

# CONSTITUTION OF STETSON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENT CHAPTER

of

## The Association of Trial Lawyers of America

### ARTICLE 1 - NAME

The name of the chapter shall be the Stetson University School of Law Student Chapter (Student Chapter) of The Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA).

### ARTICLE 2 - OBJECTIVES

The Student Chapters have been established to encourage law students to learn about trial advocacy skills and what it is like to be a trial lawyer. The Chapters provide a way for students to become actively involved in preserving the civil justice system and right to trial by jury.

### ARTICLE 3 - ATLA AFFILIATION

By the adoption of this Constitution, and compliance with any other requirement of ATLA, the Student Chapter shall be recognized as an affiliated Student Chapter of ATLA and shall enjoy rights and privileges of affiliation as determined by the ATLA Board of Governors. The Board of Governors, through the ATLA Law School Committee and ATLA staff or other designee of ATLA, shall be entitled to review the programs, activities, and policies of each Student Chapter and may, after appropriate notice to the Student Chapter, rescind affiliation status.

### ARTICLE 4 - MEMBERSHIP

- SECTION 1: The Student Chapter, through the Executive Committee, may establish annual Student Chapter membership dues.
- SECTION 2: Any law school student in good standing attending the Stetson University School of Law is eligible for membership (Member) in the Student Chapter.
- SECTION 3: To be a member in good standing in the Student Chapter, the Member must be a student member in good standing in ATLA and pay any periodic dues of the Student Chapter, provided, however, that the member also continues to adhere to the objectives of the Student Chapter as well as the Mission of ATLA.

### ARTICLE 5 - OFFICERS

- SECTION 1: The Officers shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian.
- SECTION 2: The President shall be at least a 2<sup>nd</sup> year law student. The President shall

be the Student Chapter=s Chief Executive Officer and shall preside over all meetings of the Executive Committee and Student Chapter.

SECTION 3: The Vice President shall perform such duties as are delegated by the President. The Vice President shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President.

SECTION 4: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Student Chapter and Executive Committee meetings, and shall be the official custodian of all Student Chapter records, direct all official Student Chapter mailings of notices, and keep an accurate census of membership. The Treasurer may collect all Student Chapter dues and monies, keeping records thereof. The Treasurer shall receive, disburse, and invest the funds of the Student Chapter in the manner directed by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall also be responsible to submit to the ATLA Manager of Law Student Services or designee all reports on a timely basis as required by ATLA.

SECTION 5: The Parliamentarian shall advise the presiding officers on questions of parliamentary procedure in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised. The Parliamentarian shall perform such other duties as may be delegated by the President, Executive Committee, and Student Chapter on Constitutional questions.

SECTION 6: The terms of office shall be one (1) year, which shall begin at the close of the last general Student Chapter meeting of each school year, and no officer may succeed himself or herself in the same office.

SECTION 7: In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the duties, powers and responsibilities of President shall be assumed immediately by the next officer in the line of succession as follows: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian.

In the event of a vacancy in the other offices, notice of the vacancy shall be given to the Members which shall elect to fill the vacancy by majority vote at a meeting to be held not sooner than thirty (30) days after such notice has been given.

For purposes of this Article, a vacancy arises upon the death or resignation of an officer, or upon certification by two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee that an officer is mentally or physically unable to fulfill the duties of office.

#### ARTICLE 6 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

SECTION 1: The Executive Committee shall be the managing body of the Student Chapter, and shall direct its affairs.

SECTION 2: The Executive Committee shall total nine (9) Members, including all elected Officers as well as five (5) Student Chapter Members appointed by the President, with the approval of a majority of the elected Officers.

SECTION 3: The Executive Committee shall meet at least six times during the school year, with notification of such meetings going to all members of the Committee at least ten (10) days in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting.

SECTION 4: Emergency or special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President, with notification to all Members at least two (2) days in advance of the meeting.

#### ARTICLE 7 - FACULTY ADVISORS

SECTION 1: The Student Chapter should have a Faculty Advisor who is a professor at the Stetson Law School.

SECTION 2: The Faculty Advisor shall provide guidance to the Executive Committee and the President as needed relating to the activities and programs of the Student Chapter.

#### ARTICLE 8 - ELECTIONS AND VOTING

SECTION 1: Only Members in good standing as provided herein and above shall be entitled to vote in any election or hold office in the Student Chapter.

SECTION 2: The Executive Committee may promulgate election rules, which rules shall serve as permanent rules unless amended by the Executive Committee. The rules may be amended by the Executive Committee at any regular meeting of the Committee; however, any amendment shall not affect any election held within thirty (30) days of the approval of such amendment.

#### ARTICLE 9 - GENERAL MEETINGS

SECTION 1: General Student Chapter meetings shall be held at least four (4) times during the school year, with the final meeting held at the close of the school year for the purpose of electing officers for the following school year.

SECTION 2: Notification of a General Student Chapter meeting must be provided to all Members fourteen (14) days prior to the meetings.

#### ARTICLE 10 - COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: The Executive Committee may create Standing Committees deemed necessary to operate the Student Chapter on a continuous basis. The Executive Committee shall elect Members to fill positions on Standing Committees with staggered terms so that one-third (1/3) of the terms expire each year. At the beginning of each school year, the Executive

Committee shall fill vacancies on each Standing Committee. The President shall appoint the Chair(s) from among the members of the Standing Committee.

SECTION 2: The President may appoint such other Committees at his/her discretion. The President shall appoint Members to fill these Committees and appoint the Chair of each Committee.

SECTION 3: The Executive Committee shall by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all members on the Committee have the power to remove any Committee member or Chair.

#### ARTICLE 11 - AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: This Constitution may be amended at the General Membership meeting of the Student Chapter by three-quarters (3/4) of the Members present, or two-thirds (2/3) of the membership, whichever is less.

SECTION 2: An amendment must be proposed to the President or Secretary/Treasurer in writing not less than two (2) months prior to the General meeting at which the amendment will be considered, and (1) be approved by the Executive Committee and (2) be circulated in writing to the Members fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.

#### ARTICLE 12 - BYLAWS

SECTION 1: The Executive Committee may adopt a set of Bylaws subject to the approval of the majority of Members.

SECTION 2: Adopted Bylaws shall not be inconsistent with this Constitution.