

## **Vermont Law School Federalist Society (VLSFS)**

### **Mission Statement**

The Federalist Society is founded on three core principles: We believe that the state exists to preserve freedom. We believe that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution. And we believe that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be.

### **Goals of VLSFS**

The Vermont Law School Federalist Society (VLSFS) exists to educate students about Federalist principles (individual liberty, traditional values, and the rule of law), facilitate conscientious discussion about applying them in our personal and professional lives, and encourage students to become valuable contributors to the VLS community.

The VLSFS seeks “[t]o promote the principles that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be.” VLSFS will adhere to the purposes and principles set forth by The Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies.

The main goal of the VLSFS is to become a vibrant student group supporting individual liberty, traditional values, and the rule of law where students feel free to come together to discuss these Federalist principles and learn how they relate to our education as lawyers from diverse backgrounds. Further, the VLSFS seeks to establish a student group that will continue to thrive and grow in membership year after year.

VLSFS seeks national recognition by The Federalist Society for Law & Public Policy Studies as well as recognition as a Vermont Law School (VLS) club.

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## Constitution/By-Laws

### ARTICLE I. Definitions.

**Section 1.** Unless otherwise stated, a majority is defined as at least 75%.

### ARTICLE II. Officers, Elections/Appointments, and Duties.

**Section 1.** The elected officers of the VLSFS shall be the President and Vice-President. The appointed officers shall be the Treasurer, Historian, Outreach Coordinator, and Secretary.

**Section 2.** A majority of all VLSFS members in good standing shall elect the President and Vice-President annually during the final meeting of the VLSFS. The President and Vice-President shall appoint the Treasurer and Secretary. A majority of all VLSFS members in good standing shall ratify the appointments.

**Section 3.** The duty of the President is to oversee the affairs of the VLSFS, ensuring the VLSFS follows the mission statement. The President is further responsible for delegating tasks to the rest of the elected/appointed members of the VLSFS as fit to further the goals of the VLSFS.

**Section 4.** The duties of the Vice-President include supporting the President in carrying out the duties above and acting as President when the President is unable to do so.

**Section 5.** The duties of the Treasurer include managing the finances of the VLSFS, creating financial statements, preparing an annual budget, and applying to the SBA annually by the deadline to secure funding for the VLSFS. The Treasurer does these activities with the President, with final approval required from both the President and Vice-President. A majority of the membership present when the annual budget is presented at the first annual meeting held during the Fall academic term may request that changes be made to the budget at which point changes are discussed and approved by a majority of the officers.

**Section 6.** The duties of the Historian include gathering, compiling, and disseminating information to the membership of the VLSFS and broader VLS community. The information includes the VLSFS, national Federalist Society, points of interest, and Federalism broadly.

**Section 7.** The duties of the Outreach Coordinator include promoting events on campus, engaging with the membership, coordinating events with other Federalist Society chapters, and updating the VLSFS social media pages, website, poster board, and other means of communication.

**Section 8.** The duties of the Secretary include taking meeting notes, managing the VLSFS mailing list, communicating with the club's membership, updating documents for the VLSFS, and running the annual election.

**Section 9.** The Vice-President shall report to the President. The Treasurer, Historian, Outreach Coordinator, and Secretary shall report to both the Vice-President and President.

**Section 10.** To be eligible for election for an officer position, a member must have been in good standing pursuant to ARTICLE III Section 6.

**Section 11.** The President and Vice-President choose a faculty advisor for the VLSFS annually after their election. The faculty advisor must be a member of the VLS. A majority of the officers ratifies the choice. The faculty advisor shall act as advisor to the club.

**Section 12.** The duties of the faculty advisor include supporting the VLSFS, encouraging staff participation, attending VLSFS meetings and events when possible, and assisting with running events when possible as required. The faculty advisor is not required to attend meetings for the purposes of voting as an officer and is not eligible to vote in elections as per Article III, Section 7.

**Section 13.** A majority is required for all administrative and operational decisions made by one or more of the officers.

### **ARTICLE III. Membership**

**Section 1.** All persons enrolled in any capacity at or employed by Vermont Law School (VLS) are eligible to become members of the VLSFS. Membership guarantees to members the rights and privileges thereof as described in the By-Laws.

**Section 2.** To be eligible to vote, a member must be a currently enrolled full-time or part-time student at VLS and have subscribed to the VLSFS mailing list with the Secretary prior to voting. Distance learning students, visiting students, and all other persons are not eligible to vote for Officers, but may attend all elections, meetings, and events.

**Section 3.** There are no fees associated with being a member of the VLSFS.

**Section 4.** Attendance is not required for membership.

**Section 5.** Membership may be revoked from any member who commits any illegal act or acts in a way that conflicts with the mission statement. Revocation of membership is solely at the discretion of the Officers and may be appealed to the VLS SBA for non-binding mediation or arbitration.

**Section 6.** To be in good standing for election, a member must (1) have attended a majority of the meetings called during the previous academic year, (2) be a full-time or part-time student at VLS, (3) have completed the equivalent of a minimum of 3 academic terms, and (4) maintain a minimum 3.0 CGPA. The member may be completing their third term at the time of election.

**Section 7.** To be in good standing to vote in an election, a member must (1) have attended a majority of the meetings called during the previous academic year and (2) be a full-time or part-time student at VLS.

**Section 8.** Requirements 3 and 4 of Section 6 may be waived if following an interview with the potential candidate by the President and Vice President, the candidate shows that they would be able to handle the rigors of both the position and their academic duties. This must be ratified by a majority of the officers.

#### **ARTICLE IV. Membership Meetings.**

**Section 1.** Regular Meetings will be held on a bi-weekly basis with opportunities to attend extended to the VLSFS membership.

**Section 2.** Special Meetings will be called to convene the membership of the VLSFS as required to deal with issues that must be voted on or which the Officers feel is important to pass on.

**Section 3.** The officers will set the time, date, and location of any meeting. The Secretary will communicate this information at least 24 hours in advance of the scheduled time.

**Section 4.** Elections will be held during the second-to-last meeting of the academic year during the Spring term. Appointments will follow within 14 days during a regular meeting. Ratification must occur at the same meeting as appointment. If the elections, appointment, and ratification occur during the same meeting, another meeting is not required.

#### **ARTICLE V. Events.**

**Section 1.** The VLSFS will have at least 1 general membership event to facilitate recruitment during the start of both the Fall and Spring terms.

**Section 2.** For any event where speakers are invited, notice is required for both the membership and the VLS student body. Notice should commence at least one week prior to the event, preferably at least 2 weeks prior.

**Section 3.** Based on anticipated numbers, an appropriate venue will be chosen with an appropriate amount of food and beverages purchased in advance by one of the officers. The treasurer handles all receipts and account for expenses for year-end review. Event promotion is mostly through the Secretary and Outreach Coordinator.

#### **ARTICLE V. Amendments.**

**Section 1.** Amendments may be made to the By-Laws once proposed by any member of the VLSFS.

**Section 2.** A majority of the membership in good standing (Article III, Section 7) must support amendments at the meeting when amendments are proposed. A majority of the officers must ratify amendments. Once ratified, the Secretary will make the necessary amendments.

**Section 3.** Amendments shall not contradict or oppose the mission of the VLSFS or the national Federalist Society. Amendments shall also not condone or encourage illegal behavior or behavior that contravenes the VLS Honor Code.

#### **ARTICLE VI. Removal from Office.**

**Section 1.** Removal of an officer from office is possible if (1) the officer does not fulfill their duties as proscribed in Article I or any other section of the By-Laws, (2) if an officer contravenes the VLS Honor Code, or (3) if the officer commits any illegal act or acts in a way that conflicts with the mission statement.

**Section 2.** Removal from Office of membership is solely at the discretion of the Officers and requires a majority vote from the non-offending officers. Removal and may be appealed to the VLS SBA for non-binding mediation or arbitration.

**VLSFS Officers - 2015/2016****President:** Ivan Zdravkovic[IvanZdravkovic@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:IvanZdravkovic@vermontlaw.edu)**Vice-President:** Luke Donigan[LukeDonigan@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:LukeDonigan@vermontlaw.edu)**Treasurer:** DJ Haskin[DennisHaskin@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:DennisHaskin@vermontlaw.edu)**Historian:** Jonas Reagan[JonasReagan@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:JonasReagan@vermontlaw.edu)**Outreach Coordinator:** Emma Boyle[EmmaRoseBoyle@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:EmmaRoseBoyle@vermontlaw.edu)**Secretary:** Mitchell Mender[MitchellMender@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:MitchellMender@vermontlaw.edu)**Faculty Advisor:** Dean Mark Latham[MLatham@vermontlaw.edu](mailto:MLatham@vermontlaw.edu)

## **Furthering the Mission of the Vermont Law School Student Bar Association (SBA) - 2015/2016**

The SBA has four main goals:

- (1) Serve Our Members*
  - (a) Provide benefits, programs and services which promote members' professional growth and quality of life*
- (2) Improve Our Profession*
  - (a) Promote the highest quality legal education.*
  - (b) Promote competence, ethical conduct and professionalism.*
  - (c) Promote pro bono and public service by the legal profession.*
- (3) Eliminate Bias and Enhance Diversity*
  - (a) Promote full and equal participation in the association, our profession, and the justice system by all persons.*
  - (b) Eliminate bias in the legal profession and the justice system*
- (4) Advance the Rule of Law*
  - (a) Increase public understanding of and respect for the rule of law, the legal process, and the role of the legal profession at home and throughout the world.*
  - (b) Hold governments accountable under law.*
  - (c) Work for just laws, including human rights, and a fair legal process.*
  - (d) Assure meaningful access to justice for all persons.*
  - (e) Preserve the independence of the legal profession and the judiciary.*

The Vermont Law School Federalist Society will further the goals and objectives of the VLS SBA by providing a forum for students who hold libertarian or conservative viewpoints. At this time, no student group on campus encourages these viewpoints, with the majority skewed to a liberal point of view. Thus, the VLSFS will diversify the campus in this regard and create a more vibrant and connected community. Further, we will support all views and encourage discussion and diversity at our events.

The VLSFS will also further the SBA's mission to improve the profession by developing better lawyers. Catering to a minority viewpoint (at VLS) means that professors, visitors, and other students will constantly challenge the VLSFS. Coherently and articulately defending unpopular opinions is an important skill for future lawyers to practice and develop. Exposing others to this viewpoint will enrich the educational experience of all VLS students, visitors, and professors.

Finally, the VLSFS seeks to increase awareness and educate others about the Constitution, the role of the government, and the federalist principles of individual liberty, traditional values, and the rule of law.