

BYLAWS
THE STUDENT HUMANITARIAN NETWORK
(“SHN”)
CHICAGO-KENT COLLEGE OF LAW

Article I
NAME AND INCORPORATION

This organization shall be named the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (“SALDF”) of the Chicago-Kent College of Law. These bylaws shall supersede any and all preexisting constitutions and/or bylaws governing the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Article II
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

SALDF is a national community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and working attorneys in the field of animal law. SALDF is part of the national organization Animal Legal Defense Fund, who is interested in furthering the goals of ethical animal treatment. SALDF educates the Chicago-Kent community various facets of animal and agricultural law by coordinating programs, events, lectures, volunteer opportunities, conference opportunities, and other activities, and advocates for volunteerism within the legal and animal community.

Article III
MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Eligibility

Membership shall be open to any and all Chicago-Kent students (JD, LLM, day, evening, full-time, and part-time), faculty, alumni, and staff. Individuals who are not affiliated with Chicago-Kent may attend programs and events, but may not be members of the Kent’s chapter of SALDF.

Section 2 – Privileges and Responsibilities of Members

Because SALDF relies on an involved and active membership, all members are encouraged to fully participate by attending executive board and general membership meetings, participating in programs, staffing events, and furthering the goals of animal welfare.

Only members, as defined in section one above, will be given access to the SHN course outline bank and will be allowed to vote on SHN matters and elections.

Section 3 – Membership Dues

Membership dues are currently not required. However, the executive board may vote to approve a fee to pay for special events and programs that neither SALDF nor SBA funding can cover. Membership dues must be voted upon at the beginning of each academic year during the fall semester.

Article IV **EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Section 1 – Requirements

Only current Chicago-Kent students may serve on the executive board, with the exception of the Faculty Advisor position.

Section 2 – Mandatory Executive Board Officer Positions

The SALDF executive board must consist of at least two officers: President and Treasurer. Any and all other executive board officer positions are not required, but preferred.

Section 3 – Optional Executive Board Officer Positions

The following executive board officer positions are optional, but preferred. No one position must be limited to one individual; multiple SALDF members hold the same one position as co-chairs/ co-vice presidents. Additional optional executive board officer positions may be created each academic semester. The following are the optional executive board officer positions for the Fall 2012 academic semester:

- (a) Secretary
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Social Chair
- (h) Class Representatives

Section 4 – Class Representatives

SALDF may select active members of a class year to serve as a class representative for that said class year. Such selected class representatives may serve for any number of semesters so long as that class representative is enrolled at Chicago-Kent. SALDF shall select no more than three (3) class representatives per class year.

Section 5 – Officer Elections, Terms, Vacancies, and Removals

- (a) Purpose and Responsibilities
 - (i) Officer elections shall be held towards the end of each spring semester before finals period is over. Should executive board officer positions be vacant at the beginning of the academic spring semester, officer elections shall be held the first week of that semester.
 - (ii) The President shall coordinate the elections by communicating the need for elections with both the executive board and general membership.
- (b) Nomination Procedures - Members of SALDF may nominate themselves for any position on the executive board.
- (c) Election
 - (i) If an executive board officer position goes uncontested, the candidate will automatically be seated in that position.
 - (ii) If an executive board officer position has two or more candidates, the candidate receiving the majority of those votes cast by the remaining executive

board officers shall be seated in that position. The executive board shall determine a fair election procedure that provides at least one week for members to state their interest in a position, followed by an election.

(iii) In the event of a tie, the two candidates may serve as co-officers of that officer position or may take part in a contest of wits or wills, of their choosing, in which the two combatants stand a competitive chance of victory. Acceptable contests shall not include any act that damages the health or morals of society, SALDF, or the combatants. The victor of the contest shall have rightful dominion and responsibility over the contested office. The vanquished shall purchase a round of beers for the executive board officers immediately following the election.

(d) Dual Occupancy – An individual may occupy more than one office at one time, except no individual may serve as both President and Treasurer.

(e) Length of Term – Each executive board officer shall serve for a term of two (2) consecutive semesters, which includes summer and academic breaks, as appropriate. The executive board may reelect an officer to serve additional terms.

(f) Vacancy – If an executive board office or class representative position becomes vacant before the end of its regular term of office, the executive board shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term. Prior to appointing a replacement, the executive board shall solicit volunteers from the general membership.

(g) Removal – An executive board officer or class representative may be removed for good cause at any time by a two-thirds vote of the remaining executive board officers.

Article V COMMITTEES

SALDF does not require committees. However, SALDF may create committees to aide in organizing events and activities. Creating a committee will require at least a majority vote of executive board officers.

Article VI MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

Section 1- Executive Board Meetings

(a) Executive board meetings are open to all SALDF members. The executive board should meet as often as necessary to effectively plan and implement an active calendar of events, programs, and volunteer trips to meet the purpose of the SALDF. Generally, the executive board should meet at least four times each semester.

(b) The President shall call the meeting, but any member of the executive board officer may call a meeting if necessary. The executive board shall notify both all executive board officers and the general membership of such a meeting at least three (3) days in advance. The President, or officer calling the meeting, shall determine the agenda prior to the meeting and communicate the agenda to both the executive board and general membership at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the executive board meeting.

Section 2 – General Membership Meetings

(a) General membership meetings shall be called by the executive board as often as necessary to effectively communicate the plans of SALDF. Generally, the executive board should call a general membership meeting once a month throughout the fall and spring academic semesters.

(b) The President shall call the general membership meeting, but any member of the executive board officer may call a meeting if necessary. The executive board shall notify the general membership of a general membership meeting at least three (3) days in advance. The President, or officer calling the meeting, shall determine the agenda prior to the meeting and communicate the agenda to both the executive board and general membership at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the executive board meeting.

Section 3 – Meeting Minutes

The President (or Secretary, if applicable) shall take minutes of all executive board and general membership meetings. The President (or Secretary, if applicable) shall distribute the minutes to the membership within one week of the meeting.

Section 4 – Scheduling Meetings and Programs

When scheduling meetings and programs, the executive board should take into consideration the diverse schedules in the day and evening programs by varying the day and time at which meetings and programs are offered.

Section 5 – Programs

The President shall appoint a chair of each program, who shall be responsible for coordinating all aspects of the program, including working with other executive board officers (i.e., Treasurer for funding, Vice President of Public Relations and Communications for publicity).

Article VII **AMENDMENTS**

Section 1 – Proposing an Amendment

Any member of SALDF may propose amendments to the most current bylaws, in writing, at any time during the fall or spring academic semesters. The member who proposes said amendment must be afforded an opportunity to speak on behalf of the proposed amendment at the next executive board meeting.

Section 2 – Voting

Any proposed amendment must pass by a two-thirds vote by the executive board officers. Any executive board officer may abstain from voting. Unless the member proposing the amendment is an SALDF executive board officer, said member may not participate in the voting process.

Section 3 – Ratification

Should any proposed amendment pass by a two-third vote of the executive board, it is the duty of the President to re-draft the SALDF's bylaws to incorporate the new amendment. The

executive board must take all steps necessary to enact the amendment and announce the amendment to the SHN's General Membership.

Article VIII
EXTERNAL AUTHORITIES

SALDF shall be governed by these bylaws, the rules and regulations of the Chicago-Kent College of Law, and the laws of the City of Chicago, Cook County, the State of Illinois, and the U.S. Federal Government.

Effective Date: The executive board approved these bylaws on September 12, 2012.