



Law Students for Community Advancement

In order that all [persons] may be taught to speak the truth, it is necessary that all likewise should learn to hear it.

FOUNDING CHARTER

This Founding Charter ("Charter") lays out the vision the founders shared when the organization was created.

Mission Statement:

Law Students for Community Advancement ("LSCA") is dedicated to building a campus-based movement that will empower the student body and local community through inquiry, dialogue, and action.

We seek to prioritize knowledge over information by restoring the value of language and promoting dialogue. We believe that as law students and future legal professionals, we have a duty to advocate for justice in our community. Through community outreach and education, we hope to transform our school into a space that embraces knowledge and promotes tolerance.

We oppose racism, sexism, homophobia, anti-intellectualism, classism, and other forms of oppression, and seek to invigorate a culture of engagement and social justice at San Joaquin College of Law ("SJCL").

LSCA's Logo – The Umoja/Unity Symbol:

The logo for Law Students for Community Advancement is made up of "Umoja" — the Kwanzaa symbol for unity — surrounded by a wreath — the Greek and Roman symbols for education and success.

LSCA recognizes the sensitive nature of cultural appropriation, but has nonetheless purposely appropriated a non-western symbol of unity for use in its logo for three reasons:

- (1) as a protest against the exclusive use of western symbology in the humanities and sciences;
- (2) because the inclusion of an unfamiliar, non-western symbol, promotes inquiry and thus learning; and
- (3) because the symbol itself — a reflection of the African saying "I am because We are" — embodies LSCA's goals towards unity in the community.

//

//

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be Law Students for Community Advancement ("LSCA"). The SJCL Chapter of this organization shall be recognized as the Founding Chapter.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to:

- a. Promote diversity, equality, and tolerance amongst the student body and faculty at SJCL.
- b. Advocate for women, minorities, and other groups traditionally underrepresented in the legal community.
- c. Promote and encourage alternative theoretical approaches to law, including but not limited to: Critical Legal Studies, Feminist Legal Theory, Economic Legal Theory, and Legal Positivism.
- d. Encourage and provide opportunities for members to discover the intersection of law with other disciplines, including but not limited to art, literature, poetry, music, philosophy, and the sciences.
- e. Provide a safe space where knowledge is pursued and valued regardless of its practical application.
- f. Engage in community outreach and promote social justice through action and partnerships with like-minded organizations.
- g. Create a student organization recognized for its impact in the local community.

Article III: Membership

Section A: Eligibility

San Joaquin College of Law ("SJCL") students, California State University, Fresno ("CSUF") students, and alumnae of both institutions must comprise 100% of this organization's membership.

Section B: Requirements

Members are required to be: (a) SJCL students; (b) CSUF students; and/or (c) SJCL or CSUF alumni.

Section C: Membership in this club is open to all meeting the above criteria, irrespective of race, creed, color, gender or gender identity, class, age, nation of origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

Section D: Dues

Dues shall be \$20 per year.

Section E: Active Membership

While all persons who have paid their dues are considered members, to be considered an "Active Member" for the purpose of elections, a member must have paid his/her dues and must have assisted with, participated in, or attended at least two organization sponsored events

throughout the school year, including but not limited to the attendance of General Body meetings.

Section F: General Body

The General Body shall be comprised of all paid members, regardless of their level of involvement.

Section G: Faculty and Staff Involvement

SJCL and CSUF faculty and staff are welcome and encouraged to participate in events sponsored by this organization. However, faculty and staff shall not be eligible to become members, vote, or serve as officers of the organization.

Article IV: Officers

Section A: Officers

The Officers shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Community Liaison.

Section B: Eligibility

Officers must be students in good standing at SJCL. CSUF students and alumni of both institutions (SJCL and CSUF) are ineligible to serve as Officers, but may nonetheless participate in the election of Officers.

Section C: Elections

Officers shall be elected by Ballot at the last meeting of the spring semester by a majority of the vote cast for that office. Only Active Members present at the election may cast a vote. Ballots shall be counted once by the Secretary and once by an Election Chairperson selected by the President from the General Body the day of the election.

1. Eligibility to Run: To be eligible to run for office, candidates must be current students at SJCL and Active Members of the organization. Candidates must prepare a statement of intent for approval by the Executive Council. Statements that are not approved will be returned to the Candidate with comments/questions for possible resubmission. Candidates who disagree with the Executive Council's decision may request a hearing before the Executive Council, and a specially appointed Hearing Council.
2. Statements of Intent: Statements of Intent must reflect the values of the organization. Statements must be approximately 500 words, but it is to the discretion of the Executive Council to accept statements shorter than 500 words. Once approved, Statements will be forwarded to the general body for consideration.
3. Hearings: Hearings must be requested in writing within three days of the Executive Council's decision.
 - a. Reservation of Right: Candidates may reserve their right to a hearing in writing upon submission of their Statement of Intent.
 - b. Hearing Council: Upon the request of a hearing, the Vice President will appoint a temporary Hearing Council from the General Body and the

President will call a Special Meeting ("the Hearing"). The Hearing will be held within the timeline discussed in Section C.6. below.

- c. Presentation of Statements: A Candidate who has requested a hearing will present his/her Statement of Intent to the Executive Council and the Hearing Council at the Hearing. After presentation of the Statement, the Executive Council will employ the Socratic method to explore the issue(s) and the Candidate will defend his/her position. The Executive Council reserves the right to a rebuttal argument.
 - d. Determination on the Merits and Executive Council's Review Powers: Candidates who request a hearing will be required to defend their positions for up to one hour, at which point a determination on the merits will be made by the Hearing Council. The Executive Council retains the authority to reverse any decision by the Hearing Council that explicitly violates the principles of the organization and this Charter.
 - i. A favorable decision will result in the Candidate's eligibility to run in that year's election, and his/her Statement will be communicated to the General Body for consideration.
 - ii. A determination in favor of the Candidate can only be reached by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote by the Hearing Council. If a two-third ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority in favor of the Candidate is not reached, then it is to the discretion of the Executive Council to either uphold or overturn its prior decision based on the information obtained at the Hearing. If the Executive Council's initial decision is upheld, the Candidate will not be permitted to run for office based on the Statement of Intent submitted.
 - iii. It is the discretion of the Executive Council to permit leave to amend the Statement of Intent after an unfavorable hearing decision or inability to reach a majority.
4. Hearing Council: By the powers vested to the Vice President through this Charter, the Vice President will appoint seven General Body members to temporarily serve on the Hearing Council. A new Hearing Council will be appointed for each separate hearing requested.
 5. Standard of Review: The Executive Council has broad discretion in its review and approval of Statements of Intent. However, the Executive Council can only reverse a determination made by the Hearing Council after a hearing on the merits, if the determination explicitly violates this Charter as discussed above.
 6. Timelines: Two months or approximately eight weeks before the last meeting ("Election Day"), the Executive Council will advise members of the opportunity to run for office, and will communicate the eligibility requirements to the General Body. Statements of Intent will be due one month or approximately four weeks prior to the Election Day. Within one week of submission, Statements of Intent will either be approved or returned to candidates for possible resubmission. All resubmissions and/or requests for hearing must be made

within three days of the Executive Council's decision, but at no instance later than two weeks prior to election day. Candidates may reserve the right to a hearing upon submission of their Statements of Intent. All hearings must be held prior to the release of Statements of Intent to the General Body. Statements of Intent must be transmitted no later than three days before election day. Hearing decisions and election results will be communicated immediately after the Hearing/Election.

Section D: Terms

The officers shall serve for one year and their term of office shall begin at the commencement of the fall semester. No member shall be elected to the same office for any consecutive term.

Section E: Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs in the office of the President, the Vice-President shall assume the office for the remainder of the term. Vacancies in any other office shall be filled by special election.

Article V: Duties of Officers

Section A: President

It shall be the duty of President to:

1. Preside at meetings.
2. Vote in case of a tie.
3. Appoint an Election Chairperson.
4. Appoint program and special committee chairpersons.
5. Serve as *ex officio* member of all committees.
6. Perform such duties as ordinarily pertains to the office.

Section B: Vice-President

It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to:

1. Preside in the absence of the President.
2. Appoint General Body members to individual Hearing Councils.

Section C: Secretary

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

1. Record the minutes of all meetings.
2. Keep a file of the organization's records.
3. Maintain a current roster of membership.
4. Issue notices of meetings and conduct the general correspondence of the organization.
5. Conduct the first ballot count during elections.

Section D: Treasurer

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:

1. Receive all funds and process requests for payment.
2. Keep an itemized account of all receipts and expenditures and make reports as directed.

Section E: Community Liaison

It shall be the duty of the Community Liaison to:

1. Communicate and advertise events to the student body and local community.
2. Maintain an on-line presence for the organization whether in the form of social media, accounts and/or website.
3. Connect and form partnerships with like-minded organizations.

Article VI: Meetings

Section A: Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held monthly during the regular school year.

Section B: Special Meetings

Special meetings shall be called by the President upon the approval of the Executive Council and program committee chairpersons.

Section C: Quorum

A Quorum shall consist of one-half of membership.

Article VII: Executive Council

Section A: Responsibility

Management of this club shall be vested in an Executive Council responsible to the entire membership to uphold these bylaws.

Section B: Membership

The Executive Council shall consist of the officers as listed in article IV and the faculty advisor.

Article VIII: Faculty Advisor

Section A: Selection

There shall be a faculty advisor who shall be selected each year by the Executive Council

Section B: Duties

The responsibility of the advisor shall be to:

1. Maintain awareness of the activities and programs sponsored by the organization.
2. Meet periodically with the President and Vice-President of the organization to discuss meetings, long-term plans, goals, and problems of the organization.
3. Explain and clarify campus policy and procedures that apply to the organization.
4. Inform members of those factors that constitute unacceptable behavior on the part of the members, and the possible consequences of said behaviors.

Article IX: Committees

Section A: Program Committees

Program Committees shall be composed of a chairperson appointed by the President and at least one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the General Body. The President shall announce his/her appointment of a chairperson for each committee at the last meeting of each school year after elections are completed. After the appointment of chairpersons and during the summer prior to the commencement of the next school year, the Executive Council and all program committee chairpersons shall meet at least once to create a general plan for the organization's program the following school year. At the first General Body meeting of the school year, General Body members will have the opportunity to join a program committee of their choosing. All members, including Officers must be a part of at least one committee. The duties of each program committee shall be to plan and execute designated aspects of the overall program of the organization. The following program committees shall be organized at the beginning of each school year:

1. Scholar's Committee: Shall be in charge of planning and organizing educational events, including but not limited to guest lectures, academic workshops, and debates.
2. Action Committee: Shall be in charge of planning and organizing community action events in line with the organization's mission and principles, including but not limited to organizing philanthropic events, grassroots campaigning, solidarity marches, and volunteering for other local non-profit organizations that represent the values of the organization.
3. Cultural Committee: Shall be in charge of planning and organizing social and cultural events and excursions for members, including but not limited to participation, assistance, and/or attendance at local events such as ArtHop, LitHop, JazzHop, the Woodward Shakespeare Festival, and other social and cultural events that reflect the values of the organization.

Section C: Special Committees

The president retains the power to appoint special committees germane to the direction of the organization. The Executive Council must grant approval to any Special Committee.

Article X: Amendments

Section A: Selection:

These bylaws may be amended by a three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) super-majority vote of the membership.

Section B: Notice

All members shall receive advance notice of the proposed amendment at least 2 days before the meeting.


Section C: The Executive Council retains the right to unilaterally reject any proposed amendment by the membership if the amendment is determined to amount to a violation of this Charter and the principles of the organization.

Signed in Fresno, CA, this 17th day of January, 2017.

Founding Member Signatures:



Raquel Busani

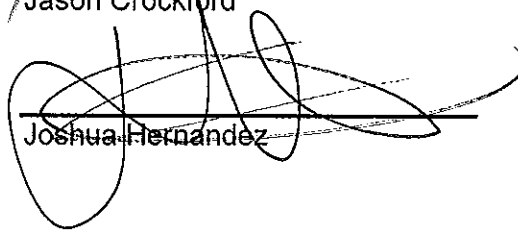


Tejumola Olubeko





Jason Crockford



Joshua Hernandez