

OUTLaw

Constitution of the Duke University School of Law OUTLaw LGBT/Allies Student Organization

Article I. Name and Organizational Purpose

1.1 The name of this organization shall be OUTLaw.

1.2 The twofold mission of OUTLaw is (1) to ensure that all students graduating from Duke University School of Law, members or not, possess a firm understanding of the legal challenges facing the LGBT community and (2) to preserve and shape the ongoing dialogue between LGBT and allied students on campus. The intended result of this dialogue is to put a human face on LGBT individuals, tearing down old stereotypes. As a part of this mission, OUTLaw will continue to ensure that Duke Law represents a welcoming environment for LGBT students and prospective students.

1.3 The rules and regulations contained in this Constitution shall govern OUTLaw.

Article II. Membership

2.1 All law students at the Duke University School of Law are eligible to

join and serve as OUTLaw officers. OUTLaw is now and will always remain a fully nondiscriminatory organization.

2.2 All members of the Duke University School of Law community are invited and encouraged to attend OUTLaw meetings, programs, and events.

Article III. Organizational Structure

Officer Elections

3.1 OUTLaw shall have the following officers:

- . ● President
- . ● Vice President
- . ● Treasurer
- . ● Communications Chair
- . ● Events Chair
- . ● 1L Representative
- . ● 2L Representative
- . ● 3L Representative

3.2 The Board shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Communications Chair and Events Chair.

3.3 The officers of the Board, as well as the 2L and 3L representatives,

shall be elected each April for a term of one calendar year. Members may nominate themselves or other members of the organization for officer positions. The President shall determine, within reason, the dates for nominations and elections, as well as for special elections to fill vacant positions.

3.4 The 1L Representative shall be chosen by a majority of the Board members after candidates for the position have submitted brief statements of interest following the initial meeting in the Fall Semester each year.

Transition Between the Outgoing and Incoming Boards

3.5 The incoming officers shall effectively hold their respective offices at the commencement of the first joint Board meeting after elections. The incoming President shall call the first joint Board meeting. In order to provide for an effective transition, outgoing and incoming officers shall be required to attend one or two joint Board meetings following elections.

3.6 Outgoing officers shall be responsible for conducting organization events planned prior to elections.

3.7 In the event no candidate for an office receives a plurality of the votes cast, a second election shall be conducted between the two candidates receiving the most votes in the first election.

Meetings Procedure

3.8 Meetings shall be informal and not run in strict accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. In rare instances, when parliamentary order is necessary, the rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the organization.

Article IV. OUTLaw Officers' Responsibilities

4.1 The President:

- . ● Shall be the official spokesperson of the organization.
- . ● Shall have the authority to fill vacant officer positions by appointment, provided that no officer of the Board objects. If an officer of the Board objects, then an election will be held, abiding by the applicable provisions of §§ 3.3, 3.4, and 3.7 of this document.
- . ● Shall be responsible for calling and publicizing meetings of the organization and the Board.
- . ● May prepare agendas for all meetings.
- . ● Shall determine what events OUTLaw will sponsor each year, with the approval of the Vice President. In the event of a disagreement, the Board will vote on whether to hold the contested event, and the result of that vote will be binding.
- . ● Shall assist the other Board members in their work whenever

necessary and proper.

- . ● Shall be responsible for ensuring the general health and productivity of the organization.

4.2 The Vice President shall assist the President in the general running of the organization. The Vice President shall be the organization's spokesperson when the President is not able to attend an OUTLaw event or meeting. The Vice President will also conduct elections.

4.3 The Treasurer shall request funding from law firms and the DBA finance committee for OUTLaw events as necessary. The Treasurer shall also handle budgetary appeals to the DBA and coordinate the financial reimbursement of organization members when necessary.

4.4 The Communications Chair shall take minutes at Board meetings and maintain the Web site, mailing list, and any other electronic means of communication that enable the organization to publicize meetings, events, and news of interest to OUTlaw's membership.

4.5 The Event Chair shall have primary responsibility for organizing member events designed to foster a sense of commitment to the organization and fellowship among its members and to recruit new members, including external informational and charitable programs, as well as social gatherings. These events may include, among other things, panel discussions, presentations, and group travel for events related to LGBT legal and social issues. Once a given event is approved of, the Event Chair has the authority to act as the voice of OUTlaw when

dealing with an outside individual, such as an invitee to a panel discussion. This authority is subject to any limitations explicitly stated ahead of time by the President.

4.6 The 1L, 2L, and 3L class representatives shall serve as liaisons to their respective classes. They will assist the Board in planning events and will learn how to access the funding and event-planning resources available to student groups. An annual responsibility of the representatives will be to compose the letter sent on OUTlaw's behalf to newly admitted students. Alongside the Events Chair, the class representatives have a duty to recruit new members to OUTlaw in a positive way.

4.7 All members of the Board shall together provide assistance to:

- . ● Organize events, including events co-sponsored by other organizations and groups.
- . ● Work with the Office of Career Services to provide career-related programs and guidance for law students.
- . ● Work with the Admissions office to plan for the recruitment and successful transition of LGBT students into their first year of law school at Duke.

Article V. Meeting Schedule

5.1 OUTlaw shall hold general meetings when needed, no less than two per school year. OUTlaw shall hold an introductory meeting, during

which the 1L Representative is elected, in the Fall Semester. In addition, during March or April, it shall hold an end-of-the-year meeting to elect of the new Board.

5.2 The Board shall communicate with OUTlaw's members and the general student body by e-mail and in person when necessary.

Article VI. Adoption and Amendment

Adoption

6.1 This Constitution shall be adopted with the approval of 3/5 of the Board members at a meeting conducted either in person or through e-mail.

Amendment

6.2 To amend this Constitution, Board members must be notified of the proposed change(s) at least two weeks prior to the meeting (which must be conducted in person) at which the proposed amendment(s) will be subject to a vote. If multiple amendments are proposed, the vote for each amendment will be individually tallied. Feedback shall be submitted in e-mail format to the President at least one calendar day before the meeting.

6.3 All proposals to amend this Constitution must be adopted with the approval of 3/5 of the Board members at the meeting.