

Student Animal Legal Defense Fund at the University of Washington School of Law

Constitution and By-Laws:

Article One. Name.

The name of this organization shall be “Student Animal Legal Defense Fund at the University of Washington School of Law” (hereinafter referred to as “SALDF, UW Chapter.”)

Article Two. Purpose.

The SALDF, UW Chapter, is dedicated to providing a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system, and raising the profile of the field of animal law.

The activities of SALDF, UW Chapter, shall include, but not be limited to: hosting speakers, debates, and conferences on current issues in animal rights and animal welfare law; carrying out research projects for lawyers and organizations promoting animal welfare and animal rights litigation; being available to County Prosecutor’s Offices as well as Legislators in the State of Washington to assist and support in the creation, implementation, enforcement of animal abuse statutes and prosecutions under these statutes; working with local animal welfare organizations to increase the visibility of all groups, including the SALDF, UW Chapter, who are engaged in animal welfare and animal legal rights; encouraging local news resources, such as newspapers and television news, to create and maintain public awareness of the need for animal welfare and the legal rights of animals; networking with students at other law schools, colleges, universities, and high schools; and conducting educational events such as information tables and video screenings on pertinent issues.

Article Three. Criteria for Membership.

“Full” membership in SALDF, UW Chapter, shall be open to all students currently enrolled in the University of Washington School of Law (hereinafter referred to as “Law School”), regardless of gender, race, creed, age, color, national origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation. “Campus” membership in SALDF, UW Chapter, shall be open all regularly enrolled undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Washington (hereinafter referred to as “UW”), regardless of gender, race, creed, age, color, national origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation. “Public” membership in SALDF, UW Chapter, shall be open to the public at large, regardless of gender, race, creed, age, color, national origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation.

The combined number of Full and Campus members shall at all times be greater than the number of Public members. All members shall agree to uphold the goals and purposes of SALDF, UW Chapter, and to comply with the mission and goals of the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Individual membership in the Animal Legal Defense Fund is encouraged but not required for all SALDF, UW Chapter, members. Only Full members are eligible to vote and serve as Officers. Neither Campus nor Public members are eligible to vote nor serve as Officers.

Article Four. Officers.

The Officers of SALDF, UW Chapter, shall be President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Director of Publicity, and Director of Advocacy. The President will be responsible for communicating with the designated contact person at the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Qualifications for persons who are eligible to serve as Officers of SALDF, UW Chapter, are as follows:

- registration as a student at the Law School,
- membership in SALDF, UW Chapter,
- attendance at a minimum of two meetings annually of SALDF, UW Chapter,
- agreement to uphold the goals and purposes of SALDF, UW Chapter, and to comply with the mission and goals of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

In the event that an Officer, for whatever reason, expected or unexpected, is unable to continue in the capacity of their office, the vacated office shall be filled within two weeks.

Campus and Public SALDF, UW Chapter, members are not eligible to serve as Officers of the SALDF, UW Chapter.

Article Five. Elections.

Officers shall be elected each school year in the month of May by a majority vote of the membership of the Full members of SALDF, UW Chapter, shall serve a term of one year, and may be reelected. In the event that no candidate attracts the requisite number of votes for election, a run-off shall be held between the two candidates with the highest number of votes. Voting for Officers may be accomplished via e-mail or during a meeting.

Students interested in serving as Officers shall so inform the SALDF, UW Chapter, no later than one week prior to the election. In electing Officers, each member shall have one vote.

Campus and Public SALDF, UW Chapter, members are not eligible to vote in Elections.

Article Six. Meetings.

Regular meetings of SALDF, UW Chapter, shall be held at least once each Quarter, except Summer Quarter. Decisions at meetings, except decisions regarding the adoption or rejection of Amendments specified under "Article Eight. Amendments," shall be made by a majority of the Full members, with every present party agreeing to, dissenting to, or abstaining from every action there decided. A necessary quorum for all decisions shall be at least 51% of all Full members of the SALDF, UW Chapter, present at the meeting and must include at least one Officer.

Special meetings of SALDF, UW Chapter, may be called by any number of Full SALDF, UW Chapter, members, who shall inform the President of the SALDF, UW Chapter, at least one week prior to the date of the proposed meeting.

All members shall be welcome at all meetings. The method of notification for all meetings shall be via e-mail.

Article Seven. Affiliation with the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Activities of the SALDF, UW Chapter, shall at all times be consistent with the mission of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (hereinafter "ALDF"). No litigation will be initiated, endorsed, or supported in the name of the SALDF, UW Chapter, without prior approval of ALDF. All public policy positions taken by the SALDF, UW Chapter, shall be consistent with the mission of ALDF: "To protect the lives and advance the interests of animals." The SALDF, UW Chapter, will not purport to speak for ALDF or commit it to any position on any matter of public policy or law on behalf of ALDF without ALDF's prior written consent.

Article Eight. Amendments.

Any two current Full SALDF, UW Chapter, members shall be entitled to propose Amendments. Proposed Amendments shall be consistent with these By-Laws, and shall be communicated to the ALDF and all current SALDF, UW Chapter, Officers, who shall schedule a meeting for the purpose of approving these Amendments. If the date of submission of these Amendments is near the date of a regular or special business meeting, then no additional meeting need be scheduled. Decisions regarding the adoption or rejection of proposed Amendments shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the Full members, with every present party agreeing to, dissenting to, or abstaining from every action there decided. A necessary quorum for all decisions shall be at least 51% of all Full members of the SALDF, UW Chapter, present at the meeting and must include at least one Officer. Amendments may not be voted on via e-mail; Amendments may only be voted on at a meeting.

Campus and Public SALDF, UW Chapter, members are not eligible to vote for or against Amendments.

Article Nine. Adoption and Ratification of this Constitution

The Constitution and By-Laws of the SALDF, UW Chapter, must be adopted and ratified by a two-thirds majority of current Full members. The adoption and ratification shall take place via e-mail unless at least two Full members request a meeting for the purposes of adoption and ratification.

Amendment A. Creation of 1L Representative Officer position

In addition to the aforementioned Officer Positions, the SALDF, UW Chapter, hereby creates the additional position of 1L Representative ("1L Rep"). This position shall be filled by a first year student of the UW Law School and the election shall be held at the first general meeting of the SALDF in the Autumn Quarter of each year. The 1L Rep must meet the same qualifications as other officers of the SALDF listed in "Article Four. Officers." The 1L Rep shall serve a term of one year and may not be reelected.