

CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SOCIETY CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – ESTABLISHMENT

Environmental Law Society (“ELS”) of the Chicago-Kent College of Law is hereby formed as an independent, student-run organization consisting of students currently enrolled at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago-Kent College of Law (College) who also fulfill the requirements of Article II. ELS is located at 565 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois 60061.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE & FUNCTION

Section 1: ELS is committed to improving student and faculty awareness and education in the field of environmental and energy affairs from ethical, legal, scientific, economic, policy, and sociological perspectives. ELS will further promote the improvement in ecological integrity.

Section 2: ELS will accomplish the purposes in Article II, Section 1 through educational programming and networking events. ELS may also accomplish its purposes through any other means ELS finds appropriate through the procedures provided in Article V.

Section 3: ELS will coordinate with the Director(s) of the College’s Program in Environmental and Energy Law (PEEL Program) as appropriate.

Section 4: ELS will monitor the effectiveness of the PEEL Program and provide feedback and support in order to aid in providing students with a quality education in environmental and energy law.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Any student who supports the purposes of the ELS as delineated in Article I, Section 1 and Article III may apply for ELS membership.

Section 2: Membership dues will be collected in accordance with Article III, Section 3. Dues will be payable to ELS and the Treasurer shall keep an official roll of paid ELS members for each academic year. A due date for payment will be set by the Executive Board, as defined in Article IV, and announced at the first general meeting of each school year.

Section 3: Dues shall be set by the Executive Board, as defined in Article IV. Anyone applying for membership may appeal to the board for a waiver through a written statement showing financial hardship. The executive board will approve or disapprove the waiver by majority vote.

ARTICLE IV – EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: The Executive Board shall consist of at least seven (7) officers who will have the responsibilities enumerated in this Article and those contained in Article II.

Section 2: The President shall have oversight over all programs and events of ELS; appoint officers for offices that have fallen vacant due to resignation, death, or academic dismissal; call meetings of the organization and/or Executive Board; and recommend policies to the Executive Board.

Section 3: The External Vice-President shall coordinate external affairs of ELS, National Association of Environmental Law Societies conference, other conference, lobby days, and other functions that the Executive Board may deem appropriate.

Section 4: The Internal Vice-President shall coordinate with the professors and faculty of the PEEL Program, coordinate and foster relations with other student organizations, and other functions that the Executive Board may deem appropriate.

Section 5: The Secretary shall coordinate the communications within ELS including promoting and tabulating membership, advertising ELS functions, and coordinating publicity through on- and off-campus news and media sources, including Record announcements.

Section 6: The Treasurer will be responsible for the financial management of ELS, including the drafting and submitting of a budget and request for fees to the Student Bar Association (SBA), collection of dues, and disbursement of monies in a timely manner.

Section 7: The Fundraising Chair will be responsible for coordinating all fundraising activities for ELS.

Section 8: The Web Chair will coordinate all internet communications for ELS, including updates to the ELS website, and other functions as the Executive Board may deem appropriate.

Section 9: The 1L Representatives will act as liaisons between the Board and their sections, bringing ideas from their classmates to the Board for discussion and promoting ELS events within their sections. 1L Representatives may also support other Board positions in which they take interest.

Section 10: The Inter-School Liaison will reach out to environmental societies at other law schools or colleges in the area, keep the ELS updated on environmental workshops or local bar association events. S/he will also liaise with other schools regarding major ELS events or field trips, and plan inter-school mixers as appropriate.

Section 11: The Sustainability Coordinator will work with the Vice President(s) in charge of the Spring Auction and Earth Week events. S/he will also work on sustainability initiatives within the school, such as the “Hold the Foam” campaign in the Spakateria and the recycling program, and will maintain a working alliance with the Assistant Vice President for Administration & Finance to keep the Board apprised of sustainability initiatives that the School is undertaking on its own.

Section 12: The Advertising Chair will work with the Inter-School Liaison and Fundraising Chair to promote events using flyers, emails and oral or written whiteboard announcements to classes. S/he will also work with the Web Chair to post updates in the Announcements and Events sections of the ELS website, and write promotional updates for *The Commentator* once per semester.

Section 13: In the event that both Vice President positions are filled and there is interest, the Executive Board may also appoint an Alumni Coordinator. The Alumni Coordinator will be responsible for organizing alumni receptions and other events and for compiling and maintaining a list of Alumni who are willing to mentor and/or participate in event and perform other functions as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board.

Section 14: The Board may also elect student representatives from each of the 1L sections, 2L class, evening division and 3L class as deemed necessary. These Representatives will be responsible for publicizing ELS activity to their fellow students and other duties as deemed appropriate by the Executive Board.

Section 15: In the event that the President is unable to perform the duties of that office for any reason, the External Vice President shall assume the office of the President. In the event that the Vice President is also unable to fill the office, the Internal Vice President shall assume the duties of the President.

Section 16: Any Executive Board member may be removed upon a two-thirds vote by those ELS members present at any meeting where, at least three days in advance of the meeting, notice was provided to all ELS members that the possible removal would be discussed, and that the meeting is open only to ELS members. Removal may only occur upon a showing of substantial misconduct. In The vote will be by secret ballot, and a two-thirds majority of those present will constitute a removal

vote. Quorum will be met by the presence of at least nine persons including five board members and four ELS members, who may or may not be Board members.

Section 17: The Executive Board shall assemble committees or task forces as it deems appropriate to address specific issues, events, or activities. Furthermore, the Executive Board will appoint a chair to head those committees and implement their charges as necessary.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

The President shall have the authority to call to order meetings of the Executive Board as he or she may deem necessary. At such meetings, all issues requiring a vote by the Executive Board shall be passed, upon motion by any Board Member, upon majority vote and become effective so long as more than half of the Board Members are present.

ARTICLE VI – ELECTIONS

Section 1: The Executive Board will be elected by the membership before the first day of Spring finals each year. Positions will be decided by a simple majority of members through electronic secret ballot.

Section 2: Any member may run for any office. 1L students may run for 1L Rep, Web Chair and Alumni Coordinator, if those positions are not already filled.

ARTICLE VII – OFFICIAL POLICIES

Section 1: The Executive Board will, as it deems necessary, recommend to the general ELS membership organizational endorsements, co-sponsorships, and policy positions for the ELS. Following at least three days of notice, which shall include a description of the recommendation(s) and the effect of the vote, the Board shall cause a meeting of the membership to take place. A simple majority vote of the members in attendance, including Board Members, shall make the recommendations official ELS policy.

In the event that a meeting cannot be called with sufficient time to vote on the proposed issue, the Executive Board shall provide notice of the proposed position to all membership through e-mail and/or posting on the ELS website and bulletin board. If no members object within one week, the recommendation shall be adopted. The Executive Board shall entertain any reasonable objections. If one or more is received, the Board may elect to call a meeting, or to make the changes

included in the reasonable objection(s) and again provide notice of the proposed issue electronically, with the same possible outcomes.

Section 2: Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws will be made according to Article V.

ARTICLE VIII – STATEMENT OF REPRESENTATION

As environmental affairs affect all species as well as persons of all races, ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, regardless of handicap, and as underrepresented communities traditionally have incurred substantial damages to their local environments, ELS, in working to remedy such inequities, will encourage the diversification of environmental law professionals.

ARTICLE IX – CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Section 1: The Constitution may be amended only by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Executive Board. Vacancies due to resignation or removal will not be included for quorum purposes. Any vote on proposed amendments must be held after newly elected first year members are seated in the Fall.

Section 2: Proposed amendments from any ELS member or Board Member shall be forwarded to the Secretary or President and circulated for comment at least three days prior to voting.

Section 3: Proxy voting is permitted provided that (a) the proxy written by the Board Member offering it, (b) the proxy describes the issue(s) to be voted on and the offering Board Member's choice(s), and (c) no Board Member brings more than two proxies to the vote. Proxies may also be e-mailed to the Secretary's mailbox.