

**Harvard Law School
National Security and Law Association
CONSTITUTION**

ARTICLE I. Name and Purpose

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the National Security and Law Association, which is referred to herein as “NSLA.”

Section 2. NSLA is nonpartisan, unaffiliated with any particular national security agenda, and welcomes people of all backgrounds and viewpoints.

Section 3. The purpose of NSLA is expressed in the following paragraph:

NSLA’s only objective is to promote discourse on national security at Harvard Law School. Accordingly, we create fora for engaging the intersection between legal questions and national security policies. To wit: we bring distinguished national security scholars and practitioners to campus for lunchtime lectures, assist our members with career advice and networking opportunities, provide academic resources to the entire Harvard community, and produce high-quality reports on pressing national security matters.

ARTICLE II. Membership

Section 1. Membership in NSLA shall be open to the entire Harvard community. However, a preponderance of the membership should be enrolled at Harvard Law School.

Section 2. No member shall be refused membership on the basis of race, gender, age, socioeconomic class, sexual orientation, religion, or political beliefs.

ARTICLE III. The Executive Board

Section 1. The Executive Board of NSLA shall be composed of up to two Presidents, up to two Executive Vice Presidents, up to two Vice Presidents for Academics, up to two Vice Presidents for Careers, up to two Vice Presidents for Development, and up to two Directors of the National Security Research Committee.

- (a) The President(s) shall preside over events and meetings, and shall be responsible for managing all members of the Executive Board. The President(s) shall be responsible for communicating with speakers and reserving a room for an event as soon as the date of the event has been confirmed. The President(s) shall be responsible for drawing up and submitting the NSLA budget to the Dean of Students Office. The President(s) may choose to alter Executive Board positions as deemed necessary.
- (b) The Executive Vice President(s) shall carry out treasury functions by approving all organizational expenditures and assisting the President(s) with complying with Harvard Law School policies regarding funding and reimbursement. The Executive Vice President(s) shall also be responsible for email communications with NSLA members and ensuring that all events are fully and properly staffed.
- (c) The Vice President(s) (Academics) shall maximize opportunities for HLS students to further their academic interests in issues related to national security.
- (d) The Vice President(s) (Careers) shall organize events that provide NSLA members with career advice and networking opportunities in the field of national security, and serve as NSLA’s liaison to OPIA.
- (e) The Vice President (Development) shall be responsible for NSLA’s image and institutional memory, the NSLA website, and new initiatives for the organization such as efforts to reach out to 1Ls.
- (f) All of the Vice Presidents—including the Executive Vice President(s)—shall assist the President(s) with hosting and catering speaker discussions and other events.
- (g) The Director(s) of the National Security Research Committee shall direct the NSRC’s efforts to execute research projects in conjunction with academics and practitioners in the national security field.

Section 2. NSLA’s Faculty Advisor shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Board.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall function as the governing body of NSLA and shall be primarily responsible for the transaction of the business and functions of NSLA.

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ARTICLE IV. Selection of the Executive Board

Section 1. Any Harvard Law School student member in good standing shall be eligible for election as an officer of NSLA.

Section 2. The term of the Executive Board shall last from June 1 of the year in which they are elected to May 31 of the subsequent year.

Section 3. Procedure for Election of Executive Board Members:

- (a) No elections are necessary for roles on the Executive Board that are uncontested.
- (b) If any roles are contested, a general membership meeting shall be held to elect officers of NSLA.
- (c) All members interested in running in the election must notify the President(s) prior to the meeting. Each candidate for President and Vice President shall provide a statement of interest as to his or her proposed role. If a candidate cannot attend the election meeting, he or she may request that a sitting officer of the Executive Committee read a presentation for him/her.
- (d) After all of the candidate presentations are complete, the voting shall be by secret ballot.
- (e) The candidate for each office receiving a majority of available votes wins. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of votes, a run-off secret ballot shall be held.
- (f) Notwithstanding (a)-(e), the President(s) may decide to conduct the election process via email or online survey in lieu of the procedure described above. No elections of any kind are required for uncontested Executive Board positions.

ARTICLE V. Removal of Executive Board Members

Section 1. Any member of the Executive Board may voluntarily resign by submitting a notice of resignation to the President(s) of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Any member of the Executive Board may be removed for cause. Cause is limited to continued failure to perform duties as specified in this Constitution, misappropriation of funds, failure to maintain their status as a member in good standing, or failure to attend more than half of the meetings for which they have received due notice. "Due notice" shall constitute more than three days' notice.

Section 3. Removal of a member of the Executive Board for cause is achieved by a majority vote of the other members of the Executive Board.

Section 4. Any vacancy on the Executive Board created for any reason other than the end of term shall be filled by appointment by the President(s).

ARTICLE VI. Amendments

Section 1. Any NSLA member may propose amendments to this Constitution by submitting them to the President(s) of the Executive Board.

Section 2. Amendments must be approved by unanimous consent of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII. Ratification

This Constitution shall take effect after it receives the affirmative vote of a majority of the persons present at its meeting of ratification.