

## MODEL BYLAWS & CONSTITUTION

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### PREAMBLE

If/When/How is a national non-profit network of law students, professors, and legal professionals committed to fostering the next wave of legal experts for the reproductive justice movement. Mobilizing and mentoring new lawyers and scholars is a long-term strategy that will build capacity, vision, and leadership for a more successful reproductive justice movement. Law functions as both a catalyst to prompt the expansion of rights and a tool with which to hold governments and communities accountable for the delivery of liberty, equality, dignity, and fairness promised by those rights.

Reproductive justice will exist when all people can exercise the rights and access the resources they need to thrive and to decide if, when, and how to create and sustain a family with dignity, free from discrimination, coercion, or violence. We dedicate ourselves to ensuring access to medically accurate, age-appropriate, culturally competent sex and sexuality education, as well as comprehensive, quality reproductive healthcare, including prenatal care, postnatal care, contraception, abortion services, and alternative reproductive technologies for all people, free from coercion, discrimination, and violence.

Today, a growing number of law schools offer comprehensive courses in reproductive rights, law, and justice, but opportunities for professional training remain scarce. As individuals, each of us faces difficulties obtaining the education and training we need to become strong, successful advocates for reproductive justice. Together, we can change this situation and become a powerful, educated force that defends and expands reproductive rights in the United States and around the world.

### ARTICLE I: NAME & PURPOSE

#### 1. Name

The name of the organization is If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice [Chapter].

#### 2. Purposes

If/When/How educates, organizes, and supports law students and legal professionals to ensure that a new generation of advocates will be prepared to protect and expand reproductive rights as basic civil and human rights.

### ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

#### 1. General Membership

a) The general membership of If/When/How shall consist of matriculated students who support and further the purposes and goals listed in Article I, Section 2 of these by-laws and who regularly attend If/When/How activities.

b) Members shall provide the Coordinators (see Article III, Section 1) with their names and email addresses in order to facilitate distribution of discussion materials.

c) If/When/How does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, national origin, gender expression, sexual orientation, immigration status, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disabilities.

### ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

#### 1. Titles

The officers of If/When/How shall consist of two Coordinators, a Secretary, and Treasurer.

## **2. Powers and Duties**

The Coordinators

- a) shall select meeting times and places;
- b) shall work with group members to create an events calendar;
- c) shall ensure that group goals are met;
- d) shall communicate with the If/When/How National Office;
- e) shall perform all duties pertaining to that office;
- f) must be matriculated students at the Law School.

## **3. Selection and Removal of Officers**

### **a) Qualifications**

- 1) Any student member If/When/How is an eligible candidate;
- 2) Each officer shall be elected in April at the last If/When/How meeting for the academic year and shall serve until a successor has been duly elected, or until s/he resigns or is removed from office, whichever is earlier;
- 3) There shall be no limit to the number of consecutive terms an officer may hold;

### **b) Selection Process**

- 1) The Coordinators shall announce the commencement of the selection process at the penultimate If/When/How meeting for the academic year;
- 2) Candidates interested in filling an officer position within If/When/How shall alert the Coordinators on or before the last Friday in March;
- 3) A vote shall be taken by the members present at the last meeting of the academic year and those candidates with the most votes shall be considered elected to the positions for which they ran.

### **c) Removal from Office**

An officer who repeatedly fails to comply with the duties listed in Article III Section 2 of these bylaws may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of If/When/How members present at the meeting.

## **4. Appointments**

Additional officers and their specified duties may be appointed by the Coordinators as the needs of If/When/How shall require.

## **ARTICLE IV: VACANCIES**

### **1. Vacancies**

Impromptu elections will be held throughout the year as necessary to fill officer positions should positions become vacant.

## **ARTICLE V: AMENDMENT TO THIS CONSTITUTION**

### **1. Proposal and Adoption**

Amendments to these by-laws may be proposed in writing by any member of If/When/How and shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of active If/When/How members present at the meeting.

## **2. Notice**

Any meeting in which amendments will be discussed must be announced no later than one week prior to the amendment meeting.