

Charter for the Albany Law School Chapter of Environmental Law Society

Group name: Albany Law School Environmental Law Society

Purpose of the Organization:

The Albany Law School ELS is dedicated to providing and promoting a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at protecting the environment. ELS seeks to inform the law school and surrounding community about environmental issues and sponsor engaging activities such as symposia, documentaries, research projects, social and networking events.

Regular meetings of the Albany Law School ELS shall be held at least one time per semester.

This club is open to all members of the Albany Law School community. The Albany Law School ELS does not discriminate against any individual wishing to join. An individual will only be asked not to attend club meetings if his/her prior conduct at a club meeting was inappropriate, offensive, or harmful to the other members of the organization.

Officers:

President – Luke Sledge
Secretary - Krysten Kenny

Albany Law School ELS Constitution and By-Laws

Article One: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Albany Law School Environmental Law Society (hereinafter referred to as the “Albany Law School ELS”).

Article Two: Purpose

The Albany Law School ELS is dedicated to providing a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at protecting the environment. The club is also dedicated to educating and raising awareness of environmental issues among Albany Law School students, staff, and faculty and the greater Albany community. ELS is committed to engaging in projects that encourage awareness and inspire action through the legal system. Activities may include symposia, showing of documentaries, research projects, social and networking events, and career panels.

Article Three: Criteria for Membership

Membership in the Albany Law School ELS shall be open to all students currently enrolled at Albany Law School, regardless of gender, race, creed, age, color, national origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation. Individual enrollment in environmental law classes is encouraged but not required for all Albany Law School ELS members.

Article Four: Officers

The Officers of the Albany Law School ELS shall be the President and the Secretary. The President will be responsible for organizing meetings, planning the budget and submitting it to the SBA each semester, communicating to club members about scholarship and writing competition opportunities, and organizing events. The Secretary will be responsible for communicating with the President, submitting proper forms for events to Student Affairs & Administrative Services, making and distributing flyers and other administrative duties of the like. Additional positions, which are optional in order to provide flexibility and enhance the group's ability to advance its goals, are Treasurer, Fundraising Director, and Special Project Managers. Upon proposal by at least 2 current members and with the approval of a majority of all current members present to vote, the Albany Law School ELS may create or dissolve officer and other positions as necessary to advance the goals of the club.

Qualifications for persons who are eligible to serve as officers and in other positions of the Albany Law School ELS are as follows:

- Current enrollment as a student at Albany Law School
- Membership in the Albany Law School ELS
- Attendance at a minimum of two general Albany Law School ELS meetings per year
- For officers, attendance at all Executive Board meetings during the year unless prior class or work obligations make attendance impossible or extremely difficult
- Attendance at Albany Law School ELS activities unless prior class or work obligations make attendance impossible or extremely difficult
- Active participation in the activities of the Albany Law School ELS
- Agreement to uphold the goals and purposes of the Albany Law School ELS.

In the event that an officer or other elected person, for whatever reason, expected or unexpected, is unable to continue in the capacity of their office, the vacated office shall be filled within two weeks.

Article Five: Elections

Officers and persons in other positions shall be elected each school year by a majority vote of the membership of the Albany Law School ELS present at the election. Current officers shall inform all members of the date, time, and location of the election. Officers and persons in other positions shall serve a term of one year and may be reelected. In the event that no candidate attracts the requisite number of votes for election, a run-off shall be held between the two candidates with the highest number of votes.

Students interested in serving as officers or in another position shall so inform current ELS officers no later than one week prior to the election. In electing officers and other positions, each member shall have one vote. Elections are to be held in April of each school year, with appointments to be filled for the following school year.

Article Six: Meetings

General meetings of the Albany Law School ELS shall be held at least once each semester. Officers shall inform all members of meeting dates, times, locations, and proposed agendas. Any member wishing to add an item to the agenda may do so by informing an officer at least three days prior to the meeting. Decisions at meetings shall be made by a majority of the members present. A necessary quorum for all decisions shall be at least 51% of all members present at the meeting and must include at least one officer.

Special meetings may be called by any member who shall inform the President or the entire club at least two weeks prior to the date of the proposed meeting.

Executive board meetings may be called by any officer for the purpose of planning elections or for beginning and end of semester discussion of activities, goals, and plans.

Article Seven: Amendments

Any two current members shall be entitled to propose amendments. Proposed amendments shall be consistent with these By-Laws and shall be communicated to the all current ELS officers, who shall schedule a meeting for the purpose of approving these amendments and inform all members of the meeting and the proposed amendments. If the date of submission of these amendments is near the date of a regular or special meeting, then no additional meeting need be scheduled. A two-thirds majority of all members present for the vote must approve any amendments to this constitution.

Article 8: Albany Law School ELS enrollment in The National Association of Environmental Law Societies

When feasible, each year Albany Law School ELS shall join The National Association of Environmental Law Societies. Membership costs \$40, which shall be taken from the club's fundraised account or surplus.