

Title: Mount Zion Law College Moot Court Society (MZLCMCS) Bylaws

Article I: Name and Purpose Section

Section 1. Name: The name of this organisation shall be the Mount Zion Law Collage Moot Court Society (MZLCMCS), hereinafter referred to as the "Society."

Section 2. Purpose: The Moot Court Society is established with the following purposes:

- a. Promoting Advocacy Skills: The primary purpose of the Society is to foster the development and enhancement of oral advocacy, legal research, and legal writing skills among law students. The Society aims to provide a platform where members can practice and refine their abilities to effectively argue legal issues in a simulated courtroom setting.
- b. Enhancing Professionalism: The Society seeks to instil and promote professionalism, integrity, and ethical conduct among its members. It aims to create an environment where students can learn and demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism in their interactions with peers, faculty, legal professionals, and the broader legal community.
- c. Encouraging Intellectual Engagement: The Society shall endeavour to foster intellectual engagement by facilitating discussions and debates on legal issues of significance. It aims to provide opportunities for members to engage in rigorous legal analysis, research, and persuasive argumentation, thereby enriching their understanding of the law and contributing to the legal discourse.
- d. Facilitating Networking and Mentoring: The Society shall strive to create a network of legal professionals, faculty, and alumni who can serve as mentors and guide its members. It endeavours to connect students with experienced practitioners, judges, and scholars, thereby facilitating meaningful relationships and mentorship opportunities that can aid in their personal and professional growth.
- e. Organizing Competitions and Events: The Society shall strive to organise and participate in advocacy and lawyering-themed competitions and events ranging from moot court, client counselling, alternative dispute resolution, etc., both internal and external, to provide members with practical experience in appellate advocacy. These competitions serve as a platform for members to showcase their skills, receive constructive feedback from judges, and develop confidence in their ability to argue before a panel.
- f. Building Teamwork and Collaboration: The Society strive to promote teamwork and collaboration among its members through group exercises, training sessions, and team-building activities; it aims to cultivate a sense of camaraderie and cooperation among its members, enabling them to work effectively in teams and learn from one another's strengths and experiences.
- g. Community Outreach and Public Service: The Society recognises the value of community outreach and public service. It seeks to engage in initiatives that promote access to justice, raise legal awareness, and contribute to the welfare of the community. These efforts may include organising legal clinics, providing pro bono assistance, and participating in public legal education programs.

Article I A: Code of Conduct: The Society aims to foster an environment of professionalism, respect, and integrity among its members. To ensure the smooth functioning of the society and uphold its reputation, all members are expected to adhere to the following code of conduct:

Section 1. Professionalism: Members shall conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times, displaying courtesy, respect, and decorum towards fellow members, opponents, judges, and organisers.

Section 1.2. Members shall dress appropriately and adhere to any dress code specified by the Society or the competition organisers.

Section 1.3. Members shall be punctual for all society meetings, training sessions, and moot court competitions.

Section 2.Ethical Conduct: Members shall uphold the highest ethical standards and act in accordance with the rules and regulations governing the moot court competitions in which they participate. 2.2. Members shall not engage in any form of dishonesty, plagiarism, or unethical conduct during research, oral arguments, or written submissions. 2.3. Members shall respect the confidentiality of privileged information received during the course of their involvement in moot court competitions.

Section 3. Preparedness and Performance: Members shall diligently prepare for moot court competitions, including thorough research, analysis, and understanding of the assigned case and relevant legal principles.

Section 3.2. Members shall strive for excellence in oral advocacy and written submissions, presenting their arguments persuasively and articulately.

Section 3.3. Members shall actively participate in training sessions, mock trials, and other activities organised by the Society to improve their advocacy, lawyering, ADR and other legal aid skills.

Section 3.4: Members shall display good sportsmanship, treating fellow members, opponents, judges, and organisers with fairness, respect, and collegiality. 4.2. Members shall refrain from engaging in personal attacks, disrespectful language, or any behaviour that may undermine the spirit of friendly competition. 4.3. Members shall accept the decisions of the judges and competition organisers with grace, even if they disagree with the outcome.

Section 5.Teamwork and Collaboration: Members shall work collaboratively with their teammates, providing support, encouragement, and constructive feedback to enhance the overall performance of the team.

Section 5.2. Members shall demonstrate a willingness to share knowledge, resources, and strategies with fellow members, promoting a culture of cooperation and mutual growth.

Section 6.Compliance with Society's Policies: Members shall comply with all the policies, guidelines, and instructions set forth by Society, including those related to membership, participation, and financial obligations.

Section 6.2. Members shall promptly inform the Executive Board of any conflicts, concerns, or violations of the code of conduct observed within the society.

Section 7. Disciplinary Action: Violations of the Society's code of conduct and related norms may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to verbal/written warnings, suspension, or termination of membership, as determined by the Executive Board.

Section 7.2. The Executive Board shall follow a fair and transparent process in investigating reported violations and imposing disciplinary measures.

Section 7.3. Members who have been subject to disciplinary action shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Executive Board.

Section 8. Outcome: By abiding by this code of conduct, members of the Moot Court Society contribute to the creation of a supportive and professional environment that encourages the development of advocacy skills and upholds the values of integrity and respect.

Article II: Membership

Section 1: Eligibility Membership in the Society shall be open to all law students enrolled at Mount Zion Law College

Section 2: Rights and Responsibilities

- a. All members shall have the right to participate in Society-sponsored activities, including moot court, client counseling, advocacy, ADR competitions among other events and training sessions related to such competitions and events.
- b. Members are expected to adhere to the Society's code of conduct and uphold the highest standards of professionalism and ethics in such competitions and events.
- c. Members shall pay any required membership fees or dues, as determined by the Society.

Section 3: Removal of Membership

- a. Membership may be revoked for any member who fails to comply with the Society's code of conduct or who engages in conduct that is detrimental to the Society's norms or its reputation.
- b. The decision to remove a member shall be made by a majority vote of the Society's Executive Board after due process of enquiry conducted by the Board.

Article III: Executive Board

Section 1: Composition

- a. The Executive Board of the Society shall consist of the following positions: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Ex-Officio Member, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Executive Coordinator for Competitions and Events, Executive Coordinator for Competitions and Events, Assistant Coordinators for Competitions and Events.

- b. Vice Chairperson shall be the Principal of Mount Zion Law College with a single casting vote in all the resolutions of the Executive Board.
- c. Ex-Offio Chairperson shall be the Senior Most Faculty of Mont Zion Law College with a single casting vote in all the resolutions of the Executive Board.
- d. The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Executive Board shall be elected by the Society's members through a democratic voting process. President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall each have a single vote in all the resolutions of the Executive Board.
- e. A faculty of Mont Zion Law College shall be appointed as Chief Executive Coordinator by the Vice Chairperson of the Society after consultation with the Ex-Officio Member, The President, The Vice President, the Secretary and Treasurer of the Society and shall serve the tenure under the pleasure of the Chairperson.
- f. The Chief Executive Coordinator of Competitions and Events shall appoint Executive and Assistant Coordinators who may be faculties or students of Mount Zion Law College after consulting and getting the approval of the Chairman in writing.
- g. An executive member of the Mount Zion Law Collage Trust shall be appointed by the Trust Executive Members in writing addressed to the Chairman to appoint the suitable person as an ex-officio member of the Executive Board of the Society with a single voting power in all or any of the resolutions passed by the Societies Executive Board. The ex-officio member shall serve under the pleasure of the Mount Zion Trust Executive Board.
- h. The Chairperson shall have the power to cast a vote in the event of a tie in any of the resolutions passed by the Executive Board of the Society.
- i. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson or the Ex-Offio Member of the Executive Board shall have the power to veto any resolution passed by the Society.

Section 2: Duties and Responsibilities

- a. The Chairperson shall be the head of the Supervision and Advisory Council consisting of the Vice Chairperson and Ex-Officio Member. The Supervisory and Advisory Council shall aid and provide guidance to other members of the Society in its overall functioning.
- b. For the benefit of the Society, the composition of the Supervisory and Advisory Council may be expanded by the inclusion of any qualified person outside Mount Zion Law College as the ex-officio member of the Advisory and Supervisory Council by the Chairman without any voting powers in any of the resolutions passed by any organs of the society
- c. The Vice Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson in their duties and assume the Chairperson's responsibilities in his or her absence.
- d. Ex-Officio Member shall assist the Vice Chairperson in their duties and assume the Vice Chairperson's responsibilities in his or her absence.

e. President: The President shall be responsible for overseeing the overall functioning of the Society under the aid and guidance of the Supervisory and Advisory Council, presiding over meetings, and coordinating Society activities.

f. Vice President: The Vice President shall assist the President in their duties and assume the President's responsibilities in their absence.

g. Secretary: The Secretary shall maintain records, including meeting minutes and membership lists, and handle communications on behalf of the Society.

h. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall manage the Society's finances, including collecting membership dues and maintaining accurate financial records.

i. Chief Executive Coordinator for Competitions and Events: The Coordinator for Competitions and Events shall be responsible for all and any acts in furtherance of organising and coordinating the Society's Competitions and Events within and outside Mount Zion Law Collage in furtherance of the aim and objectives of the society.

Article III A: Qualifications for Executive Board Members- To ensure effective leadership and representation, the following qualifications shall be considered for individuals seeking to serve on the Executive Board of the Moot Court Society:

Section 1.Active Membership: Executive Board candidates must be active members of the Moot Court Society, meaning they have fulfilled all membership requirements and actively participated in Society activities, including moot court competitions, training sessions, and meetings.

Section 2.Demonstrated Commitment: Candidates should demonstrate a strong commitment to the goals and values of the Moot Court Society, as well as a genuine interest in promoting the development of oral advocacy, legal research, and legal writing skills among law students.

Section 3. Academic Standing: Candidates should maintain and fulfil in letter and spirit academic standing as determined by MG University's academic policies from time to time. At the same time, additional specific academic requirements may be required by the Executive Board members.

Section 4. Leadership Abilities: Candidates should possess strong leadership qualities, including effective communication skills, decision-making abilities, organisational skills, and the ability to work collaboratively with fellow board members, society members, and external stakeholders

Section 5.Experience in Moot Court: Preference may be given to candidates who have prior experience in participating in moot court competitions, as this experience can provide valuable insights into the demands and expectations of the role.

Section 6.Professionalism and Integrity: Candidates should exemplify professionalism, integrity, and ethical conduct. They should have a track record of adhering to high ethical standards, displaying respect, and maintaining confidentiality.

Section 7. Time Commitment: Executive Board members must be able to commit sufficient time and effort to fulfill their responsibilities effectively. Candidates should be prepared to allocate time for attending board meetings, organizing society events, and representing the society at moot court competitions or other external engagements.

Section 8. Past Involvement: Candidates with prior involvement in the Moot Court Society, such as serving on committees, volunteering for society activities, or assisting in organizing events, may be given preference, as their familiarity with the society's operations can contribute to a smooth transition into the board role.

Article III B: Tenure and removal of members of the Executive Board of the Society

Section 1. Tenure:

a. Members of the Advisory and Supervisory Council shall be permanent members of the Executive Board and all other members shall be temporary.

b. Members of the Executive Board who is not a member of the Advisory and Supervisory Council shall serve for one academic year as the Temporary Members of the Executive Board. .

b. At the end of their term, Temporary Executive Board members may choose to run for re-election or step down from their positions.

c. If any of the temporary Executive Board members are unable to complete their term due to unforeseen circumstances, an ad hoc replacement may be appointed until a by-election may be facilitated by the Advisory and Supervisory Council.

Section 2. Removal:

a. Any member of the Executive Board who is not a member of the Advisory and Supervisory Council may be subject to removal if they fail to fulfill their duties and responsibilities or engage in conduct that is detrimental to the Society.

b. Grounds for removal should be clearly defined in the Society's bylaws and may include violations of the code of conduct, misconduct, negligence, or failure to adhere to the Society's policies and procedures.

c. The process for the removal of an Executive Board member should follow a fair and transparent procedure, ensuring the rights of the member being removed.

d. The procedure may involve the following steps:

i. Initiation of Removal: Any member of the Society or the remaining members of the Executive Board may initiate the removal process by bringing forward a written complaint outlining the grounds for removal.

ii. Investigation: The complaint shall be investigated by an impartial body or a designated committee to review the allegations and gather relevant evidence.

iii. Notice and Opportunity to Respond: The Executive Board member subject to removal shall be provided with a written notice of the allegations and given an opportunity to respond, present evidence, and defend themselves.

iv. Decision and Removal: After a thorough review, a decision shall be made by a majority vote of the Executive Board or as determined by the Society's bylaws. If removal is decided, a written notice shall be provided to the member specifying the grounds for removal and the effective date of the removal.

v. Appeal Process: The removed member shall have the right to appeal the decision as outlined in the Society's bylaws, which may include a review by an impartial body or appeals committee appointed by the Chairman.

Article IV: Meetings

Section 1: General Meetings

a. The Society shall hold regular meetings throughout the academic year, with the frequency to be determined by the Executive Board.

b. All members shall be notified of the time, date, and location of meetings in advance.

Section 2. Quorum: A quorum shall be established by the presence of a simple majority of the Executive Board members and members in attendance at the meeting.

Section 3. Voting:

a. All members in good standing shall be eligible to vote in Society matters.

b. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote, except in cases where otherwise specified in these bylaws.

Article V: Competition Dispute Resolution Mechanism- In order to address any disputes or grievances arising during any competitions organised and coordinated by the Society, the Society shall establish a comprehensive dispute resolution mechanism. This mechanism aims to ensure fair and timely resolution of disputes and maintain the integrity of the competition. The following guidelines outline the key aspects of the dispute resolution process:

Section 1. Informal Resolution:

a. Parties involved in a dispute are encouraged to first attempt to resolve the issue through informal means, such as open dialogue and negotiation.

b. If feasible, the parties should discuss their concerns, clarify misunderstandings, and seek a mutually acceptable solution.

c. The Society may appoint a designated representative or mediator to assist in facilitating the informal resolution process, if necessary.

Section 2. Formal Dispute Resolution:

- a. If informal resolution attempts are unsuccessful or if the nature of the dispute requires formal intervention, the affected party may initiate a formal dispute resolution process.
- b. The affected party shall submit a written complaint or notice to the Chief Executive Coordinator for Competitions and Events, specifying the details of the dispute, the parties involved, and any supporting evidence.
- c. The Chief Executive Coordinator for Competitions and Events after consultation with the other members of the Executive Board, shall appoint a Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) comprising impartial qualified individuals who have no direct involvement in the dispute.
- d. The DRC shall review the complaint, conduct an investigation, and provide an opportunity for all parties involved to present their arguments, evidence, and witness testimonies.
- e. The DRC may request additional information or conduct interviews with relevant parties to gather a comprehensive understanding of the dispute.
- f. The DRC shall maintain confidentiality throughout the dispute resolution process to protect the interests and privacy of the parties involved.

Section 3. Decision and Remedies:

- a. After a thorough review, the DRC shall make a fair and impartial decision based on the merits of the case, relevant rules, and any applicable guidelines.
- b. The decision shall be communicated in writing to the parties involved, outlining the rationale behind the decision.
- c. The DRC may provide appropriate remedies, which may include but are not limited to adjusting scores, reevaluating the performance, ordering a rematch, or any other action deemed necessary to rectify the dispute.
- d. The decision of the DRC shall be final and binding on all parties involved.

Section 4. Timeliness and Transparency: a. The Society shall strive to ensure that the dispute resolution process is conducted in a timely manner to avoid undue delays.

- b. The Society shall maintain transparency throughout the process by providing regular updates and communicating the progress of the dispute resolution to the parties involved.

Section 5. Compliance and Cooperation: a. All parties involved in the dispute shall comply with the decisions and remedies determined by the DRC. b. The Moot Court Society, participating teams, and individuals shall cooperate fully with the DRC and provide any requested information or cooperation necessary for the resolution of the dispute.

Article V A- Appointment of the Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC):

Section 1. The Moot Court Society shall establish a Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) comprised of impartial individuals who have no direct involvement in the dispute.

Section 2. The members of the DRC shall be appointed by the Executive Board of the Moot Court Society or as specified in the Society's bylaws.

Section 3. The DRC members should possess knowledge and expertise in moot court competitions and dispute resolution processes.

Section 4. The DRC may consist of an odd number of members to ensure impartial decision-making in case of voting.

Article V B :Timeline for Resolution.

1. The complaint must be registered within 30 working days from the day the grievance complaint off manifested.
2. The minimum timeline for resolution of the grievance or complaint regarding the competition shall be 30 working days. This specific timeline for resolution may vary depending on the complexity and nature of the dispute, as well as the availability of parties involved and DRC members.
3. The timeline should be communicated to the parties involved, ensuring they are aware of the expected duration of the dispute resolution process.

Article V C: Additional Provisions for Fair and Effective Resolution.

Section 1. Confidentiality: The DRC shall maintain strict confidentiality throughout the dispute resolution process to protect the privacy and interests of the parties involved. All parties should be required to sign a confidentiality agreement to ensure the integrity of the process.

Section 2. Impartiality: The members of the DRC shall act impartially and without bias when reviewing and deciding upon the dispute. They should disclose any conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from the process if necessary.

Section 3. Documentation: The DRC should maintain detailed records of the dispute resolution process, including the complaint, any evidence presented, minutes of meetings, and the final decision. These records should be securely stored for future reference, if needed.

Section 4. Right to Legal Representation: Parties involved in the dispute may have the right to seek legal representation or assistance during the dispute resolution process, subject to the competition rules or guidelines.

Section 5. Compliance: All participating teams, individuals, and the Society itself should be obligated to comply with the decisions and remedies determined by the DRC. Failure to comply may result in appropriate penalties or sanctions as determined by the Society's bylaws or competition rules.

Section 6. Review and Improvement: The Society should periodically review and evaluate its dispute resolution mechanism to identify any shortcomings or areas for improvement. Feedback from participants and stakeholders should be encouraged and considered to enhance the fairness and effectiveness of the process.

Article VI: Amendments to the By Law

Section 1. Proposal: All or any proposed amendments to these bylaws may be submitted in writing to the Executive Board by any member of the Society.

Section 1A. Suegeneri's Position of Advisory and Supervisory Council: Any proposal for an amendment affecting the composition, powers and duties of members of the Advisory and Supervisory Council can only be amended by members of the Council by majority vote subject to the veto power enjoyed by Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson on his or her behalf.

Section 2: Approval

- a. The Executive Board shall review proposed amendments and present them to the general membership for a vote.
- b. Amendments shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at the meeting.

Section 3. Implementation: Approved amendments shall be incorporated into these bylaws and take effect immediately.

Article VII: Ratification of these bylaws shall become effective upon approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a meeting called for the purpose of ratification.

Article VIII: Dissolution In the event of the Society's dissolution, any remaining assets shall be distributed to [Name of University] for the benefit of law students, as determined by the Executive Board in consultation with the university administration.

These bylaws were approved and adopted by the [Mount Zion Law Collage Moot Court Society (MZLCMCS) on [Date of Adoption].

Chairperson, Mount Zion Law Collage Moot Court Society (MZLCMCS)

Vice Chairperson, Mount Zion Law Collage Moot Court Society (MZLCMCS)

Ex-Officio Member of Executive Board, Mount Zion Law Collage Moot Court Society (MZLCMCS)

President, Mount Zion Law Collage Moot Court Society (MZLCMCS)

Secretary, Mount Zion Law College Society for Advanced Jurisprudence (M-SAJ)

Treasurer, Mount Zion Law Collage Moot Court Society (MZLCMCS)

Chief Executive Coordinator for Competitions and Events, Mount Zion Law Collage Moot Court Society (MZLCMCS)
