

Rutgers Law School Student Animal Legal Defense Fund Constitution

Article One. Name.

The name of this organization shall be Rutgers Law School Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (hereinafter referred to as Rutgers Law School SALDF).

Article Two. Purpose.

The Rutgers Law School SALDF is dedicated to providing a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at protecting the lives and advancing the interest of animals through the legal system, and raising the profile of the field of animal law.

Article Three. Criteria for Membership.

Membership in the Rutgers Law School SALDF shall be open to all students currently enrolled in the Rutgers Law School, regardless of gender, race, creed, age, color, national origin, physical disability or sexual orientation. Individual membership in the national Animal Legal Defense Fund is encouraged but not required for all Rutgers Law School SALDF members.

Article Four. Officers.

There will be five members of the executive committee: the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Community Outreach Coordinator. The President will be responsible for communicating with the designated contact person at the Animal Legal Defense Fund. The Treasurer will be responsible for communicating with the SBA regarding all budget and monetary matters.

Qualifications for persons who are eligible to serve as officers of Rutgers Law School SALDF are as follows:

- registration as a student at Rutgers Law School
- membership in Rutgers Law School SALDF
- attendance at a minimum of two meetings of Rutgers Law School SALDF
- agreement to uphold the goals and promises of Rutgers Law School SALDF, and to comply with the mission and goals of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Article Five. Budgetary Process.

The Treasurer will be responsible for all budgetary matters and for communicating with SBA, when necessary, regarding those matters. The Treasurer will establish a yearly budget which will be based on the preceding year's budget. The Treasurer will consult with the President over whether additions or increases in funds should be requested. The preliminary budget will be drafted by the Treasurer and approved by the President. The Treasurer will keep and maintain records of accounts, deposits, and expenditures; request disbursements only for purposes approved on the final budget; and request permission from the SBA to transfer money from one budget item to another if necessary. Fund raising activities will be conducted with integrity and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Rutgers School of Law Student Bar Association.

Article Six. Elections.

The officers of the executive committee for the academic year 2008-2009 were elected in the spring of 2008. At the end of the spring semester of each school year, the officers will be elected by a majority vote of the membership of the Rutgers Law School SALDF, shall serve a term of one year, and may be reelected.

Article Seven. Meetings.

Regular meetings of Rutgers Law School SALDF shall be held at least once each month. 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 Rutgers Law School SALDF may be called by any number of members, who shall inform the President or the entire membership at least one week prior to the date of the proposed meeting.

Article Eight. Affiliation with the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

Activities of the Rutgers Law School 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 Rutgers Law School SALDF, without prior approval of ALDF. All public policy positions taken by the Rutgers Law School SALDF shall be consistent with the mission of ALDF: "to protect the lives and advance the interests of animals." The Rutgers Law School 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.

To fulfill the requirements of the ALDF, the President shall report at least once a semester to the ALDF on chapter activities. The ALDF will be included in any chapter e-mail lists, and provided a list of the committee members for each current year no later than Oct 1st.

Article Nine. Amendments.

Any two current members 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 deciding on the 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 changes to this constitution.