

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

Article I. Name.

The name of this organization is the Christian Legal Society Student Chapter of University of New Mexico ("Chapter"), a group consisting of law students at the named law school ("School"). The Chapter is an affiliated student chapter of Christian Legal Society ("CLS"), an Illinois non-profit corporation with its principal offices in Annandale, Virginia.

Article II. Mission and Purposes.

Mission. The mission of the Chapter is to maintain a vibrant Christian Law Fellowship on the School's campus, which encourages its members, individually and as a group, to love the Lord with their whole beings – hearts, souls, minds, and to love their neighbor as themselves. (Matthew 22:37-40).

Purposes. In striving to accomplish this mission, the Chapter shall be guided by the ten purposes set forth in Art. I of the CLS bylaws and by the LSM Threefold Ministry Model, which entails three interrelated activities to be carried out by the Chapter:

1. Cultivating spiritual growth through communal prayer, fellowship, and worship; learning to share one's faith; and devotional study of the Bible and classic Christian works.
2. Showing the love of Christ to the campus community and the community at large by proclaiming the gospel in word and in deed.
3. Addressing the question, "What does it mean to be a Christian in law?" That is, learning to submit every aspect of one's calling in the legal profession to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Article III. Membership.

3.1 Equal Opportunity and Equal Access. In the conduct of all aspects of its activities, the Chapter shall not discriminate on the basis of age, religion, disability, ethnicity, nation origin, race, sex, sexual orientation, medical condition, or veteran status.

3.2 Membership. Membership in the Chapter shall be open to all students at the School who are interested in the mission and purposes set forth in Art. II. Any Chapter member who, for any reason, ceases to be a student at the University of New Mexico shall immediately cease to be a member of the Chapter.

3.3 Eligibility to Vote. Chapter members are the only persons eligible to vote for Chapter officers and for amendments to this Constitution & By-Laws.

Article IV. Officers.

4.1 General. The Chapter shall adopt bylaws delineating the titles, duties, qualifications, and terms of service of at least three officer positions and shall implement a procedure to insure the election or selection of at least three new officers by April 30. The elected officers will serve the following school year. At a minimum, the election for an officer requires a simple majority vote of the Chapter members who are present during voting or who vote by proxy. In addition to any local requirements consistent with this Constitution, officers must be enrolled as students at the School agree with the mission and purposes set forth in Art. II, and endeavor to live their lives in a manner consistent with the Code of Conduct set forth in Paragraph 4.2. Chapter officers shall encourage local participants to join CLS. Any Chapter officer who, for any reason, ceases to be a student at the School shall immediately cease to be an officer of the Chapter.

4.2 Code of Conduct. Officers must exemplify the highest standards of morality as set forth in Scripture, including to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul, and to Love your neighbor as your self,” while striving to manifest “the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control,” in all their interactions and dealings with others (Galatians 5:22-23).

4.3 Transition of Authority. To insure the continual well being of the Chapter, outgoing officers shall facilitate the orderly transition of authority by taking adequate time in the spring to train new officers. No later than April 30, the outgoing officers shall mail the Law Student Ministries Annual Reporting form, included as appendix 3 of the Student Chapter Manual, to CLS Law Student Ministries, 4208 Evergreen Lane, Suite 222, Annandale, VA 22003-3264. A copy of this report shall also be provided to the Chapter advisor.

4.4 Forcible Removal of an Officer. The removal of a current officer prior to the end of the term requires a 75% majority vote of Chapter members.

Article V. Chapter Advisor.

The Chapter officers shall assist the LSM staff to identify a CLS faculty member or local attorney to serve as an advisor to the Chapter. The Chapter advisor must exemplify the same high standards of Biblical morality as set forth in Paragraph 5.2 above. The officers shall meet with the advisor on a regular basis and shall keep him or her informed of chapter meetings, special events, financial matters, problems within the Chapter or the School, and other relevant matters.

Article VI. Meetings.

Chapter meetings shall be held with enough frequency to accomplish the mission and purposes enumerated in Art. II; at a minimum at least four (4) general meetings shall be held during each school year. One of the principal goals of meetings shall be to carry out and to plan events and activities designed to carry out LSM’s Threefold Ministry Model (see Art. II). The officers, in consultation with the chapter members and advisor shall insure that adequate notice is given of each meeting.

Article VII. Finances.

7.1 General. The Chapter may raise revenues through contributions, fundraising activities or by applying for school funds available to student groups. If the Chapter chooses to raise revenues, it shall insure that the highest standards of Christian morality and financial integrity are met. At a minimum, the Chapter shall: maintain its funds in a segregated checking or savings account (the law school maintains the accounts for the Chapter) managed according to School standards; incur financial obligations only when there is sufficient finding to honor the obligations; pay all debts in a prompt manner; and maintain accurate financial records showing all; receipts and expenditures and all assets and liabilities of the Chapter.

7.2 Distribution of Assets Upon Chapter Dissolution. Upon dissolution of the Chapter by the termination of this Constitution or otherwise, all funds and any other assets of the Chapter shall be distributed exclusively for charitable or educational purposes or to CLS or other organizations exempt from federal taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article VIII. Restrictions on Activities.

The Chapter shall not carry on any activities prohibited by CLS under its bylaws or by Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. Without prior written consent of the CLS Executive Director, the Chapter shall not: be a voluntary party in any litigation; lobby (including the publishing or distribution of statements) or otherwise attempt to influence legislation; or participate or intervene in any political or judicial campaign on behalf of any candidate for office. No part of the net income of the Chapter shall inure to the benefit of its officers or other private persons, except that the Chapter shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services actually rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its purposes.

Article IX. Amendments and Interpretation.

The Chapter may amend this Constitution by a 75% member vote.

BY-LAWS OF THE CHRISTIAN LEGAL SOCIETY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF LAW

I. Officers

- **Composition**
 - Officers shall be elected from among the members of the Chapter who are currently students enrolled in at least three credit hours at the UNM School of Law.

- The Officers of the Chapter shall consist of one President, one vice President, one Treasurer, one Secretary, one Chapter Representative to New Mexico Christian Legal Aid, and one 1L Representative.
 - In the interest of continuity, it is suggested, but not required, that at least one officer be a 2nd-year student.
 - In the interest of diversity, it is suggested, but not required, that the officers include both males and females.
- While the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 1L Representative shall be separate individuals, any of these Officers may also serve as Chapter Representative to Christian Legal Aid, if elected.
- **Duties**
 - The President and Vice President shall each have the authority to approve the expenditure of Chapter funds, subject to a consensus requirement of 75% of the officers. They have general ministerial duties, including scheduling, planning events, and delegating duties.
 - The Treasurer shall keep a record of Chapter funds and shall serve as liaison to the UNM School of Law Accounting Office. The treasurer shall be responsible for processing reimbursement requests for expenditures of CLS.
 - The Secretary shall record the minutes of Chapter meetings and publish them to the Chapter email list within one week of each meeting. The Secretary shall keep a record of the current members of the Chapter and be responsible for keeping the Chapter email list current.
 - The Chapter Representative is a voting member of the CLS board of directors and is designated to attend all CLS board meetings and to vote on behalf of the Chapter.
 - The 1L is a voting member of the CLS board. The 1L Representative's responsibility is to welcome other 1L students to CLS and to communicate with the board concerning how to best serve the 1L community.
- **Nominations and Elections**
 - All Officers except the 1L Representative shall be elected at the first Chapter meeting following Spring Break and shall serve for one year.
 - The 1L Representative shall be elected during the first or second Chapter meeting in the fall.
 - Members may self-nominate or may be nominated by another member (unless the nominee declines the nomination) by e-mailing the nomination to the Secretary twenty-four hours before the group is to vote. The Secretary shall keep a record of all nominations and publish them prior to the election meeting. The names of all the nominees shall be published at the same time.
 - Each Officer shall be elected by a simple majority vote of members present at the election meeting.
 - In the case of more than two candidates for an Officer position, the two candidates with the most votes in the first election shall compete in a second run-off election.
 - If any Officer steps down or is removed before the end of her or his term, another member shall be elected at the next Chapter meeting to fill that vacancy for the

remainder of the term.

- **Removal of Officers**

- The removal of any officer shall be accomplished by an affirmative vote of 3/4 of members who either are present at a Chapter meeting or who vote by e-mail.

II. Amendments to By-Laws

1. Amendments to Chapter by-laws may be proposed by any Chapter member. Any proposed amendments must be disseminated to all members - either in writing or through the email list - at least two days before a scheduled meeting at which the vote will be taken.
2. Amendments to Chapter by-laws shall be passed by an affirmative vote of 3/4 of members present at a Chapter meeting.

ADOPTED ON: _____

SIGNED:

_____	_____	_____
Chapter Officer	Chapter Officer	Chapter Officer
_____	_____	_____
Printed Name	Printed Name	Printed Name