

Pre-Law Honors Society:
The Order of Prospective Lawyers

University of Illinois,
Urbana-Champaign

By-Laws
Amended on 7/21/2026

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Pre-Law Honors Society:

The Order of Prospective Lawyers

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Mission

The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Pre-Law Honors Society is a professional law society advancing integrity, compassion and courage through service to the student, the school, the profession and the community.

Vision

We aim to see that our members receive the best Pre-Law education possible while providing them opportunities to meet law professionals, to gain leadership opportunities, to participate in philanthropic events, and to work closely with a group of similarly dedicated Pre-Law students.

Core Values

Bound together by hope and our common interest in the law, we share these core values:
Integrity, compassion, courage, professionalism, service, diversity, and innovation.

Declaration of Purpose

The purpose of this Society shall be to form a strong bond uniting students dedicated to pursuing law in order to advance the society collectively toward a professional goal. The Society shall henceforth be dedicated to advancement of the ideals of liberty and equal justice under law; to stimulate excellence in scholarship; to inspire the virtues of compassion and courage; to foster integrity and professional competence; to promote the welfare of its members; and to encourage their moral, intellectual, and cultural advancement; so that each member may enjoy a lifetime of honorable professional and public service.

Formation

The order was formed as an allegiance to members' financial well-being and is the result of a separation from a former international organization, Phi Alpha Delta, who we saw fit to dismiss ourselves from. In unfortunate however necessary conditions, we separated ourselves and gained our independence for the greater good of our fine organization. Wrought in treasonous but professional solidarity, our Society took the steps necessary to ensure that students meeting the honors criteria on the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign campus would have the financial liberty to join the honors organization.

ARTICLE I - Society

Section 1 - Name

The name, "Pre-Law Honors Society: The Order of Prospective Lawyers," was brought to fruition the 3rd day of September 2009 by the founders:

Heidi Tucker, President
Melissa Gold, Vice-President
Zachary Reyna, Secretary
Nick Lange, Treasurer
David Woolf, Director of Special Programming
Kristy Maes, Executive Member Pro-Temp

The Order's name reveals the honorable quality of our members, the similar goal they share, and the collective nature of our society.

Section 2 - Location

This Society was founded at **The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign** and shall remain established at this school unless law as a profession ends; the executive board will do as they see fit in this case.

Section 3 - Duties of Society

The Order shall promote the principles, ideals, and precepts of goodness and fairness; abide by the bylaws of the United States of America and by these here bylaws. The bylaws as written here may, from time to time, be lawfully amended, however, the society must adhere to the rules and regulations of the University of Illinois at UrbanaChampaign; adhere to the laws of the City of Urbana, the City of Champaign, and to the laws of the State of Illinois.

ARTICLE II - Purpose

Section 1 - Society Purpose

The purpose of this Society is to provide an effective, cohesive forum to promote the principles, ideals, and precepts of Pre-Law Honors Society: The Order of Prospective Lawyers. It shall promote the principles for the professional advancement of its members; stress the principles of liberty and equal justice under law for all citizens; stimulate excellence in scholarship; provide a forum for the interchange between members of Pre-Law Honors Society and develop an understanding of professional fraternalism among its members. Pre-Law Honors Society also dedicates itself to building a relationship with the law organizations on the University campus, this way information and advancement of students may be better attained.

ARTICLE III - Communication

Section 1 - GroupMe

The purpose of the Pre-Law Honors Society GroupMe is to serve as a platform for pre-law preparatory events and advice, political discussion, and overall civic discourse. The GroupMe will which includes a professional online presence and the following guidelines:

- a. No use of profanities in any GroupMe discussions, either general or targeted towards someone specific.
- b. No promotion of any outside organizations or events unrelated to pre-law by members. Members may submit proposals for pre-law events to the Executive Board, and they may be promoted at the discretion of Exec Board officers.
- c. No statements containing racism, homophobia, sexism, transphobia, ableism, or hate speech.
- d. If conflicts arise between members of PLHS, we ask that they take it to another platform outside of GroupMe. Exec Board members may serve as mediators upon request.

If any of these guidelines are violated by members, as determined by the Executive Board, a first violation will result in a warning and removal from the GroupMe, and a second violation will result in a removal from the Honors Society.

Section 2 - Zoom/Virtual Events

Many Pre-Law Honors Society events will be held over Zoom or other virtual platforms. We still expect members to conduct themselves similarly to in-person events, adhering to these following guidelines:

- a. No use of profanities in any discussions, either verbal or in chat.
- b. No statements containing racism, homophobia, sexism, transphobia, ableism, or hate speech.
- c. If conflicts arise between members of PLHS, we ask that they take it to another platform outside of the current Zoom meeting. Exec Board members may serve as mediators upon request.

ARTICLE IV - Membership

Section 1 - Members

The membership of this Honors Society shall be composed of those persons initiated into the Order of Prospective Lawyers. Members must be in good standing at this school as defined by the school's student handbook.

Section 2 - Eligibility for Membership

The Order has an open application policy; however, the following requirements are given as a guideline:

- a. Current enrollment at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- b. Completion of one semester at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, or at another collegiate institution; must consist of at least 12 credit hours – college credits earned through Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual-credit, or any other high school programs do not count towards this.
- c. Cumulative university GPA of at least 3.4/4.0
- d. Membership application submitted by the deadline set for the particular semester.
- e. Paid initiation fee of \$60 once membership application is accepted.

Section 3 - Application and Initiation Structure

- a. Applications will be provided via easily accessible online link and email.
- b. The deadline for application submissions will be set by the Executive Board and made clear to applicants.
- c. Contents of the application will be determined by the Executive Board; applications will always require a providing of the applicant's unofficial transcript.
- d. Each application will be deliberated upon by the Executive Board.
- e. Applicants will be notified as to their application status via email in a timely manner following the closing of the application submission period.
- f. The initiation ceremony will follow the below guidelines:
 - i. The date/time/location will be set by the Executive Board.
 - ii. Initiates will wear business professional attire to the ceremony.
- iii. Procedural instructions will be given by the Executive Board, which initiates will follow.
 - iv. A celebration will immediately follow.

Section 4 - Member in Good Standing

A member in good standing of Pre-Law Honors Society is someone who:

- a. Has been duly initiated into the Society
- b. Has met their financial obligation to the Society

- c. Has met the semesterly point requirement, that being 6 points for returning members and 8 for new members

Section 5 - Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated by:

- a. Expulsion from the University
- b. Removal by unanimous decision of the executive board due to the failure to complete membership requirements for two consecutive semesters
- c. Voluntary resignation from membership
- d. Graduation

ARTICLE V - Executive Board

Section 1 - Composition and Organization

Pre-Law Honors Society's Executive Board shall consist of a Society President, Internal Vice President, External Vice President, Membership Director, Finance Director, and Marketing Director.

Section 2 - Formation

The process for selecting the Executive Board shall take place during the spring semester, ideally in April.

- (1.) Current Executive Board members will hold coffee chats with potential candidates. Any member who wishes to be considered as a candidate for Exec must participate in a coffee chat with each person who currently holds a position they wish to apply and interview for.
- (2.) The current Executive Board will release application forms following the conclusion of the coffee chat period. They will set the deadline for submission of these applications.
- (3.) Following the application period, the Executive Board will set up and assign time slots to interview each candidate; they will set guidelines and expectations for said interviews.
- (4.) The current Executive Board will deliberate, make final decisions, and notify candidates of their status in a timely manner. Current Exec members will subsequently set up individual transition meetings with each of their respective successors. After the completion of these meetings, the current and incoming Executive Boards will set up an all-hands transition meeting.

Section 3 - Terms of Office

The term of office is for one year. Executive Board members shall assume the duties of office immediately upon the end of the spring semester.

Section 4 - Removal of Executive Board Members

Any Executive Board Member may be removed. Violation of Society bylaws shall constitute good and sufficient cause for removal from office. Removal of an Executive Board member

requires a formal hearing with all other Executive Board members present and a subsequent unanimous vote to remove. If the President is removed, one of the two Vice Presidents shall assume their position, and the Executive Board will seek and find an individual to assume that Vice President's position. If any of the other Executive Board members are removed, the Board will find a replacement for that position, whether from within the Board itself, or from the Society at large.

Section 5 - Duties of the Executive Board

The Executive Board members of this Society shall have the following duties:

- a. President** - The President is the chief executive and administrative officer of the Society. The President is responsible for the welfare and dignity of the Society. The President is responsible, along with the other Society officers, for ensuring that the Society adheres to its own bylaws, as well as to the laws of the United States. The President is specifically responsible for: interactions with the media/public relations, organization of executive board & general society meetings, and meeting with the Director of Pre-Law Operations.
- b. Internal Vice President** - The Internal Vice President is the primary liaison between the Executive Board and Society members, responsible for internal communications within the Society. They will oversee and maintain the organization and structure of the Society. They will also assist the Membership Director in the overseeing of membership statuses and member relations.
- c. External Vice President** - The External Vice President is the primary liaison between the Society and outside individuals and organizations. They are the most immediately responsible for outreach and coordination with said outside individuals and organizations the Society partners with throughout the year. They will also assist the Marketing Director with the planning and publishing of marketing and promotional materials/campaigns.
- d. Finance Director** - The Finance Director is the chief financial officer of this Society and is responsible for the maintaining of the Society's fiscal policy, which is further drawn out in Article VIII. The Finance Director is in charge of all Society funds and collection and disbursement thereof. They shall complete a financial report each semester and be in active conversation with the Society's President on all financial matters.
- e. Marketing Director** - The Marketing Director is responsible for the planning and rollout of promotional materials/campaigns for the Society. They are the primary manager of Society social media platforms as well as the Society website. They work to promote the affairs and image of the Society to members and the University community as a whole. The Marketing Director also oversees and directs the marketing committee.
- f. Membership Director** - The Membership Director maintains member relations and oversees member statuses. They shall verify each member's standing with the Executive Board at the end of each semester. The Membership Director shall communicate notices

regarding membership standing, probation, and expulsion to each member at the end of each semester. They are also the primary individual for members to contact with questions/concerns regarding member standing, requirements, and points. Ideally, the Membership Director will work to foster strong member relationships.

ARTICLE VI - Committees

Section 1 - Marketing Committee

- a. The Marketing Committee reports directly to the Marketing Director and is composed of two committee members (number is subject to change based on the discretion of the Marketing Director), serving a one-semester term.
- b. The Marketing Committee will manage and create content for all of the Society's social media accounts, digital platforms, and on-campus advertisements, working in accordance with the Marketing Director. Autonomy for the Marketing Committee is determined via the discretion of the Marketing Director.
- c. Marketing Committee meeting frequency and formality is also subject to the discretion of the Marketing Director.

Section 2 - Coordination Committee

- a. The Coordination Committee reports directly to the Internal Vice President and is composed of two committee members (number is subject to change based on the discretion of the Internal Vice President), serving a semester term.
- b. The Coordination committee will be responsible for communications with PLHS members, and the planning and executing of various organization events.
- c. Coordination Committee meeting frequency and formality is subject to the discretion of the Internal Vice President.

Section 3 - Editorial Committee

- a. The Editorial Committee reports directly to the Internal Vice President and Marketing Director and is composed of between two and four committee members (number is subject to change based on the discretion of the Internal Vice President and Marketing Director), serving a semester term.
- b. The Editorial Committee will be responsible for the writing and editing of various publications, in an overall effort to expand upon the Wednesday Digest program.
- c. Editorial Committee meeting frequency and formality is subject to the discretion of the Internal Vice President and Marketing Director.

ARTICLE VII – Director of UIUC Pre-Law Operations

It is the responsibility of all executive board members to develop a close working relationship with the Director of Pre-Law Operations at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The President is the appointed individual to correspond with the Director of Pre-Law Operations.

ARTICLE VIII – Fiscal Matters

Section 1 – Pre-Law Membership Fee

Each applicant shall pay the University of Illinois Pre-Law Honors Society initiation fee of sixty dollars **(\$60.00)** to the Finance Director of the society. The University of Illinois Pre-Law Honors Society holds no such periodical dues, as membership is for life, and no other dues are to be requested after the initiation fee of sixty dollars. If the Membership fee needs to be adjusted for the Society or a student member, it must be with full consent of the executive board.

ARTICLE IX - Society Meetings

Section 1 - Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of this Society shall be held no less than once a semester. Society officers shall determine and announce within 10 days of the scheduled general meetings – this fits into the time schedule for Quad Day advertisements. Additionally, any new meeting date announced during the semester must be provided to members at least 7 days prior to meeting.

Section 2 - Special Meetings

Special meetings of this Society shall be held at the call of the President, Society Advisor or at the call of any two of the other officers of this Society or upon request of one-third of the active membership of this Society.

ARTICLE X - Process of Amending Bylaws

Any future alterations to these established By-Laws must be brought to the Executive Board and have a majority of the Officers present at meeting in agreement with proposed change.