

**AMERICAN CONSTITUTION SOCIETY OF NOVA**  
**SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY, SHEPHARD BROAD COLLEGE**  
**OF LAW CONSTITUTION**

**Article I**

The Organization shall be known as “The American Constitution Society, Student Chapter at NOVA Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law”- ACS.

**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 Shephard Broad College of Law School students. Members of the ACS-Nova Student Chapter must join the ACS National Organization.

### **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 Shephard Broad College of Law students may serve as officers.

### **The American Constitution Society officers shall be as follows:**

**Co-Presidents:** The Co-Presidents shall work together and call ACS meetings, coordinate the operations and direction of the ACS, and serve as liaison between the ACS and Shephard Broad College of Law's administration.

**General Counsel:** The General Counsel shall assist the Co-Presidents and call ACS meetings in the absence of both Co-Presidents, and coordinate the activities of the Board members including Vice-Presidents and Class Representatives.

**Board Members:** The following are Executive Board positions encompassing members with designated responsibilities and duties, including but not limited to the following:

- **Vice-President of Administration and Internal Operations:** The Vice-president of Internal Affairs shall compile and maintain the minutes of meetings and the records of the organization, keep a current list of members, update the ACS national calendar with chapter events, and be responsible for notifying members of meetings.
- **Vice-President of Finance:** The Vice-President of Finance shall maintain the financial accounts and records of the ACS, set forth the ACS's budget, submit the ACS's financial reports to the Student Bar Association according to SBA guidelines.

- **Vice-President of Student Relations:** The Vice-President of Student Relations shall organize a membership drive during the beginning of each academic semester and shall organize additional membership drives as needed to recruit new members.
- **Vice-President of Event Organization and Social Relations:** The Vice-President of Event Organizations and Social Relations shall plan and organize the fall and spring events, including but not limited to event details such as decoration, logistics, catering, entertainment, transportation, location, invitee list, special guest, and promotional materials.
- **Vice-President of Communications and Social Media:** The Vice-President of Communications and Social Media shall be responsible for advertising for ACS events, the membership drive, and general membership meetings.
- **Class Representatives:** 1L, 2L, 3L and Evening Student class representatives will be responsible for outreach to their respective classmates about chapter activity and to assist the Vice-President of Student Relations and the Vice-President of Event Organization and Social Relations.

#### **Article V**

The American Constitution Society shall have a Faculty Advisor. The Faculty Advisor shall serve as a resource for ACS 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.

#### **Article VI**

To become a member of the Executive Board the candidate must be a member of the American Constitution Society, and submit his or her resume along with a statement of interest. The American Constitution Society officers and Board of Directors shall be appointed by a two-thirds vote of the outgoing Executive Board in April of each year.

#### **Article VII**

Officers may be removed for good cause by the unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Executive Board unless specifically provided for by the by-laws.

#### **Article VIII**

Amendments to this constitution and to its by-laws may be proposed by any member of the Executive Board and shall be adopted by two-thirds vote of the Executive Board, except that no amendment shall be adopted without the affirmative vote of the Co-Presidents and the Faculty Advisor or as otherwise specifically provided by the by-laws.

## **Article IX**

This organization shall be governed by this Constitution, its bylaws, and the rules and regulations of Shephard Broad College of Law.

