

# **University of Dayton School Family Organization Constitution**

Drafted: 3/25/2020

Adopted:

## **Article I: Name of the Organization**

The name of this organization shall be UDSL Families & Couples Association (UDFCA)

## **Article II: Mission of UDSL Families & Couples Association**

The UDSL Families & Couples Association aims to bring together students who have family commitments, such as students with: children, spouses, significant others, nieces and nephews, or any other student who wishes to support their classmates. We focus on the practical aspects of being a law student with familial responsibilities. The organization addresses and provides support for subjects such as housing, time-management, spousal relationships, communication, child care/education, child development, non-traditional family,, and other academic and non-academic concerns. These are accomplished through sponsored or co-hosted programs on pertinent topics such as “balancing career and family” or “family friendly jobs”, as well as social gatherings and activities. Our mission is also accomplished by being accessible to other students of the organization, prospective students, and their families. For example, routine tabling in the lobby of the law school, organization email, organization social media account(s), anonymous(or non-anonymous) questions and polls.

## **Article III: Membership**

1. Membership in UDSL Families & Couples Association shall be open to all persons enrolled in UDSL for the degree of Juris Doctor. We encourage but do not limit memberships of students with biological or non-biological children including foster children, care for siblings, nieces/nephews, or other family children,as well as students with spouses, or significant others. Members are not required to have or care for children nor are they required to have a significant other or spouse.
2. To become a member, each member shall pay \$10 per year. Member’s family and/or significant others are welcome and encouraged to accompany members to association sponsored activities. Family members are also encouraged to communicate with the organization to gain support while their loved one are in law school.
3. In order to maintain active membership status, each student member shall be required to attend at least one of the business meetings as well as attend at least one group activity.
4. Each member must attend a minimum of one meeting per semester to remain active.

5. Due to the unique consideration of the members, zoom meetings may also be allowed to accommodate multiple members.
6. Each Executive Member must attend  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the meetings for the academic year for which they hold their position.

#### **Article IV: Governance**

UDSL Families & Couples Association shall be governed by an Executive Board, which shall consist of a Fall Start Co-President, Summer Start Co-President, Hybrid JD Representative at Large, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

#### **Article V: Representative and Committees**

UDSL Families & Couples Association shall be governed by Married without Children Committee, Orientation Committee, Event Planning Committee, Social Media Committee, and any other committee the Executive Board may deem appropriate.

The purpose for these committees are to encourage and ensure member engagements, broaden outreach efforts, and organizational longevity. The committees will have a more specific focus with assistance of members as well as the executive board members.

Non-Law Student Representative, this representative does not serve as a member or executive. The representative can be an Alumni or Non-Alumni who had a family while in law school, it can be a spouse of Alumni or Non-Alumni of UDSL, it can also be a UDSL faculty member who had a family in law school or spouse was in law school with a family.

The Representative may attend all activities with the organization, attend business meetings, and provide support for all members as they deem necessary.

#### **Article V: Executive Officers**

1. The Co- **Presidents** shall be responsible for the overall management of the association. The Co-Presidents shall represent the association before the university in **all** executive and decision making matters. The Co-Presidents shall also schedule, finalize the agendas for, and presides over general body meetings; assist in the preparation of a budget; comply with SBA rules and regulations; and recruit new members.
2. The **Hybrid JD Representative At Large** shall be responsible for representing the Hybrid students. They are responsible for recruiting members, providing support for Hybrid students as well as representing the needs of Hybrid JD students at business meetings.

3. The **Secretary** shall be responsible for recording minutes of the meetings, publicity for all events (flyers, school newsletter, SBA event calendar, etc), posting meeting notes on TWEN, keeping records of membership, ensuring that each student has access to the Constitution and all amendments, as well as performing other duties as delegated by the President.
4. The duties of **Treasurer** shall be responsible for maintenance of association funds, monitoring of account activity through monthly bank statements, receipt and disbursement of funds, ensuring .... Compliance with SBA rules and regulations, submitting any financial statements are required by the SBA, and performing any other duties delegated by the President.
5. The Secretary or Social Media Committee shall be responsible for Video Conference for our Online Members.

#### **Article VI: Elections and Qualifications**

1. The first election of officers shall be held in the Spring semester of the year in correlation with the SBA elections. Elections shall be held for all offices that are currently unfilled.
2. After elections are held, the former-officers and current officers will work together as co-officers for an easy and guided transition. However, the current-officers will have some say in all decision making starting at their election. The former officers will only be acting in an advisory position.
3. Only active student members of the association shall be eligible to vote or hold office.

#### **Article VII: Replacement of Officers**

1. Upon the petition of two-thirds of the voting members, an officer may be removed if the petitioners believe that the officer is not faithfully or competently executing his or her duties.
2. In the event that an officer is removed or resigns from his position, nominations shall be taken and a special election shall be held to fill the position at the next business meeting of the association. An officer elected via a special election will serve in the interim, until the next regularly scheduled election

#### **Article VIII: Faculty Advisor**

A faculty or staff member shall be selected by the Executive Committee to serve as an advisor for the organization. If more than one staff member is qualified, co-advisor status shall be permitted.

## **Article IX: Meetings**

Business meetings shall be held monthly. All normal business shall be conducted at these meetings. A social activity may be scheduled in any given month in place of the regular business meeting.

Business Meetings/Events shall be held monthly in the summer as well. The members and executive members that are not registered for classes in the summer are not required to attend. The Summer Start President and the Online Representative shall hold these meetings and events.

Zoom meetings may be held for members who are unable to attend the meeting in person to participate in the meetings. Minutes will also be sent out with all important information discussed during the meeting.

## **Article X: Amendments**

1. Amendments to this constitution shall be made with the consent of a two-thirds majority of active voting members.
2. UDSL Families & Couples Association shall not knowingly make a rule that is in violation of UDSL policies or conflict with the SBA Constitution and/or By-Laws. If a rule of the association is found to be in conflict with these policies, the Executive Committee shall be responsible for determining how the conflict may be resolved.

## **Article XI: Ratification**

The document in its present form shall be distributed to the general membership at or before the first meeting of the organization and shall be considered to be in force upon its acceptance by the membership.

## **Article XIII: Non-Discrimination Clause**

The UDSL Families & Couples Association shall not discriminate in the acceptance of members based on race, sex, religion, marital status, physical handicap, or sexual preference.