

Constitution of the UC Davis Medical Legal Advocates

Article 1: Name

The official name of this organization shall be the UC Davis Medical Legal Advocates, often referred to as UCDMLA and/or MLA and/or Medical Legal Advocates.

Article 2: Purpose

Medical-Legal Advocates brings Davis law students and medical students together to encourage collaborative discussion and action in aiding marginalized people. Both UC Davis medical and legal clinics serve marginalized communities through legal representation, services, and medical treatment. The central objective of the club is providing legal materials to UC Davis medical clinic waiting rooms for patients. The second objective is to empower student doctors by informing them of the basics about the laws that affect their patients.

Article 3: Membership

Any law student, staff member, or faculty member affiliated with UC Davis School of Law, also known as King Hall or the UC Davis Medical School and Medical Center may belong to the MLA.

Article 4: Voting Powers

The Executive Board may vote on all MLA matters and proposals. The Executive board is defined as the President, Vice President of Legal Clinic Outreach, Vice President of Medical Clinic Outreach, Communications Director, Treasurer, and Events Coordinator. If the Officers create a new Officer Position, that member gains voting powers immediately when they take office. Each Officer shall have exactly one vote and quorum will be defined as the majority present at the meeting.

Article 5: Duties

The positions mentioned in Article 4 are designated as officers for the purposes of this charter.

President

The President shall have overall strategic and operational responsibility for the MLA. They are responsible for maintaining relationships with King Hall faculty and administrative staff and will serve as the main contact for the club. The President shall conduct a monthly meeting with board members and general membership to facilitate reports by other board members and membership. The President shall also assist the Event Coordinator and Vice Presidents in executing their formal duties.

Vice President of Legal Clinic Outreach (VP of LCO)

The Vice President of Legal Clinic Outreach shall maintain a supply of legal clinic materials and coordinate with the VP of MCO to ensure a supply of legal

materials at the Medical Clinics. The VP of LCO shall assist the Event Coordinator and Recruitment Chairs in their duties as necessary.

Vice President of Medical Clinic Outreach (VP of MCO)

The Vice President of Medical Clinic Outreach shall ensure the maintenance of legal clinic materials at Medical Clinics and coordinate with the VP of LCO to replenish the supply of legal materials. The VP of MCO shall assist the Event Coordinator and Recruitment Chairs in their duties as necessary.

Event Coordinator

The Event Coordinator shall facilitate a minimum of one Know Your Rights trainings directed towards medical students per semester. The Event Coordinator will organize a “Train the Trainers” training for members. The Coordinator may coordinate additional Know Your Rights trainings for the community at large or specific populations. The Coordinator may coordinate visits by law or medical students to county jails or prisons.

Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for accruing and tracking funds for UCDMLA. The Treasurer will file all funding requests with LSA to support MLA events. The Treasurer may fundraise through events and solicitation of donations.

Communications Director

The Communications Director shall record minutes of monthly meetings and reserve rooms for such meetings. They will also distribute the minutes in a timely fashion. The Communications Director will maintain social media accounts and the website for MLA.

Recruitment Director

The Recruitment Director shall conduct outreach to Medical Students to encourage attendance to Know Your Rights trainings and to join MLA. The Recruitment Director shall work with the Event Coordinator and President to ensure that members and potential members are aware of upcoming events and meetings.

Article 6: Terms and Removal

Each position mentioned in Article 4 shall serve a one-year term. If a Board Member seriously neglects their duties, the Executive board shall take a vote to remove the member.

Serious neglect may be defined as not fulfilling their core duties, offering support to the Board when necessary, or missing at least 3 of the 4 previously scheduled monthly board meetings.

Excused absences do not trigger this removal power. An excused absence is one where the officer informed either the President or Communications Director that they will be unable to attend a meeting.

Article 7: Meetings

The Board shall meet once a month at a minimum. The Executive Board shall organize a general meeting for all members within the first two months of the fall semester. The President may also cancel a regularly scheduled Officer meeting only if there are no pertinent issues that must be addressed, and only with the advice and consent of the majority of the Officers. If a meeting is cancelled, the removal rule in article 6 shall be null and void for that semester.

Any Executive Board Member may call a special and/or emergency meeting of the Board. If there is to be such a meeting, all Board Members must be informed of the meeting at the same time. No Board Member shall be excluded from such a meeting if they wish to attend.

Article 8: Elections

Elections will be held in the spring, no later than April. Elections may be conducted in person via written ballot or in electronic format, such as via a Google form.

In the event that a Board Member resigns or is removed and the officers feel that the position must be filled, the Board may hold elections for such positions when it feels is appropriate.

Article 9: Transitioning

An elected officer must transition their successor by providing them with transitioning documents, including but not limited to, contact lists, timelines, instructional materials, and all information that is necessary for the successor to successfully execute the responsibilities of their elected position.

Article 10: Constitutional Amendments

Any Executive Board Member may propose a constitutional amendment. Proposed amendments must be presented in a written format and distributed to the entire Board.

The President must receive any proposed constitutional amendment at least 48 hours in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting to allow the President to place it on the agenda.

Proposed amendments require a majority vote of the Executive Board members to go into effect.