

Bylaws of the National Lawyers Guild Northern Illinois University Chapter

Section 1 - General Provisions

1.1 - Name. The title of this student organization shall be the "National Lawyers Guild Northern Illinois University Chapter" (hereafter referred to as the "NLG" or the "chapter").

1.2 - Objectives. The NLG shall be aimed:

- a) To develop and encourage discussion of the legal aspects of societal imbalances in the world;
- b) To encourage the education of individuals who would like to learn how to be proactive in engaging with the American legal system;
- c) To aid in making the United States and the State Constitution and the law and the administrative and judicial agencies of government responsive to the will of the American people;
- d) To insure that constitutional freedoms are reserved for humans over corporations;
- e) To protect create, and foster democratic institutions and civil rights and liberties of all people;
- f) To aid in the establishment of governmental and professional agencies to supply adequate legal services to those who are in need and cannot obtain it;
- g) To promote justice in the administration of the law;
- h) To aid in the adaptation and adoption of legal entities and laws for the economic and social welfare of the people;
- i) To keep the people informed upon legal matters affecting the public interest;
- j) To encourage a consideration of the social and economic aspects of the law;
- k) To improve the ethical standards which must guide the lawyer in the performance of their professional and social duties; and
- l) To help law students guide their education towards social advocacy and political discourse;
- m) To promote equality.

1.3 - Chapter Membership. A student is a member of the chapter if they perform the following actions:

- a) Pay \$15 dues
- b) Attend at least one NLG meeting;
- c) Become a member of the chapter listserv;
- d) Vote in an NLG election.

1.4 - Dues. \$15 dues are required from law students who wish to join the chapter.

Section 2 - Structure

2.1 - Leadership. The Executive Board shall provide general direction for the chapter. Its decisions shall be made by majority vote.

2.2 – Officers. The Executive Board, composed of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

- a) The President shall serve as the spokesperson of the chapter, and direct its operations.
- b) The Vice President shall aid in chapter operations, and succeed the president should a vacancy in that office occur.
- c) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the chapter.
- d) The Secretary shall be responsible for taking notes at NLG meetings, and keeping records of the history of the chapter.
- e) Other duties may be delegated to a chapter member by a majority vote of the Executive Board as needed.
- f) No single individual shall simultaneously hold the posts of President and Treasurer.
- g) Officers shall serve from the date of their election until the next annual election.

2.3 - General meetings. The Executive Board shall call at least one general membership meeting each semester.

- a) The agenda shall be set by the Executive Board; however, any member may request that an item be added to the agenda before or during the meeting.
- b) The Executive Board shall designate a presiding officer; should the Board not designate a presiding officer, then the President shall chair the meeting.
- c) Every act of a general meeting must be made by a majority vote of a quorum of chapter members in attendance.
- d) A quorum shall consist of at least five members of the chapter.

2.4 – Removal. A chapter officer may be removed from office by resignation, withdrawal from school enrollment, or in cases of impropriety, a two-thirds majority vote of at least 10 chapter members, or a quorum if there are less than 10 chapter members. Should a vacancy occur, the Executive Board shall appoint a temporary successor to an office until a replacement is elected according to the provisions of Section 2.5.

2.5 - Elections. General elections for officers shall take place annually by the last week of Spring Semester; if a vacancy in an office should occur, a special election must be called within 30 days of the vacancy.

- a) Elections may be held either in a general meeting, or by online means.
- b) A candidate for an office must be nominated by a chapter member, and the candidate who receives the most votes for a position shall be elected.
- c) All chapter members or prospective members shall have one vote for each position.

d) If a member is concerned about the election process or election results, he or she may anonymously contact the SBA to challenge the election and appeal its result.

Section 3 - SBA Relations

3.1- SBA Guidelines - The NLG Northern Illinois University Chapter adopts and adheres to the Bylaws of the Student Bar Association of Northern Illinois University.

Section 4- National Convention

4.1 - Convention Attendance. The NLG Northern Illinois University Chapter endeavors to send as many law students as express an interest as delegates to the National Convention. Students shall have the opportunity to participate in fundraising activities to supplement their travel expenses.

4.2 - Voting. Every chapter member is entitled to one vote on matters under consideration at the National Convention, regardless of whether the Guild member personally attends the Convention. Procedures for voting are established in the National Organization's Bylaws.

Section 5 – Amendments to Bylaws

5.1 - Procedure. Bylaws may be changed through a 2/3 majority of at least 10 chapter members, or a majority vote of the Executive Board and a majority vote of the general membership conducted online or in a general meeting. If there are less than 10 members, a two-thirds majority of a quorum shall be necessary to amend the bylaws.