

# **STUDENT ORGANIZATION CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

Family and Juvenile Law Society is a student organization at Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law that aims to increase awareness and activity around the topics of family and juvenile law. We sponsor community service projects, panel discussions, social activities, and an annual symposium to educate the TMSL and broader community on legal issues relating to family and juvenile law. Membership is open to all law students, and all events are open to students, faculty, staff, and their friends and family.

## **ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATION NAME**

The name of this organization shall be:

**Family and Juvenile Law Society**

## **ARTICLE II: MISSION**

**SECTION I.** Family and Juvenile Law Society seeks to increase awareness and foster discussion surrounding the legal issues related to family and juvenile law including its impact on children, the disabled, the elderly, parents, grandparents, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

**SECTION II.** Our organization is willing to abide by all TMSL policies and guidelines especially relating to on and off campus activities which our club may sponsor or in which we may participate.

## **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION I.** All registered students at Thurgood Marshall School of Law shall be eligible for voting membership in Family and Juvenile Law Society in the fall and/or spring semesters of the academic year.

**SECTION II.** Voting members, in addition to Section 1, shall be designated as those persons who have paid membership dues within the applicable semester or year they are voting. Others such as faculty, alumni, professionals, ect. are encouraged to become members but as non-voting associate or honorary members.

**SECTION III.** Membership dues will be required from all Thurgood Marshall law students seeking membership at the beginning of each academic semester. Membership dues are subject to change based on the Executive Board's calculation each academic year.

**SECTION III.** All new members are required to complete the New Membership Application at the beginning of each academic semester. Each member will be required to pay Membership Dues to be granted membership status.

**SECTION III.** All members have the power to voluntarily withdraw their membership from the organization at any time. However, all past paid membership dues will not be refunded as a result of a member's withdrawal, unless approved by the Family and Juvenile Law Society President and Vice President.

**SECTION IV.** In keeping with Thurgood Marshall School of Law's policies of non-discrimination, our organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, and physical or mental ability or disabilities.

### **ARTICLE III: EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS**

**SECTION I.** The Executive Board Officers of the organization shall be at least:

- a. President
- b. Vice-President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Marketing Chair
- f. Programming Chair

### **ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS DUTIES**

**SECTION I. President.** The duties of the President shall consist of:

- i. Presiding over all executive board and regular membership meetings.
- ii. Call all organization special meetings
- iii. Sign all financial and administrative documents of the organization
- iv. Represent the Family & Juvenile Law Society to the entire student body or president's roundtable if applicable.

**SECTION II. Vice-President.** The duties of the Vice-President shall consist of:

- i. Act as the president should the president, for any reason, be unable to carry out the presidential duties.
- ii. Assist the president in administering the everyday business and operations of the organization.

- iii. Responsible for hosting executive board elections for the following academic year.
- iv. Mandated to lead at least three executive board officer meetings throughout the academic school year.

**SECTION III. Secretary.** The duties of the Secretary shall consist of:

- i. Take brief minutes of each meeting and take care of any major correspondence concerning the club as a whole
- ii. Turn in all financial records for a re-issue to the Treasures when required or appropriate.
- iii. Manage the organization communications with faculty, alumni, and professionals.

**SECTION IV. Treasurer.** The duties of the Treasure shall consist of:

- i. Keep a record of all financial and historical documents. The Treasurer shall submit all financial records to the President or Vice-President when required for audit.
- ii. Sign all financial documents
- iii. Responsible for calculating membership dues each academic year.

**SECTION V. Marketing Chair.** The duties of the Marketing Chair shall consist of:

- i. Responsible for the upkeep of the organization's social media platforms.
- ii. Act as historian for all of the organization's affairs, including but not limited to programs, events, and more.
- iii. Responsible for creating and composing promotional flyers and presentations for the organization.

**SECTION VI. Programming Chair.** The duties of the Programming Chair shall consist of:

- i. Responsible planning of social and educational events of the organization.
- ii. Assisting the Treasurer in hosting fundraising events.

**ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF ADVISOR**

**SECTION I.** A Faculty Advisor shall be appointed by a majority of the voting members.

**SECTION II.** The advisor shall be a member of the Executive Board.

**SECTION III.** The duties of the Advisor shall be to:

- a. Counter-sign all administrative financial forms (mandatory).
- b. Act as consultant for projects and special committees.
- c. Attend social activities sponsored by the Organization (mandatory).

**SECTION IV.** The Advisor shall not have voting privileges in the Organization.

### **ARTICLE VI: ELECTIONS**

**SECTION I.** General elections shall be held during the Spring semester of each academic year.

**SECTION II.** Candidates for offices shall be eligible provided they have met the requirements for that office as stated in Article IV of this Constitution.

**SECTION III.** Candidates running for office shall be voting members at the time of the election and during their term of office.

**SECTION IV.** Candidates running for office must be registered students in good standing at the time of their nomination and must maintain that status during their term of office. *This is subject to change based on TMSL academic policies.*

**SECTION V.** Other specific guidelines for the election procedure are left to the discretion of the Executive Board officers.

### **ARTICLE VII: FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS**

**SECTION I.** All student voting members of the organization in good academic standing shall be eligible to hold office.

**SECTION II.** The term of office for the officers shall be one full regular academic year.

**SECTION III.** The officers shall be elected by a majority of the voting members at the annual elections held each fall semester.

**SECTION IV.** Vacancies of offices shall be elected by unanimous vote of the voting members. In the event that the Office of President is vacated before the term is completed, the Vice-President shall become President by succession.

### **ARTICLE VIII: IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL**

**SECTION I.** Officers may be impeached and, if convicted, removed from office by a two-thirds majority of the voting members on the basis of not fulfilling their duties as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws.

**SECTION II.** Members may be impeached and, if convicted, may be expelled from membership by a two-thirds majority of the voting members on the basis of not fulfilling the purpose of the organization.

**SECTION III.** Advisors may be impeached and, if convicted, removed from their position by a two-thirds majority of the voting members on the basis of not fulfilling their duties as described in the TMSL Faculty Handbook and the Bylaws of this Constitution.

**SECTION IV.** Any individual who is impeached shall be given full notice of the allegations against him/her and shall have an opportunity to respond to them within thirty days.

**SECTION V.** Any member of the organization may initiate impeachment proceedings. After proceedings have been initiated, process should be carried out by President or Vice-President, whomever is not the subject of the proceeding.

### **ARTICLE IX: FINANCES**

**SECTION I.** Dues will be paid by individuals of the group as set by the president, who will strive to act on the desires of the organization as a whole.

**SECTION II.** Funds will be used for the operation of Family and Juvenile Law Society as directed by the President, who will strive to act on the desires of the organization as a whole.

**SECTION III.** All finances shall be handled in accordance with the established policy and fiscal procedures in effect for the college as outlined in the Student Activities Manual.

**SECTION IV.** In the event of loss of organization recognition, any funds remaining in the organization's campus account shall revert to the Student Activity Fund.

### **BY-LAWS**

By-Laws are rules governing the internal workings of the organization.

### **ARTICLE I: AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION I.** Amendments to this Constitution shall be proposed either by two-thirds of the Executive Board or by a petition submitted by ten percent of the voting members.

**SECTION II.** A majority of the voting members shall be necessary to approve amendments to this Constitution.

**SECTION III.** Amendments to this Constitution shall be recommended to the Dean of Student Affairs for approval.

## **ARTICLE II: ACTIVE STATUS**

In order to maintain active status, the organization agrees to abide by those rules and regulations, including financial procedures, of TMSL, which pertain to all student organizations.

## **ARTICLE III: PARLIAMENTARY**

Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) shall be the parliamentary authority of this organization. Should Robert's Rules of Order conflict with this Constitution, this Constitution takes property.

## **ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS**

**SECTION I.** The regular meetings of the voting membership shall be held at least once per month, though the organization president can suspend this requirement to benefit the organization.

**SECTION II.** Special meetings of the organization may be called by the President, or by the Executive Board, or upon the written request of the majority of voting members of the organization.

**SECTION III.** A quorum shall be a majority of the voting membership.