



**ATLANTA'S JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL**  
**ADVOCACY BOARD BYLAWS**  
**2024-2025**

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## **ADVOCACY BOARD BYLAWS**

### **PREAMBLE**

*Atlanta's John Marshall Law School's (hereinafter "AJMLS") Advocacy Board is a student academic organization dedicated to advancing the advocacy skills of its members and representing the academic excellence that AJMLS is committed to in assorted advocacy competitions across the nation. The Advocacy Board is the governing authority of the Moot Court and Mock Trial tracks respectively. Though both tracks are governed by the Advocacy Board, they are governed by their own set of requirements and rules while simultaneously adhering to the general guidelines of these bylaws. The Advocacy Board is honored to be the housing authority of the most outstanding advocates that AJMLS has to offer.*

## ARTICLE I. PURPOSE

The AJMLS Advocacy Board is a student-run academic organization dedicated to promoting the art of written and oral advocacy by representing AJMLS nationwide in advocacy-centered competitions, hosting intramural competitions, and training students to become excellent advocates.

- A. Educational Enhancement.** To provide members with opportunities to practice and refine their legal research, writing, and oral advocacy skills in a controlled and constructive environment. Through Moot Court and Mock Trial exercises and competitions, members can apply theoretical knowledge learned to hands-on legal scenarios.
- B. Professional Development.** To acquaint students with the dynamics of courtroom procedures, ensuring they gain comprehensive experience in litigation techniques, courtroom decorum, and the nuances of arguing a case before judges or a jury. This experience aids in seamlessly bridging academic study with real-world legal practice.
- C. Promotion of Healthy Competition.** To systematically facilitate and supervise Moot Court and Mock Trial intramural, regional, and national competitions. Such competitions not only sharpen the advocacy skills of participating members but also foster a sense of fair play, teamwork, and mutual respect.
- D. Networking and Mentorship.** To proffer members to engage with a spectrum of legal professionals, ranging from practicing attorneys to faculty and sitting judges. Such engagements facilitate invaluable mentoring and insights into various legal careers.
- E. Diversity and Inclusion.** The Advocacy Board should emphasize diversity and inclusion, ensuring that the selection process and eligibility criteria do not discriminate against any group based on race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, disability, or any other protected category.

## **ARTICLE II. COMPOSITION**

The Advocacy Board is composed of two separate advocacy-centered organizations. The first of these organizations being Moot Court and the second organization being Mock Trial. As the housing authority for both organizations, the Advocacy Board through its Executive Board shall govern and direct all activities, events, and initiatives of both organizations.

### ARTICLE III. EXECUTIVE BOARD

**SECTION 1. Officers.** The Executive Board shall consist of six (6) officers: (1) President, (2) Vice President, (3) Director of Moot Court, (4) Director of Mock Trial, (5) Associate Director of Moot Court, (6) Associate Director of Mock Trial.

**A. Eligibility.** To be eligible to run for election to the Executive Board, a student must be a member of Moot Court or Mock Trial. Provisional members are barred from applying unless the Faculty Advisor finds good cause to make an allowance. Additionally, any potential candidate for the Executive Board must be at the end of their 2L year and must not have been impeached or resigned from a previous Executive Board position. Prior competition experience within these organizations is required to hold any executive positions. Directors of Moot Court and Mock Trial must have competition experience in their specific sects of the organization prior to running for an executive board position.

**B. Duties of Executive Board Officers.**

- a. President:** The President serves the integral role of leading this prestigious organization, and as such must fulfill their responsibilities diligently. The responsibilities of the President include but are not limited to the following:
  - i.** Preside over all meetings of the Advocacy Board and the meetings of each respective organization.
  - ii.** Preside over all meetings of the Executive Board, ensuring a structured and productive discussion of matters at hand.
  - iii.** Serve as a liaison between the Advocacy Board and the Faculty Advisor, fostering effective communication and collaboration.
  - iv.** Serve as the liaison between the Advocacy Board and the Law School Administration and faculty.
  - v.** Coordinate all activities of the Advocacy Board irrespective of the organization, ensuring a unified and well-executed approach to the Board's initiatives.
  - vi.** Provide the vision of the year by working closely with the Executive Board.
  - vii.** Collaborate on the development and implementation of a strategic plan for the Advocacy Board.
  - viii.** Monitor the completion of all activities of other Executive Board Officers, Advocacy Board members, and competitions.
  - ix.** Oversee the charging of supplies and services to AJMLS's Advocacy Board account.
  - x.** Conduct all disciplinary proceedings for removal of members of the Advocacy Board ensuring fair and transparent processes.
  - xi.** Manage and post content on the Advocacy Board's social media accounts.
  - xii.** Collaborate with the Directors of Moot Court and Mock Trial to align in financial planning with the specific needs of each organization within the Advocacy Board.

- xiii. Demonstrate a commitment to financial accountability and responsible resource management, maximizing the impact of available funds on the Advocacy Board's objectives.
  - xiv. Keep a record of all financial transactions and keep detailed records of spending efforts.
  - xv. Collaborate with all Advocacy Board members in order to ensure effective operations.
- b. **Vice President:** The Vice President is a key member of the Executive Board, serving a crucial support to the President and actively contributing to the overall success of the Advocacy Board. The responsibilities of the Vice President include but are not limited to the following:
- i. Assist the President in their duties and responsibilities, ensuring a smooth and effective operation of the Advocacy Board.
  - ii. Assume the role of the President in their absence, providing continuity and leadership during periods of the President's unavailability.
  - iii. Oversee the activities of various committees, promoting effective collaboration and goal achievement.
  - iv. Collaborate with the President in planning and executing events, competitions, and other activities organized by the Advocacy Board.
  - v. Contribute to the strategic planning process by providing input and insights to the President and the Executive Board.
  - vi. Solicit funds in compliance with any AJMLS rules.
  - vii. Keep detailed minutes of every meeting, accurately documenting discussions, decisions, and action items.
  - viii. Attend all meetings set by the President. Excused absences shall be permitted so long as the excuse is provided to the President, Officers, or Faculty Advisor prior to the commencement of the aforementioned meeting.
- c. **Director of Moot Court:** The Director of Moot Court position serves the integral role of leading their respective organization: Moot Court. The responsibilities of the Director of Moot Court include but are not limited to the following:
- i. Directly report to the President on all matters relating to Moot Court, providing regular updates and seeking guidance as needed.
  - ii. Organize all the Moot Court competitions for the upcoming school year.
  - iii. Record and maintain records of all financial records for Moot Court including, but not limited to, competition funds and travel expenses.
  - iv. Assist in conducting disciplinary actions concerning Moot Court.
  - v. Record and maintain records of all disciplinary actions for Moot Court and provide the Faculty Advisor with these records.
  - vi. Assist the President and Vice President in presiding over the meetings for Moot Court, ensuring effective communication and decision-making.

- vii. Preside over the meetings of Moot Court in the absence of the President and/or Vice President.
  - viii. Along with the President, Vice President, and Faculty Advisor, select the competing teams for the upcoming school year.
  - ix. Along with the President, Vice President, and Faculty Advisor, select a student coach for each competing team.
  - x. Report the performance of Moot Court competing members to the President, providing insight and recommendations for improvement.
  - xi. Attend all meetings set by the President. Excused absences shall be permitted so long as the excuse is provided to the President, Officers, or Faculty Advisor before the commencement of the meeting.
- d. **Director of Mock Trial:** The Director of Mock Trial position serves the integral role of leading their respective organization: Mock Trial. The responsibilities of the Director of Mock trial include but are not limited to the following:
- i. Directly report to the President on all matters relating to Mock Trial, providing regular updates and seeking guidance as needed.
  - ii. Organize all the Mock Trial competitions for the upcoming school year.
  - iii. Record and maintain records of all financial records for Mock Trial including, but not limited to, competition funds and travel expenses.
  - iv. Assist in conducting disciplinary actions concerning Mock Trial.
  - v. Record and maintain records of all disciplinary actions for Mock Trial and provide the Faculty Advisor with these records.
  - vi. Assist the President and Vice President in presiding over the meetings for Mock Trial, ensuring effective communication and decision-making.
  - vii. Preside over the meetings of Mock Trial in the absence of the President and/or Vice President.
  - viii. Along with the President, Vice President, and Faculty Advisor, select the competing teams for the upcoming school year.
  - ix. Along with the President, Vice President, and Faculty Advisor, select a student coach for each competing team.
  - x. Report the performance of Mock Trial competing members to the President, providing insight and recommendations for improvement.
  - xi. Attend all meetings set by the President. Excused absences shall be permitted so long as the excuse is provided to the President, Officers, or Faculty Advisor before the commencement of the meeting.
- e. **Associate Director of Moot Court:** The Associate Director of Moot Court position serves aid to the Director of Moot Court in a fundamental capacity. The responsibilities of the Associate Director of Moot Court include but are not limited to:
- i. Directly report to the Director of Moot Court on all matters relating to Moot Court, providing regular updates and seeking guidance as needed.

- ii. Aid in the organization of all Moot Court competitions for the upcoming school year.
- iii. Aid in maintaining records of all matters of Moot Court.
- iv. Present social media communication for Moot Court to the President.
- v. Aid in the selection process of competing members, along with the selection process of student coaches.
- vi. Aid the Director of Moot Court in finding outside training help, including but not limited to alumni coaching, and/or practicing attorney coaching.
- vii. Assist the Director of Moot Court in presiding over the meetings for Moot Court, including but not limited to presiding over the meetings of Moot Court in the absence of the Director of Moot Court.
- viii. Aid the Director of Moot Court in any matter set forth by the Director of Moot Court.
- ix. Attend all meetings set by the President. Excused absences shall be permitted so long as the excuse is provided to the President, Officers, or Faculty Advisor before the commencement of the meeting.

**f. Associate Director of Mock Trial:** The Associate Director of Mock Trial position serves aid to the Director of Mock Trial in a fundamental capacity. The responsibilities of the Associate Director of Mock Trial include but are not limited to:

- i. Directly report to the Director of Mock Trial on all matters relating to Mock Trial, providing regular updates and seeing guidance as needed.
- ii. Aid in the organization of all Mock Trial competitions for the upcoming school year.
- iii. Aid in maintaining records of all matters of Mock Trial.
- iv. Present social media communication for Mock Trial to the President.
- v. Aid in the selection process of competing members, along with the selection process of student coaches.
- vi. Aid in the Director of Mock Trial in finding outside training help, including but not limited to alumni coaching, and/or practicing attorney coaching.
- vii. Assist the Director of Mock Trial in presiding over the meetings for Mock Trial, including but not limited to presiding over the meetings of Mock Trial in the absence of the Director of Mock Trial.
- viii. Aid the Director of Mock Trial in any matter set forth by the Director of Moot Court.
- ix. Attend all meetings set by the President. Excused absences shall be permitted so long as the excuse is provided to the President, Officers, or Faculty Advisor before the commencement of the meeting.

**SECTION 2. Appointments.** The appointments of the Executive Board shall occur in person or by electronic platform three (3) weeks before the finals period of the Spring semester to facilitate a smooth transition between the preceding and succeeding Executive Board.

- A. The current Executive Board is to send out communication to all potential members with nomination forms. The nomination form should be designed to encourage either members nominating other members or self-nominations for each respective position.
- B. If more than one member is nominated for a position, an interview should be scheduled with the current Executive Board along with the Academic Advisor. In scheduling the interview, the current President should coordinate with nominated members, the current Executive Board, and the Academic Advisor.
- C. After interviews have been held, each respective position would appoint their successor. For those positions that have not been filled by nomination, or any position that is not currently held by a member, the current Executive Board would vote on each respected position.
- D. Once the selected members have been decided, the selected nominated member would be invited by the President to accept their newly appointed position.
- E. The selected members must confirm their acceptance in writing.

**SECTION 3. Impeachment.** The impeachment process serves as a mechanism to ensure the integrity, effectiveness, and good standing of the Advocacy Board's Executive Board. While all members are encouraged to resolve issues amicably, the impeachment process exists to address serious or ongoing concerns. The appeal process must be executed with a strong commitment to fairness, transparency, and respect for all parties involved. It is essential to ensure that the rights of the impeached member are protected while upholding the integrity and reputation of the Advocacy Board.

**A. Causes for Impeachment:**

- a. Failure to fulfill the roles and responsibilities as outlined in these bylaws.
- b. Failure to fulfill the expected communications guidelines outlined in these bylaws.
- c. Any act that involves the misuse or unauthorized use of funds.
- d. Acting or speaking on behalf of the Advocacy Board in a manner that is not approved, is misleading, or is damaging to the organization's reputation.
- e. Unauthorized disclosure of sensitive or confidential information.
- f. Engaging in activities or decisions where personal interests compromise the best interests of the Advocacy Board.
- g. Engaging in acts that are unethical, dishonest, or damaging to the Advocacy Board's credibility.

**B. Impeachment Process:**

- a. The Executive Board collectively or any Executive Board member may initiate the impeachment process against the board member in question.
- b. The Executive Board shall submit a written complaint detailing the allegations to the board member in question and to the Faculty Advisor. This complaint should be backed by evidence and/or testimonials.
  - i. This must be submitted to the rest of the Executive Board if not initiated collectively.

- c. The member in question must be notified and allowed to respond to the allegations in writing within seven (7) days.

**C. Deliberation and Voting:**

- a. After presentations and defense, the Executive Board will deliberate.
- b. A supermajority vote (e.g., two-thirds) of the Executive Board members present and voting (excluding the accused member) is required for impeachment.
- c. The accused member must be notified immediately after and be informed of the possibility of appeal.

**D. Appeals:** To provide a fair mechanism for impeached board members to challenge the impeachment decision, ensuring that their rights are protected, and due process is observed:

- a. The impeached board member must submit a formal written appeal to the Executive Board and the Faculty Advisor within seven (7) days from the date of notification of the impeachment decision.
- b. The appeal should clearly outline the grounds for challenging the impeachment, backed by relevant evidence, explanations, or testimonials.
- c. An Appeal Committee should be formed to review and decide on the appeal. This committee should be supervised by the Faculty Advisor and formed by student members.
  - i. The Appeal Committee should thoroughly review the grounds mentioned in the appeal, the evidence presented, and the original reason for impeachment.
  - ii. If necessary, the committee may request additional documentation or conduct interviews with relevant parties.

**E. Special Appeal Hearing:**

- a. A special hearing should be conducted where the impeached member presents their appeal before the Appeal Committee.
- b. The Executive Board members shall be called upon to explain the reason for the impeachment decision.
- c. Both parties should have an opportunity to present their case and answer questions posed by the Appeal Committee.

**F. Deliberation and Decision:**

- a. After the hearing, the Appeal Committee should deliberate privately.
- b. The decision should be based on a majority vote of the Appeal Committee members.

- c. Factors to consider should include the validity of the original impeachment reasons, the evidence provided in the appeal, and any procedural issues or biases in the original impeachment process.

**G. Communication of Decision:**

- a. The decision should be communicated in writing to the impeached member and the Executive Board within seven (7) days after the hearing.
- b. If the appeal is successful, the member should be immediately reinstated to their position. If the appeal is denied, the original impeachment decision stands.

**H. Record Keeping:**

- a. All documents, testimonials, and records related to the appeal process should be securely stored. This ensures transparency and provides a record in case of future disputes or references.

**SECTION 4. Filling Vacancies.** Upon the removal or resignation of a member of the Executive Board, the Executive Board must determine whether it is necessary to appoint an officer to perform the duties of the position that has been vacated. Additionally, if the previous year's Executive Board did not fill a position, the current Executive Board must determine whether it is necessary to appoint an officer to perform the duties of the position that was left vacant. The remaining Executive Board officers shall elect an officer utilizing the following procedure:

- A. The President will provide notice of the vacancy to all members of the Advocacy Board.
- B. The President will call an Executive Board meeting within seven (7) days of the notice to interview all members interested in the position.
- C. After interviews, the Executive Board, shall by a majority vote, appoint an interviewee for the vacant position.

#### **SECTION IV. MEETINGS**

All members of the Advocacy Board shall be responsible for attending the first general body meeting held by the President of the Executive Board, and any special meetings called by and at the request of the Executive Board. Additionally, Moot Court and Mock Trial members are responsible for attending any meetings called by and at the request of the Director of Moot Court and the Director of Mock Trial, respectively. The President of the Advocacy Board should aim to have a second general body meeting at the beginning of the Spring semester, although it is not required.

## ARTICLE V. MOOT COURT

**SECTION 1. Membership Eligibility.** To become a member of Moot Court, one must have been selected as the best appellant or best appellee in their Legal Writing, Research, and Analysis (hereinafter “LWRA”) II class, or have been chosen by the Executive Board in an additional tryout opportunity hosted by the Advocacy Board. All potential members must meet and maintain the following credentials:

- A. Must be a currently enrolled student in good academic standing at AJMLS with the minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) as defined by the AJMLS Student Handbook.
- B. Must formally accept their invitation from the Executive Board in writing upon the Director of Moot Court’s invitation.

**SECTION 2. Formats of Membership.** Students who are invited to join Moot Court must attend the first general body meeting for the Advocacy Board before becoming a provisional member. If a potential member is unable to attend the first general body meeting, a makeup session will be provided per the Executive Board. Failure to attend the training or makeup session will result in the invitation being withdrawn and the student not becoming a provisional member and having no opportunity to become a full member. Moot Court extends two forms of membership to all qualifying students:

- A. **Provisional Membership:** Students with provisional membership are students who have accepted their invitation to Moot Court and have attended the first general body meeting or makeup session. If a student graduates with the status of a provisional member, they will not be able to receive credit as a member of Moot Court and will not receive the honor and prestige associated with it.
- B. **Full Membership:** Students qualify for full membership upon competing in a Moot Court competition. To keep the full membership standing, the member must adhere to Section 3 of Article III of these bylaws. If a student graduates with the status of a full member, they will be able to receive credit as a member of Moot Court and will receive the honor and prestige associated with it.

**SECTION 3. Duties.** Moot Court is a student-run organization; as such, the membership comes with respective duties that must be fulfilled by all members. The failure to complete one’s membership duties absent an allowance from the Faculty Advisor, the Executive Board, or the Director of Moot Court can result in the student’s membership being revoked or the student being demoted to a provisional member. Every Moot Court member will have the same set of responsibilities in ensuring their complete participation in this organization. The following duties extend to every member, including provisional members, of Moot Court:

- A. Remain a student in good standing as defined by the AJMLS Student Handbook.
- B. Attend Moot Court meetings and any required workshops.

- C. Assist the Board in initiatives, events, and competitions hosted by the Advocacy Board (including Mock Trial).
- D. Use best efforts to compete in at least one external competition.
- E. When not competing, support other teams by benching practices, attending their competitions, offering feedback, and assisting in preparation.
- F. Bench first-year oral arguments as determined by the needs of faculty and the Executive Board.
- G. Always behave ethically and professionally, including but not limited to practices, workshops, competitions, and any team-building activities.

**SECTION 4. Competitor’s Duties.** For those full members of Moot Court who are selected to compete and accept their invitation, the following duties extend to every competing member:

- A. **Adherence to Rules:** Each competing member must familiarize themselves with the rules of the competition and adhere to them strictly. The competing member must understand time constraints and formatting requirements and comply with them during presentations.
- B. **Preparation and Research:** Each competing member must thoroughly research the given legal issues, which includes reviewing case law, statutes, and any other relevant legal sources.
- C. **Practice:** Each competing member must regularly practice oral arguments in preparation for competitions, including attending practice sessions, scrimmages, and feedback sessions organized by coaches or the Director of Moot Court.
- D. **Representation:** Each competing member must represent AJMLS professionally and ethically during competitions. The competing member must respect teammates, coaches, opposing teams, judges, and organizers, ensuring all interactions are courteous and respectful.
- E. **Ethical Conduct:** Each competing member must maintain the highest standards of ethics and professionalism throughout the competition. They must also avoid any form of plagiarism, misrepresentation, or dishonesty in preparations for competitions and presentations during competitions.
- F. **Work Product.** Each competing member is responsible for submitting their work product and submitting it to the Faculty Advisor once the competition has ceased.

**SECTION 5. Backup Teams.** The Director of Moot Court and the Executive Board shall comprise a “backup” team in the event members cannot fulfill their duties. This includes but is not limited to, any member of the competing team dropping out for any reason or any competing member failing to follow Section 4 of Article V of these bylaws.

**SECTION 6. Revocation from Moot Court.** Being a member of Moot Court is an honor and a privilege as such any member found at fault for compromising the integrity of this organization

or failing to follow these bylaws will be removed following a series of executive and advisory processes and decisions.

**A.** The following incidents are grounds for removal from Moot Court:

- a. Withdrawing from AJMLS, being placed on academic probation, or receiving a suspension from AJMLS.
- b. Breach AJMLS's or Moot Court's code of conduct or displaying behavior that undermines AJMLS's or Moot Court's goals and values.
- c. Non-compliance with the responsibilities and duties associated with membership.
- d. Repeated unexcused absences from mandatory meetings or events.
- e. Failure to adhere to these bylaws.
- f. Disclosing sensitive information about Moot Court or its members without permission.
- g. Improper withdrawal/forfeit from a competition.

**B. Members' Forfeit from Competing Teams.** In the event a competing member forfeits their commitment to competing in a Moot Court competition, the Director of Moot Court and the Executive Board shall conduct a review of the withdrawal. After review, the following sanctions may be appropriate:

- a. The forfeiting member loses their full membership status.
- b. The forfeiting member cannot compete for one (1) full semester.
- c. The forfeiting member triggers Subsection C of Section 6 of Article V of these bylaws.

**C. Procedures for Revocation.** It is every member's responsibility to bring the misconduct of another member to the attention of the Director of Moot Court, the Executive Board, and the Faculty Advisor for swift action. Upon notice of a member's removal-worthy action, the Director of Moot Court, the Executive Board, and the Faculty Advisor shall:

- a. Place the student on notice of the initiation of the removal proceedings.
- b. Afford the student an opportunity to be informed of the evidence and witnesses against them.
- c. Provide the student with the ability to rebut the grounds of removal with any defenses or clarifications to the Director of Moot Court and the Executive Board at a special hearing.
- d. Determine within a reasonable time by majority vote whether the student should be removed or demoted.
- e. Make the decision of the Director of Moot Court and the Executive Board Advisor known to the student.
  - i. If the decision is contrary to the student's interests, they also have the right to present their case to all members of the Executive Board. If the student elects this option, the Executive Board must vote on revocation after the student has had the opportunity to present their case. If the vote is contrary

to the student's interests, the student will have the opportunity to appeal their case with the Faculty Advisor.

- f.** If removed for any of the grounds listed in this section, membership is considered revoked and cannot be reinstated at will.
- g.** If removed for any of the grounds listed in this section, membership is considered revoked and cannot be reinstated at will.
- h.** Membership can be reinstated as agreed to by the Executive Board Officers.

## ARTICLE VI. MOCK TRIAL

**SECTION 1. Membership Eligibility.** To become a member of Mock Trial, one must have been selected by the Director of Mock Trial, the Executive Board, and the Faculty Advisor in a tryout opportunity hosted by the Director of Mock Trial, or invited by a Trial Advocacy professor. Alternatively, if the previous Executive Board allowed for Mock Trial members to be a part of the Advocacy Board, their membership will be permitted. All potential members must meet and maintain the following credentials:

- A. Must be a currently enrolled student in good academic standing at AJMLS with the minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) as defined by the AJMLS Student Handbook.
- B. Must formally accept their invitation from the Executive Board in writing upon the Director of Mock Trial's invitation.

**SECTION 2. Formats of Membership.** Students who are invited to join Mock Trial must compete in the competition for which they have been selected. Mock Trial extends two forms of membership to all qualifying students:

- A. **Provisional Membership:** If the previous Executive Board allowed Mock Trial members to be a part of the Advocacy Board, their membership shall be deemed a provisional membership so long as they have not competed in the past. Students with provisional membership are also students who have accepted their invitation to Mock Trial and are preparing for their competition. Additionally, students selected for a backup team shall be deemed as provisional members. If a student graduates with the status of a provisional member, they will not be able to receive credit as a member of Mock Trial and will not receive the honor and prestige associated with it.
- B. **Full Membership:** If the previous Executive Board allowed Mock Trial members to be a part of the Advocacy Board and the member has competed in the past, their membership shall be deemed a full membership. Students with full membership are also students who fully compete in a Mock Trial competition. To keep the full membership standing, the member must adhere to Section 3 of Article IV of these bylaws. If the student graduates with the status of a full member, they will be able to receive credit as a member of Mock Trial and will receive the honor and prestige associated with it.

**SECTION 3. Duties.** Mock Trial is a student-run organization; as such, the membership comes with respective duties that must be fulfilled by all members. The failure to complete one's membership duties absent an allowance from the Faculty Advisor, the Executive Board, or the Director of Mock Trial can result in the student's membership being revoked or the student being demoted to a provisional member. Every Mock Trial member will have the same set of responsibilities in ensuring their complete participation in this organization. The following duties extend to every member, including provisional members, of Mock Trial:

- A. Remain a student in good standing as defined by the AJMLS Student Handbook.

- B. Attend Mock Trial meetings and any required workshops.
- C. Assist the Board in initiatives, events, and competitions hosted by the Advocacy Board (including Moot Court).
- D. Use best efforts to compete in at least one external competition.
- E. When not competing, support other teams by benching practices, attending their competitions, offering feedback, and assisting in preparation.
- F. When not competing, offering services as a witness in competitions.
- G. Always behave ethically and professionally, including but not limited to practices, workshops, competitions, and any team-building activities.

**SECTION 4. Competitor’s Duties.** For those full members of Mock Trial who are selected to compete and accept their invitation, the following duties extend to every competing member:

- A. **Adherence to Rules:** Each competing member must familiarize themselves with the rules of the competition and adhere to them strictly. The competing member must understand time constraints and formatting requirements and comply with them during presentations.
- B. **Preparation:** Each competing member must thoroughly prepare the competition packet, which includes reviewing case law, statutes, and any other relevant legal sources.
- C. **Practice:** Each competing member must regularly practice trial procedures, strategies, and the rules of evidence in preparation for competitions. Each competing member must also regularly attend practice sessions, scrimmages, and feedback sessions organized by coaches or the Director of Mock Trial.
- D. **Representation:** Each competing member must represent AJMLS professionally and ethically during competitions. The competing member must respect teammates, coaches, opposing teams, judges, and organizers, ensuring all interactions are courteous and respectful.
- E. **Ethical Conduct:** Each competing member must maintain the highest standards of ethics and professionalism throughout the competition. They must also avoid any form of plagiarism, misrepresentation, or dishonesty in preparations for competitions and presentations during competitions.
- F. **Work Product:** Each competing member is responsible for submitting their work product and submitting it to the Faculty Advisor once the competition has ceased.

**SECTION 5. Backup Teams.** The Director of Mock Trial and the Executive Board shall comprise a “backup” team in the event members cannot fulfill their duties. This includes but is not limited to, any member of the competing team dropping out for any reason or any competing member failing to follow Section 4 of Article VI of these bylaws.

**SECTION 6. Revocation from Mock Trial.** Being a member of Mock Trial is an honor and a privilege as such any member found at fault for compromising the integrity of this organization

or failing to follow these bylaws will be removed following a series of executive and advisory processes and decisions.

**A.** The following incidents are grounds for removal from Mock Trial:

- a. Withdrawing from AJMLS, being placed on academic probation, or receiving a suspension from AJMLS.
- b. Breach AJMLS's or Mock Trial's code of conduct or displaying behavior that undermines AJMLS's or Mock Trial's goals and values.
- c. Non-compliance with the responsibilities and duties associated with membership.
- d. Repeated unexcused absences from mandatory meetings or events.
- e. Failure to adhere to these bylaws.
- f. Disclosing sensitive information about Mock Trial or its members without permission.
- g. Improper withdrawal/forfeit from a competition.

**B. Members' Forfeit from Competing Teams.** In the event a competing member forfeits their commitment to competing in a Mock Trial Competition, the Director of Mock Trial and the Executive Board shall conduct a review of the withdrawal. After review, the following sanctions may be appropriate:

- a. The forfeiting member loses their full membership status.
- b. The forfeiting member cannot compete for one (1) full semester.
- c. The forfeiting member triggers Subsection C of Section 6 of Article VI of these bylaws.

**C. Procedures for Revocation.** It is every member's responsibility to bring the misconduct of another member to the attention of the Director of Mock Trial, the Executive Board, and the Faculty Advisor for swift action. Upon notice of a member's removal-worthy action, the Director of Mock Trial, the Executive Board, and the Faculty Advisor shall:

- a. Place the student on notice of the initiation of the removal proceedings.
- b. Afford the student an opportunity to be informed of the evidence and witnesses against them.
- c. Provide the student with the ability to rebut the grounds of removal with any defenses or clarifications to the Director of Mock Trial and the Executive Board, at a special hearing.
- d. Determine within a reasonable time by majority vote whether the student should be removed or demoted.
- e. Make the decision of the Director of Mock Trial and the Executive Board known to the student.
  - i. If the decision is contrary to the student's interests, they also have the right to present their case to all members of the Executive Board. If the student elects this option, the Executive Board must vote on revocation after the student has had the opportunity to present their case. If the vote is contrary

to the student's interests, the student will have the opportunity to appeal their case with the Faculty Advisor.

- f.** If removed for any of the grounds listed in this section, membership is considered revoked and cannot be reinstated at will.
- g.** If removed for any of the grounds listed in this section, membership is considered revoked and cannot be reinstated at will.
- h.** Membership can be reinstated as agreed to by the Executive Board Officers.

## ARTICLE VII. ADVISORY COUNCIL

**SECTION 1. Faculty Advisor.** The Faculty Advisor shall serve as the faculty oversight for the Advocacy Board. The Faculty Advisor also will assist the Executive Board in deciding the revocation of memberships. The Faculty Advisor shall be the final casting vote in any ties within the Executive Board. The Faculty Advisor will assist in selecting the Alumni coaches for each respective team and assist the Executive Board in selecting a student coach for each respective competition.

**SECTION 2. Alumni Advisors.** Alumni of AJMLS who previously were members of Moot Court and/or Mock Trial serve an integral advisory role to all of its members. The Faculty Advisor and Executive Board shall from time to time reach out to alumni to serve as alumni coaches for respective competing teams.

**SECTION 3. Outside Help.** In the event no alumni are available to coach competing teams, the Faculty Advisor, along with the Executive Board, shall utilize their efforts in finding competent attorneys in the area to aid in coaching competing teams.

**SECTION VIII. ENACTMENT, PUBLICATION, AND AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

**SECTION 1. Enactment.** After an opportunity for consideration is given to all members of the Executive Board, these bylaws shall become effective upon the date written below and upon executive by the Executive Board and shall supersede all bylaws previously enacted.

**SECTION 2. Publication.** Each member of the Advocacy Board shall be provided with their own copy of these bylaws.

**SECTION 3. Amendment.** The President may propose an amendment to these bylaws in writing after consultation with the Executive Board. Such a written proposal shall be distributed to each Executive Board member. The Executive Board shall consider the proposed amendment and shall vote on whether to implement the proposed amendment. A vote of no less than two-thirds of all Executive Board members is necessary to amend the bylaws. The Faculty Advisor has the final determination on any and all amendments proposed by the Executive Board and may amend these bylaws without formal proceedings.

**Effective Date: 04/01/2025**

**/s/ Suparna Malempati /s/**

**/s/ Kristen Gough /s/**

**/s/ Danielle Ortega /s/**

**/s/ Kyla Arnold /s/**

**/s/ Jadya Gray-Hough /s/**