

Nova Southeastern University
Shepard Broad College of Law



NSU Trial Association Constitution & By-Laws
Adopted 11-2022

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NSU Trial Association Constitution

Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law

PREAMBLE

The NSU Trial Association is Nova Southeastern University's official mock trial advocacy organization. The NSU Trial Association's goal is to empower Nova Southeastern University law students to develop exceptional trial advocacy skills and achieve abundant success—both in and out of law school—while encouraging peer-driven mentorship and guidance among members. Since it is inside the courtroom that advocates are forged, the NSU Trial Association shall always strive to provide as many experiential opportunities to its members as possible. Accordingly, the NSU Trial Association hereby establishes this Constitution in the spirit of equitable and transparent self-government.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

In 1973, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) emerged as the world's largest trial bar, promoting justice and fairness for injured persons, safeguarding victims' rights—particularly the right to trial by jury—and strengthening the civil justice system through education and disclosure of information critical to public health and safety. Over the years, through its large network of lawyers and law students, ATLA provided lawyers with the information and professional assistance needed to serve clients successfully and protect the democratic values inherent in the civil justice system. It wasn't long before the Nova Chapter of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America came to fruition at the Shepard Broad Law Center. For decades, ATLA has been a Nova honors co-curricular organization that devoted itself to inspiring up-and-coming trial lawyers with the national ATLA's ideals.

In 2006, the national ATLA, in an effort to better itself, voted to adopt a new name: the American Association for Justice (AAJ). While ATLA remained in existence, it now holds itself out to be the top 100 trial lawyers from each state. Membership is exclusive, as it can only be obtained through special invitation and is extended only to those attorneys who have exemplified superior qualifications of leadership, reputation, influence, stature, and profile as civil plaintiff or criminal defense trial lawyers.

In 2009, the Executive Board of the Nova Chapter of ATLA, aspiring to change the image of the trial association and NSU Law, voted to adopt a new name: The Nova Trial Association.

In 2016, the Executive Board of the Nova Trial Association renamed the organization “NSU Trial Association” It also drafted and adopted this new Constitution and By-Laws. The stated purpose of that Constitution was to strengthen the NSU Trial Association as an evolution of the Nova Trial Association ATLA, and continue to help NSU students develop their litigation skills so that when they leave law school, they are equipped with not only a degree, but the tools necessary to be a successful and skillful lawyer wherever they practice. In our current and prospective members, we seek to instill the character and skill necessary to be effective and successful advocates in the classroom, the courtroom, or wherever the law may take them.

In 2022, the Executive Board of the NSU Trial Association revisited the Constitution and Bylaws to build upon the tireless effort and empowering ideals that comprise this organization's foundation. The goal of the 2022 revision was to ensure that current and prospective members are given the opportunity to hone the skills and abilities central to the NSU Trial Association's mission while ensuring that the organization's operation is beyond reproach, embodying fairness, integrity, and transparency.

ARTICLE I
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the NSU Trial Association is to develop trial advocacy skills and to successfully represent the Shepard Broad College of Law in statewide, national, and even international competitions against other law schools.

ARTICLE II
ETHICS

The highest ethical conduct is expected of all Trial Association members. This includes avoiding the appearance of impropriety. All Trial Association members have an affirmative duty to report any potential ethical violation to the Executive Board for their consideration.

ARTICLE III
TRIAL ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

A. EXECUTIVE BOARD GENERALLY

The Executive Board shall act as the governing body of the Trial Association. The Executive Board will facilitate communication between the Members, other law students, faculty, and administration. All Executive Board members must maintain a GPA of 3.0. The Executive Board will consist of:

- President
- Vice President of Competitions
- Vice President of Teams
- Vice President of Internal Operations
- Vice President of External Operations

B. BY-LAWS

The Executive Board shall establish By-Laws to facilitate the administration of Trial Association activities and to implement the Constitution. The By-Laws are binding on all Trial Association members. Any Trial Association Member may challenge a By-Law at a general meeting. A By-Law may be repealed or amended upon a majority vote at a general meeting. (See Art. VI, Meetings.).

C. DESCRIPTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

1. President

The President shall act as the chairperson of the Executive Board. In that capacity, the President shall assign additional responsibilities to the other Executive Officers, organize and preside over all Executive Board and Trial Association meetings, appoint ad hoc committees, preside over all Executive Board Members and Chairpersons, and generally supervise the work of all other Officers. In addition, the President shall act as a liaison between the Trial Association, the Faculty Advisor(s),

the law school administration, and the public. The President shall also supervise the Executive Coordinator and may appoint additional Executive Coordinators at any point throughout the year, in accordance with these bylaws to meet increased demand.

2. Vice President of Competitions

The Vice President for Competitions shall organize and be responsible for all aspects of any in-house competitions in accordance with the Constitution and the By-Laws of the Trial Association. The Vice President of Competitions shall delegate the responsibilities for the Annual Tryout Competitions as set forth in the Constitution. The Vice President for Competitions, along with the President, shall have the authority to make final decisions regarding the competition, including, but not limited to, competition scoring procedures and the numbers of new members selected for the Trial Association. The Vice President of Competitions shall supervise the Competition Coordinator(s) and may appoint additional Competitions Coordinators at any point throughout the year, in accordance with these bylaws to meet increased demand.

3. Vice President of Teams

The Vice President for Teams shall be responsible for the overall operations of the Trial Association's away competitions. The duties shall include but are not limited to: finding and researching national and local competitions for Trial Association participation in both the fall and spring semesters; managing all paperwork and deadlines regarding competitions, including team selection; and selecting competition coaches. The Vice President of Teams shall supervise the Teams Coordinator and may appoint additional Teams Coordinators at any point throughout the year, in accordance with these bylaws to meet increased demand.

4. Vice President of Internal Operations

The Vice President of Internal Operations shall be responsible for handling the day to day operations of the Trial Association, including maintaining the Trial Association's budget and promotion of its activities. The responsibilities also include disbursement of billing and expense payments, reimbursing members for individual Trial Association expenses, planning and making arrangements for banquets, luncheons, and other social events as the Executive Board decides. The Vice President for Operations shall supervise the Internal Operations Coordinator and may appoint additional Internal Operations Coordinators at any point throughout the year, in accordance with these bylaws to meet increased demand.

5. Vice President of External Operations

The Vice President of External Operations shall be responsible for handling the external public relations of the Trial Association, including social media, websites, advertising platforms, and electronic databases for public relations materials and Friends of the NTA (including recent graduates, alumni, judges, and local practitioners). Additional responsibilities involve ensuring that NTA events and trial competitions are documented through photo and video footage; maintaining contact with Friends of the NTA; and making arrangements for external events such as Trial Advocacy Summer Institute (TASI), banquets, socials, and fundraising opportunities. The Vice President of External Operations shall supervise the External Operations Coordinator and may appoint additional External Operations Coordinators at any point throughout the year, in accordance with these bylaws, to meet increased demand.

D. EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION PROCESS

The Executive Board, with the President as presiding officer, shall vote to determine issues that arise from the provisions set forth by this Constitution. During the voting process, each Executive Board member's vote shall count once, and in the event of a deadlock, the President's vote shall count twice.

E. OTHER OFFICERS

1. Executive Coordinator:

There shall be at least one Executive Coordinator who is responsible for assisting the President in his/her duties. The Executive Coordinator also acts as a liaison between the Trial Association, the Faculty Advisor(s), the law school administration, other honors organizations, and the public. The Executive Coordinator shall also keep the President up to date on important events within the law school, as well as within the legal community. The Executive Coordinator shall also be responsible for monitoring any Trial Association forums.

2. Teams Coordinator:

There shall be at least two Team Coordinators. They shall advise and assist in all of the duties and responsibilities of the Vice President of Teams. This includes, but is not limited to: researching statewide and national competitions, coordinating with competition hosts, making travel arrangements for competition teams, and facilitating competition team tryouts. The Team Coordinator helps the VP of Teams work with the students to make sure they are reimbursed for their travel expenses.

3. Internal Operations Coordinator:

There shall be at least two Internal Operations Coordinators. The Internal Operations Coordinator helps the VP of Internal Operations with accounting for the NTA budget each month and ensuring that all expenses are deducted in a timely and efficient manner. You will be required to help collect money, keep detailed records, and ensure that the budget is correct each month. Internal Operations Coordinators will also help the VP of Internal Operations with enforcing and keeping track of the Point System.

4. External Operations Coordinator:

There shall be at least two External Operations Coordinators. The External Operations Coordinator helps the VP of External Operations with maintaining an electronic database of Trial Association public relations materials, maintaining an electronic database of all prior alumni, prior judges, and recent graduates, making arrangements for banquets, and Trial Association external events and socials. The External Operations coordinators shall also be responsible for recording minutes of Member meetings and assisting the VP of External Operations with managing all of the social media profiles for NTA.

5. Competitions Coordinators:

There shall be at least two Competitions Coordinators. Competition Coordinators shall advise and assist in all of the duties and responsibilities of the VP of Competitions. Their duties include, but are not limited to: organizing all in-house competitions, maintaining a network with alumni, local

attorneys, and judges to ensure that all in-house competitions have adequate judges. Also, the Competition Coordinators may be responsible for all communications and accommodations for Trial Association in-house competition judges.

F. OFFICER SELECTION

The Executive Board has sole discretion in who it selects as Trial Association Officers throughout the year. The Executive Board entering a school year shall interview Board Members the first week of the first semester. The Executive Board shall also interview for successor Executive Board positions during the final month of the second semester each year.

The President is responsible for offering and conducting interviews for open officer positions. Any NSU Trial Association member in good standing may apply by submitting their resume and a letter of intent to the President detailing the position desired. After the interview process, the Executive Board shall determine which candidates are most qualified for vacant positions and make their selection accordingly.

GPA Requirement: To be eligible to apply for a vacant Officer position, a Member must have at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA.

G. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Any officer may be removed from the Executive Board for failing to properly fulfill duties, violating University rules or regulations, for committing ethical violations, or for committing any other conduct which brings disruption to the Trial Association.

H. VACANCIES

Upon a vacancy in any office, the President shall appoint a replacement to fill the vacant position.

ARTICLE IV

ANNUAL TRYOUTS FOR NTA MEMBERSHIP

A. GENERALLY

The NSU Trial Association will host two (2) Annual Tryouts for first-year law students and Upperclassmen. The Annual Tryout for first-year law students, The 1L Dobson Closing Argument Competition, occurs during the Winter Semester. The Annual Tryout for Upperclassmen, The Annual Intramural Competition, occurs during the Fall Semester. The Annual Intramural Competition shall be mandatory for all Members. Members in their second year shall participate as advocates, and Members in their third year shall coach a team of second year Members subject to. Any exception to participation in The Annual Intramural Competition shall be at the sole discretion of the Executive Board pursuant to these Bylaws. During each of the Annual Tryouts, Members are selected for the Trial Association.

B. ADMINISTRATION

The Executive Board will promulgate the Annual Tryout Competition rules. The Vice President of Competitions will implement and, if necessary, interpret the Annual Tryout Competition rules. The Vice President of Competitions can also assign members to play the roles of advocates and witnesses for the competition trial.

C. NEW MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to become a Member, a student must:

- Be in good standing with the Shepard Broad College of Law and Nova Southeastern University, and
- Agree to new member expectations set forth in writing, and
- Be selected based on the ranking of the student's scored performance at the 1L Dobson Closing Argument Competition or the Annual Intramural or, for members of the Moot Court Society in good standing, compete in a joint Mock Trial/Moot Court national competition and be selected based on the student's scored performance therein so long as the Moot Court Society reciprocates admission for NSU Trial Association members in good standing, or
- Obtain a position on an NTA national competition team through tryouts and successfully complete all obligations associated with that competition.

D. SELECTION PROCESS AND PROCEDURES

To become a Member, students may first try out by competing in the 1L Dobson Closing Argument Competition hosted in the Winter Semester, ideally no later than the third week of March. Students will be assigned a side, plaintiff or defendant, or prosecution or defense, and then prepare closing arguments. During the competition weekend, competitors will deliver closing arguments before a panel of judges who will score their performance. Based on these scores, a group of competitors will be invited into the organization. All NTA members must assist with the Intramural Competition unless excused by the Executive Board after a showing of good cause.

Students may also receive an invitation to become a Member through participation in the Annual Intramural Competition, which will be hosted in the Fall Semester, ideally no later than the last weekend of October. Upperclassmen students will be assigned to a team of four (4) advocates coached by at least one (1) third-year Member. Coaches shall have the discretion to operate and assign sides (plaintiff/defense or prosecution/defense) based upon the aptitudes and abilities of the advocates. Competitors shall have at least six (6) weeks to prepare a case based on a fact pattern selected by the Vice President of Competitions. During competition weekend, competitors will face other teams in front of a panel of judges. Each side (plaintiff/defense or prosecution/defense) shall have the same number of opportunities to advocate until two (2) teams are deemed the Finalists. The Finalists will compete against one another in a Final Round until a winner of The Annual Intramural Competition emerges.

Lastly, Students may obtain a position on NTA by competing in an NTA national competition (a national competition that is open to the entire NTA membership) only after successfully completing all obligations associated with that competition.

The Vice President of Competitions shall ensure the NSU Trial Association's in-house competitions are conducted with the utmost fairness and integrity. In both the 1L Dobson Closing Argument Competition and The Annual Intramural Competition, the Vice President of Competitions shall ensure reasonable accommodations are made for those competitors who require accommodations. The NSU Trial Association will make the utmost reasonable efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in every NSU Trial Association endeavor.

E. MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

- Pay annual membership dues.
- Attend all mandatory Member meetings during the semester.
- Participate in promoting and organizing in-house competitions as well as other law school events.
- Participate in The Annual Intramural Competition, unless excused by the Executive Board.
- Maintain at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA.
- Agree to the NSU Trial Association's Point System and acknowledge that if they do not meet the required number of points, they will no longer be a member of the Trial Association.

ARTICLE V

NATIONAL COMPETITION TEAM SELECTION

The Vice President of Teams is responsible for managing and facilitating tryouts for all competition teams. After coaches are designated, the Vice President of Teams will arrange for potential competitors to try out for teams by delivering a portion of a trial (closing argument, opening statement, arguing a motion *in limine*, etc.) in front of at least one head coach or in a recording with prior approval pursuant to an accommodation. The coach(s) shall score and rank each competitor based on a scoring rubric approved by the Executive Board. Members shall be invited to participate as advocates and witnesses based on their rankings. To be eligible to compete nationally, potential competitors must have completed, or be concurrently enrolled in, Evidence. Trial Advocacy is highly recommended, but not required to compete nationally.

Upon invitation to be on a competition team, each member receiving an invitation shall accept or reject the invitation within twenty-four (24) hours. The acceptance or rejection shall be sent to the Vice President of Teams via e-mail and copied (CC) to the President and the Faculty Advisor(s). A Member may reject an invitation if they wish not to compete in the competition they were selected for. If this occurs, the next highest-ranking competitor shall receive an invitation to fill that team's vacant position. In the event that there are not enough witnesses assigned to teams, the highest-ranking competitors from the Trial Association Annual Tryouts will be invited to participate

as witnesses. Any Member who resigns from a Competition Team, without good cause, after that Team has been finalized is subject to disciplinary action if the Executive Board upon majority vote reports the violation to the Faculty Advisor.

In addition, acceptance on a team that awards two (2) credit hours requires a commitment of a specific allotment of hours of both practice, preparation, and competition. Student team members shall be required to maintain a log of their completed hours in order for the student to receive the full two (2) non-classroom credit hours. Coaches shall be required to keep attendance for each of the scheduled practices.

ARTICLE VI **MEETINGS**

A. FREQUENCY AND LOCATION

Trial Association general meetings will be held at least two (2) times each year at a time/place designated by the President. The first general meeting shall be held during the first half of the semester. The President will hold at least two Executive Board meetings each semester.

B. NOTICE

Trial Association general meetings require at least three (3) days advance notice either by posting notice on the Trial Association TWEN page, by telephone, or by e-mail to all Members. Emergency meetings require at least 24 hours notice.

C. ATTENDANCE

Trial Association general meetings and Trial Association speaker events are mandatory for all Trial Association Members unless otherwise specified. A Member who is unable to attend must notify the Vice President of Internal Operations or the President with a showing of a good cause and must be excused.

D. EMERGENCY MEETINGS

Emergency Trial Association meetings may be called by the President, the Faculty Advisor(s), or by petition of a majority of Trial Association Members.

E. QUORUM

1. All Executive Officers must be present to constitute a quorum for Executive Board meetings.
2. Fifty percent of all Members constitute a quorum for non-emergency Trial Association meetings.
3. Twenty-five percent of all Members constitute a quorum for emergency Trial Association meetings due to their potentially short notice.

F. MINUTES

Minutes of all Executive Board meetings shall be posted in the Trial Association office database or distributed electronically in a reasonably expedient manner to all Trial Association Members who request such minutes.

ARTICLE VII FACULTY ADVISOR

A. APPOINTMENT

Each Trial Association Executive Board may either choose to continue the Association's relationship with the current Faculty Advisor or to elect a new Faculty Advisor from the Faculty of the Shepard Broad College of Law.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Faculty Advisor's responsibilities include:

- Approving academic credit for Trial Association work in accordance with the law school academic policies;
- Serving as the Trial Association's liaison with the law school administration and community;
- Assisting the Trial Association in obtaining funds for its activities;
- Advising the President and overseeing all Trial Association activities.

ARTICLE VIII DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

A. DEFINITIONS

Probation—occurs when a Member fails to meet the NTA member expectations set forth in writing he or she agreed to upon joining NTA. The member will have one (1) semester to rectify his or her probationary status and return to good standing. Failure to rectify his or her probationary status within one (1) semester will result in **Expulsion**. Probation is not a formal disciplinary action that requires Faculty Advisor approval. If a member is placed on Probation for failure to obtain sufficient NTA points in a semester, the member's negative points balance will carry over into the next semester. Once the member satisfies his or her outstanding balance from the previous semester and achieves a zero-points balance, he or she is no longer on probation.

Academic Probation—occurs when a Member fails to meet the GPA Requirement of 2.75. The member will have one (1) semester to rectify his or her academic probationary status and return to good standing. Failure to rectify his or her academic probationary status within one (1) semester will result in **Expulsion**.

Suspension—occurs when a Member is barred from participating in Trial Association activities for one semester. During the semester of suspension, a Member shall not represent himself or herself to employers as a Member in good standing. Such suspension does not preclude the Executive Board from assigning tasks to the suspended Member.

Expulsion—occurs when a Member is removed permanently from Trial Association Membership.

B. PROCEDURE FOR SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION

No Member shall experience formal disciplinary action except through the sole approval of the Faculty Advisor and/or the law school Administration. The Executive Board may initiate a disciplinary request to the Faculty Advisor by majority vote that may then be implemented at the Faculty Advisor(s) sole discretion. The Faculty Advisor shall make the final determination regarding the disciplinary action to be imposed on any Member.

C. NOTICE OF DECISIONS

The President shall notify the Executive Board and the affected Member not less than one business day after the Faculty Advisor and/or the law school Administration rules on the complaint.

D. FILING OF AN APPEAL

The affected Member desiring an appeal must file a petition not later than seven (7) business days after receiving notice of the Faculty Advisor and/or law school Administration's decision. If seven (7) business days elapse after the Faculty Advisor and/or law school Administration has rendered their decision, and no appeal has been filed, the decision is final.

E. COMPOSITION OF THE APPELLATE COMMITTEE

The entire membership of the Trial Association in good standing shall be eligible to serve as the Appellate Committee. The Appellate Committee shall be composed of all members in good standing willing to serve.

F. DECISIONS OF THE APPELLATE COMMITTEE

The Appellate Committee shall act only by a two-thirds vote of the Members who participate in the hearings of the appeal.

G. EFFECT OF APPEALS

All decisions of the Appellate Committee are final.

ARTICLE IX **NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The Trial Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

ARTICLE X
RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENT

The Constitution shall be adopted and ratified by the Executive Board by a majority vote. Any Member in good standing can propose an amendment to the Constitution. A proposed amendment must be presented to the Executive Board at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to a meeting. A two-thirds vote of the Members present at any meeting will be required to amend this Constitution.

NSU Trial Association By-Laws

Nova Southeastern University
Shepard Broad College of Law

BY-LAW I: MEMBER ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

All members are required to attend all mandatory:

- General Member Meetings
- Trial Association In-House Competitions
- Trial Association Mandatory Events

BY-LAW II: GOOD STANDING REQUIREMENT

- All members of the Trial Association are required to remain in good standing and in compliance with the NSU Trial Association's Point System during the entirety of each semester.
- All Trial Association members are also considered to be in good standing when they have attended all mandatory meetings and events, have paid annual dues, have maintained at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA, and have met the minimum required points in accordance with the NSU Trial Association point system.

BY-LAW III: NSU TRIAL ASSOCIATION POINT SYSTEM

- The Point System's purpose is to encourage active participation from Trial Association members throughout the semester in any capacity. The Executive Board shall strive to seek out events and opportunities that would elicit active participation in different capacities, such as advocacy, networking, promotion of NTA, etc.
- The Point System shall be enforced by the Vice President of Internal Operations.
- The VP of Internal Operations and the Executive Board shall have the discretion to allocate points based on an activity's complexity and time commitment.
- Each semester's points requirement shall be determined by the Executive Board before the first day of classes and announced to the membership via email.
- Members are strongly encouraged to seek networking opportunities and other community outreach opportunities for NTA. Members may bring such opportunities to the attention of any member of the Executive Board for referral to the Vice President of Internal Operations for approval as an NTA points opportunity.

BY-LAW IV: ETHICAL MISCONDUCT

It will be considered ethical misconduct for any member of the Trial Association, including the General Board or Executive Board to:

- Commit an act that reflects badly on the member's honesty, trustworthiness, or fitness as a member of the Executive Board and/or the Association;
- Engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation;

- Engage in conduct that seriously interferes with the Executive Board's ability to responsibly administer Trial Association activities, including but not limited to competitions;
- State or imply an ability to improperly influence members or attorneys involved in administering or judging competitions;
- Knowingly assist any member in conduct that is a violation of this rule. Violation of this rule may result in disciplinary action taken by the Faculty Advisor and/or law school Administration.

BY-LAW V: COMPETITION TEAMS

- Once a Member's selection to a national competition team as a witness or advocate is finalized, that Member cannot resign from his/her position, without a showing of good cause to the Executive Board.
- Any Member who resigns from a Competition Team, without good cause, after that Team has been finalized is subject to further disciplinary action if the Executive Board, upon majority vote, reports the violation to the Faculty Advisor.
- Any Member who finished a semester in bad standing, as defined in the Trial Association Constitution, will be unable to participate as an advocate in a competition the following semester.

Additional Requirements: To be eligible to try out for a competition team, a Member must have at least a 2.75 cumulative GPA, have taken or be currently enrolled in an Evidence class and is strongly encouraged to have taken or be currently enrolled in Trial Advocacy. Under no circumstances should participation in TASI, the 1L Closing Argument Competition, or the Intramural Competition be considered a substitute for taking and successfully completing a Trial Advocacy class. Coaches may consider a potential competitor's completed courses when deciding whether to select him or her for a competition team.

BY-LAW VI: TRIAL ASSOCIATION RESOURCES

A. OFFICE POLICIES

Use of Office Equipment: Priority is given to Trial Association Members who are competing in national competitions and Members using the equipment for official Trial Association business.

B. OFFICE RESOURCES

- **Office:** The NSU Trial Association/Moot Court Office is available for use to all Members unless it has been reserved for an Executive Board Meeting, is being used by a national competition team to prepare for competition, is needed in its entirety for NSU Trial Association business, or is being utilized in its entirety by the Moot Court Society. Members are welcome to use the office but may only do so if a Board Member is also present.
- **Access:** Access to the NSU Trial Association/Moot Court Office is granted based on a consensus between the NSU Trial Association and the Moot Court Society and is controlled via a SharkCard reader outside the door.

- **Supplies:** Office supplies are for use by Members inside the office. Please do not remove any supplies. If supplies are needed, inform the Internal Vice President of Operations or President.
- **Books:** There are a number of books in the Trial Association office available for use by all Members.
- **Refrigerator:** The refrigerator is for use by Members only. The refrigerator is small; therefore, Members shall take reasonable steps to make available space.

INTERPRETATION OF AND EXCEPTIONS TO BY-LAWS AND CONSTITUTION

In determining NSU Trial Association policy, the By-Laws and Constitution work congruously. If a discrepancy exists between the two, the Constitution precedes the By-Laws. If there is an issue in which both the Constitution and the By-Laws are silent, the President may decide the issue.

Should the NTA Executive Board seek to make an exception that runs contrary to the NSU Trial Association Constitution and By-Laws that does not involve discipline, such an exception may only be made if the Executive Board agrees to do so unanimously and provides notice to the NTA membership as a whole within 24 hours of the exception.

Should the NTA Executive Board seek to make an exception that runs contrary to the NSU Trial Association Constitution and By-Laws that does involve discipline, such an exception may only be made if the Executive Board and the Faculty Advisor(s) agree to do so unanimously and provide notice to the NTA membership as a whole within 24 hours of the exception.

If the membership so desires, an emergency general body meeting may be called by petition of a majority of Trial Association Members. The Trial Association membership may then vote to overturn the exception by a simple majority.