

Charter for the Albany Law School Chapter of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF)

Group name: Albany Law School Student Animal Legal Defense Fund

Purpose of the Organization:

The Albany Law School SALDF is dedicated to providing and promoting a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system, and raising the profile of animal law. The Albany Law School SALDF is dedicated to the goals of educating the law school and surrounding community about forms of institutionalized animal abuse, and engaging in activities to promote these goals including, but not limited to: projects, programs, conferences, debates, hosting speakers, and carrying out research projects for lawyers and organizations promoting animal welfare.

Regular meetings of the Albany Law School SALDF shall be held at least once each semester.

This club is open to all members of the Albany Law School community. The Albany Law School SALDF 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: Krysten Kenny

President: Krysten Kenny

Vice President: Dan Ellis

Treasurer

Secretary: Marc Pallozzi

**Albany Law School Student Animal Legal Defense Fund Constitution and By-Laws**

**Article One: Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Albany Law School Animal Legal Defense Fund (hereinafter referred to as the “Albany Law School SALDF”).

## **Article Two: Purpose**

The Albany Law School SALDF is dedicated to providing a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system, and raising the profile of the field of animal law.

The Albany Law School SALDF is also dedicated to educating and raising awareness among Albany Law School students, staff, and faculty and the greater Albany community of animal welfare issues, including institutionalized animal abuse in all forms. The Albany Law School SALDF is committed to engaging in projects to protect and advance the lives of animals through education and the legal system.

The activities of the Albany Law School SALDF shall include, but not be limited to: hosting speakers and conferences on current animal rights and welfare issues, conducting educational events such as information tables and video screenings on animal issues, advocating on behalf of vegetarian/vegan students within our law school, carrying out research projects for lawyers and organizations that promote animal welfare and animal rights education and/or litigation, networking with students at other schools, and utilizing the legislative, state government, non-profit, and other resources and opportunities available in Albany to advance our animal welfare goals.

## **Article Three: Criteria for Membership**

Membership in the Albany Law School SALDF 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 membership in the Animal Legal Defense Fund is encouraged but not required for all Albany Law School SALDF members.

## **Article Four: Officers**

The Officers of the Albany Law School SALDF shall be the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The President will be responsible for communicating with the designated contact person at the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Additional positions, which are optional in order to provide flexibility and enhance the group's ability to advance its goals, are the Communications Director, the Activities Director, the 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 SALDF may create or dissolve officer and other positions as necessary to advance the goals of the group.

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

- Current enrollment as a student at Albany Law School
- Membership in the Albany Law School SALDF
- Attendance at a minimum of two general Albany Law School SALDF 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 SALDF activities unless prior class or work obligations make attendance impossible or extremely difficult
- Active participation in the activities of the Albany Law School SALDF

- Agreement to uphold the goals and purposes of the Albany Law School SALDF and to comply with the mission and goals of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

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 SALDF 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 the Albany Law School SALDF 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 September of each school year.

#### **Article Six: Meetings**

General meetings of the Albany Law School SALDF 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 with each member present agreeing to, dissenting to, or abstaining from every action there decided. 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 of the Albany Law School SALDF may be called by any member who shall inform the President or the entire membership at least one week 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.

The Secretary shall make meeting minutes available to members not in attendance at meetings.

#### **Article Seven: Affiliation with the Animal Legal Defense Fund**

Activities of the Albany Law School SALDF shall at all times be consistent with the mission of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (hereinafter "ALDF). No litigation will be initiated, endorsed, or supported in the name of the Albany Law School SALDF, without prior approval of ALDF. All public policy positions taken by the Albany Law School SALDF shall be consistent with the mission of the ALDF: "to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals." The Albany Law School SALDF will not purport

to speak for ALDF or commit it to any position on any matter of public policy or law on behalf of ALDF without ALDF's prior written consent.

**Article Eight: 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 ALDF and all current SALDF 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.