

BYLAWS NSU HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

PREAMBLE

WE, the members of the NSU HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, hereby form an association to further the common legal and social interests of students seeking to practice and participate in the field of Human and Civil Rights Law, and promote the highest standards of professional ethics and culture in the law school community.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the “NSU Human Rights Organization” (hereinafter “NHRO”).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES

The NHRO will:

1. Encourage law students to become actively involved in Human and Civil Rights Law issues, through service projects and partnerships with other like-minded non-profit organizations in South Florida and nationally.
2. Facilitate career opportunities through an ongoing effort to maintain active relationships with the human and civil rights legal communities in South Florida and nationally.
3. Facilitate internship and research opportunities for law students who are potentially interested in pursuing a career in human and civil rights law, and help to create pro bono credit opportunities for Nova Southeastern University Law Center (hereinafter “NSU”) students.
4. Heighten awareness of the impact of human rights issues on various groups within the United States, and the world community.
5. Expose law students to the evolving area of human rights topics, law and advocacy through guest speakers, presentations and conferences.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY

1. The membership of the NHRO shall consist of all students that have been initiated into and retained as members of NHRO.
2. No person shall be elected to the student membership of the NHRO who is not a bona fide student of NSU.
3. No student shall be a member unless such student has paid the initial membership fee.
4. 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.
5. To be eligible for student membership, a candidate must possess the following qualifications and be subject to the following conditions:

Characterize the Purposes and Objectives of the NHRO by personality, character and example.

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 NHRO.

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 of professional ethics.

SECTION 2. OFFICERS

1. The Executive Board of the Organization 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 her/his dues and who has attended at least two (2) functions during the year.
4. Each Student Member shall be a representative of the NHRO and shall assist the other members of the Executive Board in maintaining open channels of communication.

5. Incontestably 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.

6. 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 NHRO. The President shall have completed at least (1) year of law school.

The PRESIDENT shall:

1. preside at all meetings of the association;
2. enforce the Bylaws;
3. provide the Bylaws to each Executive Board member and ensure their understanding and loyalty;
4. appoint committee heads where necessary;
5. call general, special or emergency meetings as prescribed herein;
6. formally represent the association whenever necessary;
7. consult with the other Executive Board members, and general members of whom all possess the right to be heard; and
8. be responsible for the promotion of student membership, especially those in the incoming first year class.

THE VICE PRESIDENT is responsible for supervising all the ritualistic work and instruction of initiates in the Bylaws, history, ritual, traditions and usages of the organization. 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:

1. perform such duties delegated by the President;
2. preside at all meetings in the absence of the President;
3. assume the duties of the President shall the President be unable to continue in office;
4. act as a liaison between NHRO and all other clubs, organizations, and entities both on campus and in the community;
5. assist the Treasurer in overseeing and maintaining the fiscal and business management of the HRO;
6. oversee fundraising and social events; and
7. 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 and all 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:

1. collect dues, make expenditures and to render regular financial reports on request;
2. provide a copy of the monthly bank generated statement to the organization President;
3. maintain ledgers of accounts receivable and accounts payable and shall provide a monthly report to the President; and
4. 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:

1. maintain a complete membership roster, handle all incoming and outgoing correspondence;
2. organize networking opportunities with human and civil rights attorneys, practitioners, judges, professors, associations, pro-bono organizations, experts, passionate cause advocates, and student organizations within the South Florida, national, and/or global region;
3. assist in the organization of educational presentations/workshops that would promote awareness of current human rights issues; and
4. locate volunteer opportunities that would strengthen the ties between local human and civil rights advocacy organizations, members of the NHRO, and students at the law center.

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 NHRO with the entire NSU campus and surrounding buildings.

The HISTORIAN shall:

1. 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 HRO;
2. keep records by taking photographs, publishing and/or keeping articles, and anything else that may be of interest to the NHRO for future record and legacy; and
4. strive to make connections and create awareness of the Human Rights Organization with the entire Nova Southeastern University campus.

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 2. 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.
3. 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. 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 plurality shall dictate the outcome of the election. Meaning that a candidate shall win when she/he receives the most votes. There will only be a run-off in the event of a tie.
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 NHRO.

ARTICLE VI. ADVISOR

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 meetings 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 part-time students.
4. Emergency meetings are any meetings outside the regularly scheduled meeting 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 by-law 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.

ARTICLE IX. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the meetings of the HRO in all cases to the extent that such do not conflict with any express provisions, policies, or procedures within these Bylaws.