

# **Willamette University Student Animal Legal Defense Fund Constitution and By-Laws**



## **Article One. Name**

The name of this organization shall be Willamette University Student Animal Legal Defense Fund hereinafter referred to as Willamette University SALDF.

## **Article Two. Purpose**

The Willamette University SALDF is dedicated to providing a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarships 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 Willamette University SALDF is dedicated to the goals of educating the law school and surrounding community about forms of institutionalized animal abuse, and engaging in projects that combat that abuse. The Willamette University SALDF is equally dedicated to protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system. The activities of Willamette University SALDF shall include, but no limited to: hosting speakers, debates, and conferences on current issues in animal rights and animal welfare law; carrying out research projects for lawyers and organizations promoting animal welfare and animal rights litigation; networking with students at other law schools colleges, universities, and high schools; conducting educational events such as information tables and video screenings on pertinent issues; and advocating on behalf of vegetarian/vegan students with our law school.

## **Article Three. Criteria for Membership**

Membership in Willamette University SALDF shall be open to all students currently enrolled in Willamette University College of Law, 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 Willamette University SALDF members.

## **Article Four. Officers.**

The Officers of Willamette University SALDF shall be President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

1. President, will be responsible for communicating with the designated contact person at the Animal Legal Defense Fund, as well as, conducting meetings, and delegating tasks to members.
2. Vice President will have the responsibility of filling in the role of President (if the President is absent), and drafting forms and documents in regards to events.
3. Secretary/Treasurer will have the responsibility of keeping minutes during every meeting, contacting members via Facebook and or email (or any means of social media), helping the President or the Vice President draft any documents for WUSALDF (if requested), and representing the WUSALDF in front of the SBA as our treasure. This position may, in the future, be separated into two positions. Upon separation, the roles will be designated with respective responsibilities.

Qualifications for persons who are eligible to serve as officers of Willamette University SALDF are as follows:

- Registration as a student of Willamette University College of Law,
- Membership in Willamette University College of Law,
- Attendance at a minimum of two meetings of Willamette University SALDF,
- Agreement to uphold the goals and purposes of Willamette University SALDF,

And to comply with the mission and goals of the Animal Legal Defense Fund. In the event that an officer, 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. If an officer is found to be unable to complete or accomplish the responsibilities set before it, a meeting will be set before the Willamette University SALDF to discuss whether responsibilities should be allocated to another officer, or if the officer should step down. In the circumstance where an officer is deemed unfit to continue their responsibilities, but is unwilling to step-down, a vote will be taken with a majority vote resulting in the removing of the officer.

### **Article Five. Elections.**

Officers shall be elected each school year by a majority vote of the membership of the Willamette University SALDF, 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 shall so inform the Willamette University SALDF no later than one week prior to the election. In electing officers, each member shall have one vote.

### **Article Six. Meetings.**

Regular meetings Willamette University SALDF shall be held at least once each semester. Decisions at meetings shall be made by a majority of the members, with every present party

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 Willamette University SALDF may be called by any number of members, who shall inform the President, as well as, the entire membership at least one week prior to the date of the proposed meeting.

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

Activities of the Willamette University 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 Willamette University SALDF, without prior approval of ALDF. All public policy positions taken by the Willamette University SALDF shall be consistent with the mission of the ALDF: "to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals." The Willamette University 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 member 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. If the date of submission of these amendments is near the date of a regular or special business meeting, then no additional meeting need be scheduled. A two-thirds majority of all chapter members must vote on any amendments to this constitution.