a unanimous vote (with the exception of the member whose office is in question) may call an election to replace a member of the Executive Board.

Eligibility. Eligibility to hold the office of President shall be limited to students who have successfully acquired at least one full-time semester of credits at WCL or another ABA-accredited law school.

Procedure. Voting shall be conducted in a manner that the departing President sees fit, unless such manner is clearly unreasonable as determined by a majority of the remaining Executive Board members, in which case voting shall be conducted by secret ballot in a WCL classroom.

Elections shall occur on any day in April, as chosen by the departing President. Candidates are nominated directly before their election by any member of the IP Society. Every candidate shall have the opportunity to speak before the assembled members. The candidates shall leave the room during the vote for the Officer position that they are competing for.

Voter Eligibility. Any current or former WCL student is eligible to submit one vote for the candidate of their choice for each of the four offices.

Article 8: Removal

Cause for removal. Cause for removal shall be defined as malfeasance or nonfeasance of duties assigned by the Executive Board or delineated within this document, or as ineligibility for IP Society membership pursuant to Article 3. Cause for removal shall also include grounds found by all other members of the Executive Board to constitute good and sufficient cause.

Process for removal. To begin the process for removal, another member of the Executive Board must charge the Officer with the reasons for his or her removal publicly at a meeting of the IP Society. The Officer in question must be offered an opportunity to defend himself or herself at that meeting. At the next meeting of the Executive Board the other members of the Executive Board must vote unanimously for the removal of the Officer.

Article 9: Vacancies

Declaration of vacancy. A vacancy shall be declared when a member of the Executive Board dies, resigns, or is removed from office. If the vacancy occurs in an Executive Board position other than the President, the President shall appoint a successor until an election can be held. If the vacancy is the President, then the Vice-President shall automatically be the replacement.

Article 10: Amendments

Procedure. A Constitutional amendment can be proposed by a majority vote of the Executive Board. Once the amendment is proposed, the Executive Board shall notify the IP Society members of the proposed amendment and shall ask for a vote of the members on the proposed amendment. If 2/3 of the members that actually vote adopt the proposed amendment, it shall be incorporated into the Constitution.

Article 11: SBA Funding

The IP Society shall not expend SBA funds or use SBA facilities to campaign for or against any candidate for public office.