

American Constitution Society of University of Oregon School of Law Constitution

Article I

This organization shall be known as "The American Constitution Society of the University of Oregon School of Law."

Article II

Statement of Purpose

The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy is a group of students concerned about the pervasive conservative orthodoxy in American law and politics. We believe deeply in the importance of law as the mechanism which governs the relationships between and among the individuals and institutions that form our society, and we recognize the direct relationship between legal theory and the broader political debate about the kind of society in which we live.

In recent years, the view has been ascendant that the traditional values of compassion and respect for human dignity have little or no place in legal discourse. This view permeates all aspects of legal debate: academic scholarship, judicial interpretation, and debate about laws proposed for enactment. The cornerstone of this legal view is an approach to understanding the United States Constitution that is essentially devoid of concern for the way in which the law affects the lives of the people who make up the nation in which we live.

We believe, contrary to this conservative orthodoxy, that the law, and, in particular, the Constitution, serves human values. We believe that the Constitution is a charter of liberty, the blueprint for a noble and unique experiment designed to prevent the excesses of government in order to protect the human dignity necessary for individuals to realize the full potential of their lives. The goal of the Constitution, and the United States it created, is to permit people to succeed in the "pursuit of happiness," one of the inalienable rights this nation explicitly was founded to secure to the American people.

We believe that the Constitution, and by extension, many other areas of American law, can be understood only by reference to principles of decency, reason, humanity and compassion. We believe that those who enforce the law must have concern for the way in which it affects the lives of the people who make up the nation in which we live. And we believe these principles should form a starting point for enactment, as well as interpretation, of the law.

The mission of the American Constitution Society is to harness these values of compassion and respect for each individual, and to re-incorporate them into American law and politics, in order to build a stronger and more decent national community. We seek to restore the fundamental principles of respect for human dignity, protection of individual rights and liberties, genuine equality, and access to justice to their rightful -- and traditionally central -- place in American law. We want to strengthen the intellectual underpinnings of -- and the public case for -- a vision of the law in which these values are paramount. Our goal is a rekindling of the hope that by reason and decency, we can create an America that is better for us all.

Article III

Membership shall be open to all University Law School students, alumni, faculty and staff.

Article IV

The American Constitution Society officers shall be members of the American Constitution Society Executive Board, which will meet periodically to determine the general direction of the American Constitution Society and to decide issues of long-term importance to the American Constitution Society.

Only current University Law School students, faculty, and staff may serve as officers.

The American Constitution Society officers shall be as follows:

Faculty Advisor: The Faculty Advisor shall serve as a resource for the Society members, facilitate the acquisition of speakers, and serve as a liaison between the local chapter and the advisors of American Constitution Society chapters at other schools.

President: The President shall call Society meetings, coordinate the operations and direction of the Society, and serve as a liaison between the Society and university administration.

Vice-President: The Vice-President shall call Society meetings in the President's absence and coordinate the activities of the chairpersons.

Community Liaison: The Community Liaison coordinates with other law school organizations, main campus organizations and academic departments, and local Eugene-Springfield groups. The Liaison will maintain ties with previous event co-sponsors and forge new coalitions with other groups to strengthen ACS's presence in and ties to the university and Eugene community.

Sergeant-at-Arms: The sergeant-at-arms will be responsible for arranging locations and refreshments for general meetings and chapter events. In addition, he/ she will act as a support person for the executive board, performing any task required to further the mission of the chapter.

Minister of Propaganda: The Minister of Propaganda sends out email notices and reminders of upcoming meetings and events, coordinates press releases, calendars events on life at law, and provides general support to the board.

1L Representative(s): The 1L representatives shall assist the other officers in completing duties. 1L representatives will be encouraged to shadow senior officers for future positions in the ACS Executive Board.

The Executive Board may, by majority vote of the Executive Board, create additional or remove existing Executive board positions. Such future positions may include but are not limited to:

Secretary: The Secretary shall compile and maintain the minutes of meetings and the records of the organization, keep a current list of members, and be responsible for notifying members of meetings.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall maintain the financial accounts and records of the Society, set forth the Society's budget, submit the Society's financial reports to the Student Bar Association according to SBA guidelines.

Membership Chairperson: The Membership Chairperson shall organize a membership drive in the fall and shall organize additional membership drives as needed to recruit new members and to assign them to committees.

Fall Program Chairperson: The Fall Program Chairperson shall lead the Fall Program Committee, which shall plan and organize the fall events.

Spring Program Chairperson: The Spring Program Chairperson shall lead the Spring Program Committee, which will plan and organize the spring events

Advertisement Chairperson: The Advertisement Chairperson shall lead the Advertising Committee, which will be responsible for advertising for the Society events, the membership drive, and general membership meetings.

Article V

The American Constitution Society officers shall be voted by local ACS members [students, faculty, administration, and alumni]. Each officer will serve for a term of one year.

Article VI

Officers may be removed for good cause by the unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Executive Board.

Article VII

Amendments to this constitution and to the by-laws shall adopted be by two-thirds vote of the Executive Board, except that no amendment shall be adopted without the affirmative vote of both the President and the Faculty Advisor.

Article VIII

This organization shall be governed by this Constitution, its bylaws, and the rules and regulations of the University of Oregon School of Law.