

BYLAWS
FIRST GENERATION PROFESSIONALS LEGAL SOCIETY

PREAMBLE

WE, the members of the First Generation Professionals Legal Society, hereby form an organization to further the common legal and social interests of students seeking to be a part of community that celebrates diversity, creates academic support and accountability, and facilitates a support system for students who otherwise have no practical avenue for emotional and academic support.

ARTICLE I

The name of this organization shall be the “First Generation Professionals Legal Society” (herein referred to as “FGPLS”)

ARTICLE II: Purposes and Objectives

1. Objective

The objective is to serve the interests of first generation professional students by creating an organization that is united by the common bond of being the first member of their families to attend a professional school. The organization also aims to serve the student body and South Florida community at large.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this organization is to establish a connection between first generation professional students and the community through outreach programs; it also seeks to provide an opportunity to future students and alumni of the organization to interact in the legal profession. Also, this organization’s purpose is to create a nexus whereby students can congregate and learn from each other.

3. Activities

FGPLS will participate in community outreach by speaking to students at public schools in Broward County about the opportunities available to first generation American students, invite lawyers in the community to speak to law students about their experience of being the first in their family to practice law, and hold functions where students can meet and share their individual experiences. We will also hold fundraisers and partner with other organizations on campus to bring speakers to educate students on different practices of law.

4. How we differ from other organizations on campus

This organization is different from others in that it aims to serve the interests of first generation professional students from all backgrounds that are the first in their families to reach the highest levels of education. By serving as an organization for students of all backgrounds, we create an opportunity to cross cultures, and build unity among law students who share the common bond of being the first in their families to attend professional school. Not only will this organization serve as an

educational tool for students but more importantly, it will serve as an emotional and academic support system for first generation students.

5. Why NSU needs us

This organization will benefit NSU because it will serve as a voice for many in the law school's diverse student body who share the common bond of being the first in their families to attend professional school. As the legal profession continues to experience an influx of lawyers from diverse backgrounds, future students may benefit from the connection this organization will have to alumni who founded and participated in it. Essentially, first generation professional students who attend NSU College of Law will have access to practicing attorneys who can offer insight on the law school experience, and provide internship opportunities. Further, the university and law school will strengthen their reputations in the community as NSU law students interact with Broward County public school students in a positive and motivating manner. The organization aligns with the NSU core value of being student centered. And finally, this organization serves to acknowledge the diverse population of the law students at NSU and create a lasting network for these students in practice and for those entering law school in the future.

6. Tentative calendar of meetings and events

- Recruitment to begin in the Fall Semester and meetings and event planning through the Spring semester

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section I. ELIGIBILITY

1. The membership of the FGPLS shall consist of all students that have been initiated into and retained as members of FGPLS.
2. It is highly encouraged that any potential member be the first or among very few in their family to attend a post-graduate program.
3. No person shall be elected to the student membership of the FGPLS who is not a bona fide student of the Shepard Broad College of Law at Nova Southeastern University.
4. No student shall be a member unless such student has paid the initial membership fee of \$25.
5. Amount of the membership dues shall be decided upon by the Executive Board at the first board meeting of the academic year. The decided amount shall be the membership dues for the entire academic year.
6. To be eligible for student membership, a candidate must possess the following qualifications and be subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Characterize the purposes and objectives of the FGPLS by personality, character and example

- b. Be free of attributes that would make the student unacceptable to the organization because of the student's incompatibility with the purposes and objectives of the FGPLS.
- c. Have a reputation for the highest standards of personal integrity, diligence, candor, and trust, of individual responsibility, and of respect for the law, rights and property of others, and for the accepted and recognized canons or professional ethics.

Section 2. Officers

1. The Executive Board of the Organization (the "E board") shall be comprised of the following officers: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, and HISTORIAN.
2. Only active members shall be eligible for voting and holding office.
3. An active member is one who has paid his/her dues and who has attended at least two (2) functions during the year.
4. All officers of the Executive Board will assist one another when in need, no matter what their title, and enforce a welcoming and equal leadership atmosphere.
5. The Executive Board shall have such powers as are granted by this Constitution.

Section 3. Officers' Title & Duties

THE PRESIDENT shall have general supervision over all the affairs of the organization and having access to all the books and property of the organization. The President may delegate necessary tasks to further the goals of the FGPLS. The President shall have completed at least one year of law school.

1. THE PRESIDENT shall:
 - a. Preside at all meetings of the association;
 - b. Enforce the Bylaws;
 - c. Provide the Bylaws to each executive board member and ensure their understanding and loyalty;
 - d. Appoint committee heads where necessary;
 - e. Call general, special or emergency meetings as prescribed herein;
 - f. Formally represent the association whenever necessary;
 - g. Consult with other executive board members, and general members of whom all possess the right to be heard; and
 - h. Be responsible for the promotion of student membership, especially those in the incoming first year class.

THE VICE PRESIDENT is responsible for assisting, whenever possible, the work of the President. The Vice President shall exercise the duties and powers of the President in the event of the President's temporary or permanent absence.

THE VICE PRESIDENT shall:

- a. Perform such duties delegated by the President;
- b. Preside at all meetings in the absence of the President;
- c. Assume the duties of the President shall the President be unable to continue in office;
- d. Act as a liaison between FGPLS and all the other clubs, organizations, and entities both on campus and in the community;
- e. Assist the Treasurer in overseeing and maintaining the fiscal and business management of the FGPLS
- f. Oversee fundraising and social events; and
- g. Be responsible for the promotion of alumni membership

THE TREASURER is the recording and financial officer of the organization, having general charge of the property of the organization and responsible for collecting or receiving all monies from the student(s) and any all the other monies or property of any kind whatsoever, due, given, or bequeathed to the organization, or otherwise for the benefit of or belonging to the organization.

The Treasurer shall:

- a. Collect dues, make expenditures and to render regular financial reports on request;
- b. Provide a copy of the monthly bank generated statement to the organization President;
- c. Maintain ledgers of accounts receivable and accounts payable and shall provide a monthly report to the President; and
- d. Be responsible for locating fundraising opportunities and using these funds to aid the organization in furthering its goals of awareness, education, and networking.

THE SECRETARY shall be responsible for organizing all networking events and coordinating all meetings and socials of the organization. This includes all marketing and publicity of the organization.

The Secretary shall:

- a. Maintain a complete membership roster, handle all incoming and outgoing correspondence;
- b. Assist the President and Vice-President in organizing networking opportunities with human and civil rights attorneys, practitioners, judges, professors, associations, pro-bono organizations, experts, and students organizations within the South Florida, national, and/or global region;
- c. Assist the President and Vice-President in the organization of educational presentations/workshops that would promote awareness of current human rights issues; and

- d. Locate volunteer opportunities that would strengthen the ties between local human and civil rights advocacy organizations, members of the FGPLS, and students at the law school.

THE HISTORIAN shall be responsible for keeping records of all communications and general duties as prescribed by the President as needed. The officer will strive to make connections and create awareness of the FGPLS with the entire NSU campus and surrounding buildings.

The HISTORIAN shall:

- a. Keep records of various communications within meetings such as brainstorming, delegated tasks and planning of functions, fundraisers, etc. beneficial to, participated in or held by the FGPLS;
- b. Keep records by taking photographs, publishing and/or keeping articles, and anything else that may be of interest to the FGPLS for future record and legacy; and
- c. Strive to make connections and create awareness through the use of social media of the First Generation Professionals Legal Society's involvement in the community
- d. Create profiles on popular social media websites and applications, and keep these profiles relevant and current

ARTICLE IV. OFFICER AUTHORITY

The Executive Board shall have the following powers and all duties necessary to carry out the provisions of these Bylaws.

SECTION 1. PROPERTY

1. To collect or receive all monies or property of any kind whatsoever, real, personal, or mixed which is or shall become due to the organization, its officers or members, either by agreement, assessment, gift, devise, bequests and grants by will or otherwise, for the general or special benefit of the organization or its members, objectives or purposes, either directly or indirectly, or in pursuance of the provisions within these Bylaws.
2. To borrow money for the benefit of and in the name of the organization, pledge, hypothecate or mortgage the properties of the organization as security, therefore, to invest the funds of the organization and to transfer.

SECTION 3. POWER OF REMOVAL

1. To expel or suspend any member from any or all rights and privileges in the organization upon a showing of good cause.
2. To remove elected officers. Any student member holding such a position in this organization shall be subject to removal from office, for good and sufficient cause. The following may constitute good and sufficient cause for removal from office: violation of the oath of office, including malfeasance, misfeasance, or

- nonfeasance; any failure to render necessary reports, to liquidate indebtedness due to the organization; willful disregard or violation of these Bylaws; failure or inability of a student officer or officers to conduct operations so as to perpetuate the organization's existence; or any action tending to discredit the organization.
3. Upon learning or being advised of any such detrimental actions or inactions, the Executive Board shall promptly advise the Faculty Advisor and Administration to assist in ascertaining the facts, hold any necessary hearing, take charge, if necessary, of all appropriate organization records, funds, and other assets, and conduct the removal of the officer or officers in question and the election of their successor officers.
 4. Provided that the Executive Board or any member is adversely affected by any action taken on the basis of the aforementioned powers, they shall have the right to appeal to the Executive Board of the organization or the Student Bar Association, by filing such appeal.

ARTICLE V. ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. TERM OF OFFICE

1. The term of office shall be for the length of one (1) year.
2. A person may not serve in the same office for more than four (4) consecutive semesters.

SECTION 2. PROCEDURE

1. All vacated offices shall be filled as soon as possible by a vote.
2. 2 letters of intent shall be submitted to the SECRETARY at least ten (10) days before the election.
3. Voting shall be by secret ballot. A candidate will win when the candidate receives a majority of the votes. Thus, if no candidate obtains a majority on the first vote, subsequent votes must be taken until a majority is obtained.
4. Immediately following the election, or as soon as possible thereafter, a mandatory meeting of the former officers and the newly elected officers shall be held.
5. An induction ceremony shall be held to introduce the new candidates during either the last meeting or the first meeting of the year.
6. A summary of the respective officers' duties and all necessary records, such as these Bylaws, shall be turned over to the new officers for study no later than one (1) week before the induction ceremony.

SECTION 3. LIMITATIONS

1. Only active members may be nominated.
2. Any candidate must be current with all financial obligations to the FGPLS.

ARTICLE VI. ADVISOR

1. This association shall have a regular Faculty or Administrative Advisor who shall advise the association and be kept informed of the association's plans and financial situation. In the absence of a Faculty Advisor, it shall be the duty of the President to secure a new Faculty Advisor as soon as possible.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

The Executive Board shall meet in session at the call of either the President or Vice President, and will take into consideration all desired agendas and/or meetings by other officers or passionate members.

SECTION 1. TIMES

1. The first meeting of each year shall be held within the first month of the Fall semester and when the majority of the board can attend.
2. At a minimum, regular meeting shall be held monthly during the school year.
3. When applicable, there should be a day meeting and an evening meeting for the consideration of NSU law part-time students.
4. Emergency meetings are any meetings outside the regularly scheduled meetings called by the President and will be attempted with three (3) days prior notification
5. A special meeting shall be any meeting outside the regularly scheduled meetings called by the President within one (1) week prior notification to all active members for the election of officers, for a final vote, a bylaw amendment, or critical project.

SECTION 2. AGENDA

1. The President and the Vice President shall consult before each meeting to develop the agenda, of which all other officers have input.
2. A general statement of the agenda for the meeting shall be distributed via hard copy at the beginning of each meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Any Bylaw adoptions, amendments or modifications made by the Executive Board shall be subject to review and approval by the Dean, member organization and the Student Bar Association. A failure to present for approval may jeopardize the good standing of the organization.

1. The Executive Board, may adopt or amend the Bylaws by majority vote of the members present and voting at any meeting, so long as quorum exists.
2. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be submitted to the President in writing for submission to the members for vote.
3. A majority vote by the Executive Board and/or two-thirds (2/3) vote of all active members shall suffice for adoption of amendments of these Bylaws.

