



Black Law Students' Association (BLSA)
Lakehead University Chapter
2024-2025 Constitution & By-Laws

Article I

1. The name of the Club shall be Black Law Students' Association (hereinafter "Club" or "BLSA").
2. The Club shall conduct its operations under the constitution and the by-laws of the Lakehead University Student Union (LUSU).
3. The Club is excited for the new school year to reconnect with our members and to introduce our team to the incoming students. The Bora Laskin Faculty of Law's BLSA chapter was founded in 2019 to show future black lawyers that our faculty can be a place for them to excel academically and professionally. We are proud to provide resources for networking, mentorship, fundraising, and hosting events.

BLSA Canada reflects the diversity of the Black experience and welcomes allies from all backgrounds who also seek to contribute to the furtherance of justice. Our chapter will continue to discuss issues of race and social justice in the community; leaving a trail for future students to walk along, to gain inspiration, and to continue the work BLSA Canada has started.

4. The purpose of the Club shall be the following, and all activities of the Club shall be conducted in furtherance of this purpose:

The purpose of BLSA is to create a welcoming environment for students at the Bora Laskin Faculty of Law where they can create connections with other members of the legal profession through social events.



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

BORA LASKIN
Faculty of
Law

By-Law I –Membership

1. The membership of the Club shall be limited to the following:

Students at Lakehead University, mainly those attending the Bora
Laskin Faculty of Law.

2. All Club members shall have the right to bring forward motions and cast a vote at the Club’s Annual General Meeting.

By-Law II –Meetings of the Members

1. The Club shall hold an Annual General Meeting at least once per academic year between the months of January and April, inclusively.
2. The date, time, and location of the Annual General Meeting shall be set by the President in consultation with the other Officers and announced to the Club members at least two (2) weeks before the meeting is to take place.
3. At an Annual General Meeting, at least ten (10) Club members or ten percent (10%) of Club members, whichever is more, must be present for the meeting to be able to proceed. If this minimum is not achieved (“a quorum”), no vote taken will be considered valid. The Officers shall call a new General Meeting for the purposes of electing their replacements as soon as possible if a quorum is not met.
 - a. If, after a second attempt at calling a General Meeting, the meeting is not able to achieve a quorum, the Officers shall appoint their replacements for the next term.
4. The Annual General Meeting shall be chaired by the President.
5. During the Annual General Meeting, the Club members shall appoint the Officers of the Club, who shall begin their terms on May 1.
6. The Club members may consider and vote upon any other item during the Annual General Meeting. Any motion decided in this way is valid and binding upon the Club and the Officers.

7. At any time, a petition of ten percent (10%) of Club members, can call a Special General Meeting, during which the Club members may make any decision affecting the operation of the Club, including replacing any or all of the existing Officers or amending this Constitution. The petition must be served to the Officers at least five (5) days in advance of when the Special General Meeting is to take place, and must include the exact date, time, and location of the meeting. The Officers must then e-mail all of the Club members and notify them of the Special General Meeting at least four (4) days in advance of the scheduled meeting date.

By-Law III – Club Officers

1. **President:** The President is the chief executive of the Club and in that capacity is able to make decisions affecting the Club and its operations. So long as those decisions are made in furtherance of the Club's purpose and do not violate this Constitution or the LUSU Governing Documents, they shall be considered valid and enforceable. Regardless of that, the President cannot make any decisions that are reserved for the Club members (such as amending this Constitution for electing Officers), nor may the President make decisions about items that are reserved for other Officers in this Constitution, unless the President has made good efforts to get in touch with those Officer(s) and has been unable to.
2. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall maintain a current, authoritative copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Chapter and any amendments thereto. The Secretary shall provide support in the transition of executive officers for the following academic year.
3. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer is the Officer in charge of the Club's finances, and in that capacity, along with the President, is allowed to deposit and withdraw funds from the Club's accounts. The Treasurer shall prepare a report to the Club's members about the state of the Club's finances for presentation at the Annual General Meeting. The Treasurer shall determine the funds and organize the tickets for the BLSA National Conference.
4. **Vice-President of Internal Affairs:** The Vice-President of Internal Affairs (VP Internal) maintains internal communication with the students, the BLSA Executive, and acts as a liaison between them with regard to non-academic concerns. Duties include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Scheduling and keeping a record of general and executive meeting minutes
- ❖ Maintaining an up-to-date copy of the constitution
- ❖ Making posters for our social media accounts
- ❖ Organizing the logistical aspects of meetings and events
- ❖ Booking rooms and meeting times when needed
- ❖ Acting as one of three signing authorities on BLSA accounts

5. **Vice-President of External Affairs:** The Vice-President of External Affairs (VP External) is the officer in charge of reporting directly to the President. The VP External bears the responsibility of understanding the annual goals of BLSA and communicating these goals to the members. Duties include but are not limited to:

- ❖ Promoting events (through email, social media, and word-of-mouth)
- ❖ Posting on our social media accounts (Facebook and Instagram) while responding to people, organizations etc on our social media accounts
- ❖ Coordinating student involvement and informing students of registration and funding procedures and policies

6. **Director of Communications:** The Director of Communications (Comms Director) shall operate the club's email, and attend meetings, serving as the representative of the BLSA to organizations for which the assembly maintains membership (e.g, Monthly Chapter Meetings).

7. **1L Representative:** The 1L Representative (1L Rep) acts as a liaison between the 1L members, the general 1L student body and the Club. The 1L Rep maintains communication and expresses their ideas, opinions, and suggestions.

8. All Club Officers must be currently registered students at Lakehead University.

9. Unless otherwise allowed within this document, the Officers shall be elected at the Club's Annual General Meeting by the Club's members and they shall hold office from the end of their predecessors' terms until April 30 or until their successors are elected.

10. Any Officer is allowed to resign their position within the Club.

➤ The positions for the 2024-25 academic year (September 1st, 2024-April 30th, 2025) are as follows:

- President: Jabari Barnes
- VP Internal: Oluwasetemi Obasanya
- VP External: Dante Brown-Young
- Comms Director: Idman Warsame
- Treasurer: Marlene Nkombo
- Secretary: Amal Abdulle
- 1L Rep: Alisha Bailey

By-Law IV –Amendments

1. This document may be amended by the Club’s members at any General Meeting that has met quorum (this includes the Annual General Meeting or any Special General Meeting). A motion to amend this document must be passed by two-thirds (2/3) of the members present.
2. Any amendments take effect immediately after the General Meeting is over.

By-Law V –Club Election Procedures

1. Elections for executive positions must be during the months of March or April of each academic year.
2. The President must call each election during this time to all current BLSA members. Elections will not be open to the entire student body.
3. The President must be a 2L student.

Operational Policy I –Statement of Accountability

1. All Club Officers shall abide by this document as well as the LUSU Governing Documents and the Lakehead University Student Code of Conduct. Officers shall make a good-faith effort to ensure that all their decisions are made in furtherance of the Club’s purpose and in the best interest of the Club’s members.
2. All Club Officers shall be responsible for all of their collective acts and deeds as well as the conduct of the Club members.

3. All Club Officers shall honour all agreements to which they or their predecessors agreed and shall endeavour to fulfill every obligation owed under those agreements.

Operational Policy II –Membership Dues

1. As a condition of Club membership, all prospective members shall make payment to the Club of the following:

There shall be no dues charged to any member.