

POVERTY LAW & SOCIAL SERVICES

Organization Constitution / University of Washington

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section A. NAME

Part 1. The official name for this organization is Poverty Law and Social Services. If need for clarity or distinction from similar student organizations at distinct academic institutions becomes necessary in the future, we will reserve the right to rename this student organization Poverty Law and Social Services at the University of Washington.

Section B. PURPOSE

Part 1. The purpose of this student organization is to foster collaboration among law, social work, public health, and public policy students, as well as undergraduates and all other interested students at the University of Washington, on research projects and activities relevant to public interest law, justice, and equity.

Part 2. All activities of this organization must be directed toward this purpose. This student organization will attend events, take trips to conferences, and take on research projects from public interest law firms and other public works relevant to Access to Justice (ATJ) efforts.

Section C. AFFILIATION

Part 1. This student organization has no formal affiliations and maintains autonomy from all partners and organizations with which we conduct research. This student organization has no national, regional, or religious affiliation. Outside of membership within the Registered Student Organization Community and association with the Associated Students of the University of Washington, this student organization has no formal affiliation to any other entity.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. REQUIREMENTS

A membership log will be kept by the Secretary of this student organization. The responsibility for all members' activities under the aegis of this student organization, outside of criminal code and relevant administrative code, is that of the President of this student organization.

As to Section 1. Requirements, members of this student organization must be enrolled undergraduate or graduate students at the University of Washington. As to Section 2. Requirements, faculty and staff may be associate members of this student organization, however will not retain voting rights in this student organization, with the exception of the faculty advisor. The faculty advisor will also have direct influence and veto authority over the discretionary functions of the President. As to Section 3. Requirements, all enrolled undergraduate, graduate, and professional students are eligible for membership in this student organization regardless of grade point average

or any other circumstance. All faculty and staff are eligible for participation and associate membership at the discretion of the President.

There will be no formal time commitments for member or officers of this student organization. There are not requirements to attend meetings. Members may vote to ratify accepting a research assignment from public interest law partners, but will not be obligated to contribute to that research project. The only party obligated to contribute to any research project under the aegis of this student organization will be the Principal Researcher who agrees to take responsibility for their project. All members should contribute to the best of their abilities and availabilities to other members' projects. All members should attend meetings to the best of their abilities and availabilities.

Once a research project has been ratified and adopted by this student organization and deputized to a Principal Researcher, it will be that Principal Researcher's responsibility to direct their project to the best of their abilities and availabilities. This principal researcher may call on the support of other members and colleagues in this student organization to support their research efforts, under the understanding that other members do not bear responsibility for that project. If a project no longer appears feasible, the Principal Researcher should report this to the President or Vice President of this student organization as soon as possible. The President or Vice President should then coordinate adding an agenda item for the following meeting with the Secretary in order to ratify a vote to discontinue research and vacate all responsibility from the Principal Researcher. In which case, it will be the responsibility of the Principal Researcher and the President of this student organization to contact the partnering organization and inform them of discontinued service.

The organization of trips, conferences, and activities under the aegis of this student organization will be the responsibility of officers, principal among them the President, Vice President, and Treasurer. Beyond the scope of those funds that can be afforded by the HUB for these activities, it will be the responsibility of each individual participant member to report their participation in advance to the Treasurer, as to secure student organization support from HUB funds allocated to their needs, and acquire all excess funding required for their participation.

Members should attend meetings to the best of their abilities and availabilities. All attendant members will be able to vote on ratification and adoption of research projects, activities, and other agenda items. Members who are not in attendance will not be able to contribute votes *unless* their votes are emailed to the president of the student organization at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting at which voting will occur. The

president of this student organization, or vice president in her/his absence, will then submit this absent member's vote on their behalf.

Any member of this student organization can submit research projects, activity, trip, or conference attendance proposals to the group for ratification and adoption. These proposals are ratified and adopted by a majority showing of hands at any formal student group meeting. A non-majority showing of hands will not constitute ratification or adoption of projects or other plans under the aegis of this student organization without a vote for reconsideration.

The only formal requirement of this student organization is to remain respectful and exhibit the respective professional ethics of one's formative profession as a member. This will require universal respect and mutual support to the best of our abilities. Membership may only be revoked by a majority vote of all officers of this student organization for unprofessional or other damaging conduct of the member in question.

These requirements and other articles of this constitution can be amended by a majority vote of all members at any time. Any officer or member may submit an agenda item to the Secretary to such effect for a future vote.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS AND FUNCTIONS

Section A. OFFICER TITLES

PresidentBenjamin Beach
Vice President..... Natasha Magness
Treasurer..... Ruel Olunday
ASUW Representative..... Michele Chang
Secretary.....Helen Hammer
Liaison for School of Law Derek Peterson
Liaison for School of Social Work Darren Hunt
Liaison for School of Public HealthHana Mohamed
Liaison for School of Public PolicyTaurmini Fentress

Faculty Advisor..... William Vesneski

Section B. DUTIES

Part 1. The President will chair all meetings and direct all projects of Poverty Law & Social Services. The President will direct and bear all responsibility for activities under the aegis of this student group, other than those liabilities relevant to criminal or administrative code. The President will help coordinate and direct research efforts and activities ratified by Poverty Law & Social Services to the best of her/his ability and availability. This is a one-year appointed officer position decided in future academic years hereafter by the majority show of members' hands at an electoral meeting. All graduate, professional, and undergraduate students currently enrolled at the University of Washington are eligible for this position.

Part 2. The Vice President will co-chair all meetings and co-direct all projects of Poverty Law & Social Services. The Vice President will help coordinate and direct research efforts and activities ratified by Poverty Law & Social Services to the best of her/his ability and availability. The Vice President will assume all responsibilities of the President in the President's absence. This is a one-year appointed officer position decided in future academic years hereafter by the majority show of members' hands at an electoral meeting. All graduate, professional, and undergraduate students currently enrolled at the University of Washington are eligible for this position.

Part 3. The Treasurer will maintain the budget of Poverty Law and Social Services. The Treasurer will submit requests to the HUB for funds relevant to activities and grants for Poverty Law & Social Services. The Treasurer will speak to the monetary feasibility of research projects and help coordinate funding for activities, trips, and events. This is a one-year appointed officer position decided in future academic years hereafter by the majority show of members' hands at an electoral meeting. All graduate, professional, and undergraduate students currently enrolled at the University of Washington are eligible for this position.

Part 4. The Representative will represent the interest of Poverty Law and Social Services at the Associated Students of the University of Washington (ASUW) student union. The Representative will be Poverty Law and Social Services' voice among the academic community broadly and undergraduates specifically. The Representative should be a registered undergraduate at the University of Washington. This is a one-year appointed officer position decided in future academic years hereafter by the majority show of members' hands at an electoral meeting. All graduate, professional, and undergraduate students currently enrolled at the University of Washington are eligible for this position.

Part 5. The Secretary will prepare agendas and take minutes at all meetings to the best of her/his ability and availability. The Secretary will help coordinate meetings, research projects, and activities. The Secretary will keep a log of all members and record of all Principal Researchers. This is a one-year appointed officer position decided in future academic years hereafter by the majority show of members' hands at an electoral meeting. All graduate, professional, and undergraduate students currently enrolled at the University of Washington are eligible for this position.

Part 6. The Liaison to the School of Law is the officer of this student organization responsible for representing the interests of Poverty Law and Social Services to the University of Washington School of Law. This is a one-year appointed officer position decided in future academic years hereafter by the majority show of members' hands at an electoral meeting. All graduate,

professional, and undergraduate students currently enrolled at the University of Washington are eligible for this position.

Part 7. The Liaison to the School of Social Work is the officer of this student organization responsible for representing the interests of Poverty Law and Social Services to the University of Washington School of Social Work. This is a one-year appointed officer position decided in future academic years hereafter by the majority show of members' hands at an electoral meeting. All graduate, professional, and undergraduate students currently enrolled at the University of Washington are eligible for this position.

Part 8. The Liaison to the School of Public Health is the officer of this student organization responsible for representing the interests of Poverty Law and Social Services to the University of Washington School of Public Health. This is a one-year appointed officer position decided in future academic years hereafter by the majority show of members' hands at an electoral meeting. All graduate, professional, and undergraduate students currently enrolled at the University of Washington are eligible for this position.

Part 9. The Liaison to the School of Public Policy is the officer of this student organization responsible for representing the interests of Poverty Law and Social Services to the University of Washington Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. This is a one-year appointed officer position decided in future academic years hereafter by the majority show of members' hands at an electoral meeting. All graduate, professional, and undergraduate students currently enrolled at the University of Washington are eligible for this position.

Part 10. The Faculty Advisor is a member of the Executive Board who (i) has voting authority, (ii) has veto authority over the President's discretion, (iii) attends meetings to the best of her/his ability and availability, (iv) provides guidance to student members, (v) disseminates information regarding this student group to faculty associate members and other interested faculty, staff, and administrators at academic institutions, (vi) safeguards the reputation of this student organization by mentoring students providing guidance on conducting research for partnering public interest law firms and other partners, and (vii) participates in research projects, trips, activities, and events where appropriate to the best of her/his ability and availability.

Section C. REQUIREMENTS FOR RUNNING FOR AND HOLDING OFFICE

Part 1. OFFICERS All officers and candidates for office must be currently enrolled graduate, undergraduate, or professional students at the University of Washington. All officers will be nominated by other members or associate members. Nominations will be received by the Secretary and added to the agenda. There are no particular qualifications required to hold any office. However, the constitution framers highly recommend that officers have some

context or experience serving public interest law firms or efforts. We also highly recommend that the Treasurer has a background controlling financial accounts or managing moneys.

Part 2. ELECTIONS There shall be an annual Election Meeting every year, where members may appear and vote by show of hands for the subsequent academic year's officers for this student organization. This Election Meeting will be announced by the Secretary to all members two weeks (fourteen days) in advance and again one week (seven days) in advance of this Meeting. The Meeting's voting function will work precisely as other meetings voting functions; all attendant members will vote by share of hands and all absent members must email the President or Vice President in advance of the meeting to have their vote expressed in their absence.

Part 3. VACANCIES All officers seeking to vacate their position must contact the President, Vice President, or Faculty Advisor in writing to this effect. This officer will then be dismissed by an additional missive sent from the President or Faculty Advisor to the Secretary. This Secretary will then schedule an Emergency Election Meeting or agenda item thereto at the subsequent meeting with no less than one week's (seven days) notice to all members regarding this vacancy. Nominations will be received by the Secretary and added to the agenda for this Meeting. Alternatively, if a member is no longer a student at the University of Washington, the President should be informed immediately and commence the same process described in this above Section and Part.

Part 4. REMOVAL Officers may only be removed due to unprofessional or other damaging conduct of the officer in question. Officers may only be removed by a majority vote of all officers or at the discretion of the Faculty Advisor for substantiated misconduct or unprofessional conduct per their respective professional ethics.

Part 5. EXECUTIVE BOARD All officers and the Faculty Advisor comprise the executive board of Poverty Law & Social Services. Their duties are those restricted to their functions described in Article 3, Section B.

Part 6. ADVISORS This student group will have one Faculty Advisor, who shall be nominated by members through the same processes that officers are nominated (Article III, Section C, Part 1). This Faculty Advisor shall be elected from the nominees during the Election Meeting (Article III, Section C, Part 2) and hold the responsibilities enumerated in

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS

Section A. Regular meetings shall be held on a monthly or bimonthly basis, dependent upon needs imposed by research projects. The Secretary will email members meeting dates at least one week (seven days) in advance of each standard meeting.

Section B. A quorum determinative of any course of action, such as ratification and adoption of a research project or trip plan, will be determined by a majority vote by show of hands at meetings by attendant

members or proxy voting members (under the process outlined in Article II, Section A).

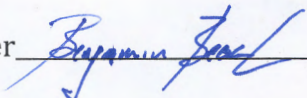
Section C. These meetings will be the only venue wherein a research project or activity plan can be ratified and adopted by Poverty Law & Social Services.

Section D. Agenda items must be emailed to the Secretary with the President included on this correspondence for any and all discussion of adoption of new research projects or activity plans at least two weeks (fourteen days) before the subsequent meeting. Though this research project or activity plan can be discussed ex parte between the President, Faculty Advisor, and submitting member before this meeting, it cannot be removed once the Secretary has added this agenda item. If the submitting member chooses not to pursue the project further after these ex-parte discussions, the submitting member must simply pass on the agenda item in the subsequent meeting.

ARTICLE V. Constitutional Amendments

Section A. These requirements and other articles of this constitution can be amended by a majority vote of all members. Any officer or member must submit an agenda item to the Secretary to amend this Constitution within two weeks (fourteen days) of the subsequent meeting. All members who cannot attend this meeting should email their vote regarding constitutional amendments to the President of this student organization, or the Vice President in her/his stead, no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the subsequent meeting at which vote will be held. The President of this student organization will express all proxy votes submitted within this timeline at the subsequent meeting at which this vote will be held.

Date approved by organization 20 October 2016

Signature of Presiding Officer 

Reviewed by _____ Date _____