

Sigma Delta Kappa
"A Law Fraternity"

CONSTITUTION

Alpha Phi Chapter
2006

Birmingham School of Law
205 North 20th Street
823 Frank Nelson Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35202

ARTICLE I

BASIC PURPOSE AND GOALS

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be Alpha Phi Chapter of Sigma Delta Kappa of Birmingham School of Law, Inc. It shall be a non-profit organization.

Section 2. The purpose of the Fraternity shall be to broaden the field of legal knowledge; to preserve, improve and safeguard the standards of the legal profession; to foster friendship and comradeship among the members of this organization; and to promote their moral, intellectual and professional well-being; and to further the welfare of the Birmingham School of Law.

ARTICLE II

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any duly qualified member of the Fraternity may submit in writing proposed amendments to this Constitution. Such proposed amendments shall be referred to the appropriate committee without debate, and after consideration by said committee, shall be reported to the membership. Amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the qualified members of the membership present and voting; provided, however, that an amendment to Article I, Section 1 and 2, shall require the additional written ratification of three-fourths of all active members of the chapter.

ARTICLE III

RATIFICATION

Section 1. The ratification of this Constitution shall be effected by a two-thirds vote of the qualified members of the membership present and voting.

ARTICLE IV

DEFINITIONS

Section 1. A quorum of members is defined as one-quarter current active members.

Section 2. The term "Fraternity" is defined as the Alpha Phi Chapter of Sigma Delta Kappa of Birmingham School of Law, Inc.

ARTICLE V

OFFICERS

Section 1. The names and general duties of the officers of the Fraternity are as follows:

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|--------------------|--|
| a) Chancellor | Organization, initiations, and year-end report |
| b) Vice Chancellor | Scheduling speakers for special events, planning special events, and projects |
| c) Secretary | Meeting minutes, membership lists, bylaws, bi-annual report, and ordering new member certificates and pins |
| d) Treasurer | Accounting of organization funds, and national financial reports |
| e) Baliff | Ingress and egress in meetings and production of student directory |
| f) Reporter | Preparation of newsletter and maintenance of website |
| g) Chaplain | Presides over honor court and fraternity tribunals dealing with the suspension or expulsion of a fraternity member |

Section 2. Terms of office for each officer shall be from the time the officer is elected until the subsequent regularly scheduled meeting in May.

Section 3. An Officer may not hold office in any other student organization associated with the Birmingham School of Law.

Section 4. Any Officer who is guilty of non-feasance, mis-feasance, or mal-feasance in the performance of the duties of his office or fails to cooperate in the discharge of his duties with any of the Officers, shall be removed from his office by a vote of two-thirds of the Officers of the Fraternity.

ARTICLE VI

ELECTIONS

Normal Election Process

Section 1. Normally scheduled elections will be held as follows:

Section 1(a). Nominations for general elections of officers will be held during the regularly scheduled meeting in March.

Section 1(b). Nominees are eligible for office only if they will be enrolled in the Birmingham School of Law for the entirety of their term of office.

Section 1(c). Nominees will be contacted by the officer that currently holds the position for which they have been nominated. The officer will confirm that the nominee accepts the nomination and understands the duties of the office.

Section 1(d). A Special Meeting will be held the following Tuesday beginning at 5:45 P.M. for elections of officers by ballot. Ballots will be distributed at the beginning of the Special Meeting. A box will be provided for submission of ballots. Ballots must be submitted by 6:15 P.M. Failure to submit ballots by 6:15 P.M. will result in nonacceptance of the ballot.

Section 1(e). Ballots will be tallied by two (2) non-candidate members and one (1) faculty member. Officers must be elected by a majority vote of a quorum of the membership of the Fraternity. Results will be announced as soon as practicable thereafter.

Section 1(f). Newly elected officers will officially take office at the regularly scheduled meeting in May. The month of April will be designated as a transition period by which the officers will review and inform newly elected officers of their duties and responsibilities and the status of projects and business of the Fraternity. New officers will be responsible for sending a list of newly elected officers to the Grand Secretary.

Section 1(g). The Grand Secretary and the Grand Editor shall immediately be advised of their names and addresses.

Emergency Election Process

Section 2. In the event an officer is unable or unwilling to fulfill the duties of his office, an emergency election shall take place as follows:

Section 2(a). An emergency meeting will be called at which nominations for the emergency election of officers will be taken.

Section 2(b). Nominees will be contacted by the officer that currently holds the position for which they have been nominated. The officer will confirm that the nominee accepts the nomination and understands the duties of the office.

Section 2(c). A special meeting will be held the following Tuesday beginning at 5:45 P.M. for elections of officers by ballot. Ballots will be distributed at the beginning of the Special Meeting. A box will be provided for submission of ballots. Ballots must be submitted by 6:15 P.M. Failure to submit ballots by 6:15 P.M. will result in nonacceptance of the ballot.

Section 2(d). Ballots will be tallied by two (2) non-candidate members and one (1) faculty member. Results will be announced as soon as practicable thereafter.

Section 2(e). Newly elected officers will take office as soon as the results are published to the membership.

Section 2(f). The Grand Secretary and the Grand Editor shall immediately be advised of their names and addresses.

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"A Law Fraternity"

BY-LAWS

Alpha Phi Chapter
2006

Birmingham School of Law
205 North 20th Street
823 Frank Nelson Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35202

**BY-LAWS OF THE
INTERCOLLEGIATE LAW FRATERNITY OF
SIGMA DELTA KAPPA
OF BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF LAW**

ARTICLE I

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any duly qualified member of the Fraternity may submit in writing proposed amendments to these by-laws. Such proposed amendments shall be referred to the appropriate committee without debate, and after consideration by said committee, shall be reported to the membership. Amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the qualified members of the membership present and voting.

ARTICLE II

RATIFICATION

Section 1. The ratification of these by-laws shall be effected by a two-thirds vote of the qualified members of the membership present and voting.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. No person shall be elected to membership in this Fraternity who is a member of any other professional law Fraternity.

Section 2. To be eligible for election to membership of the Fraternity, the prospective initiate shall be those students in good standing in the Birmingham School of Law, and shall have completed at least 10 semester hours with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. No person shall be eligible for election to this Fraternity who is a member of a subversive group that advocates the overthrow of the government of the United States by force or violence.

Section 3. Applications for new membership will be distributed with final grades each semester. The deadline for applications and fees will be the end of the second full week of each new term. Applications will be submitted to the Administration for membership verification during the first week following submission. Applicants will be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance by phone, mail, and or e-mail within one week of membership verification.

Section 3(a). Each new member shall be furnished with a copy of the Constitution, By-Laws and Amendments thereto, during the first regularly scheduled meeting after initiation.

Section 3(b). Attendance is strongly encouraged at each meeting. Failure to participate in the SDK activities and meetings will result in suspension or expulsion from the fraternity. Members may have no more than two consecutive absences. Members that have three consecutive absences will be placed on inactive status.

Section 3(c). No student with more than sixty (60) hours will be allowed to petition for membership unless, such student previously failed to meet grade requirements.

Section 3(d). Fraternity members must maintain good standing in the Birmingham School of Law, and must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Failure to maintain the minimum grade point average will result in the member being placed on probation for one semester. Failure by a member who has been placed on probation to raise their cumulative grade point average to the minimum required at the end of the probationary semester will result in a recommendation of suspension of the member.

Section 4. Annual dues, in the amount of \$30.00 per member are due at the first regularly scheduled meeting in October. Dues are outstanding if not paid by the regularly scheduled meeting in November. Failure to submit payment of dues by the deadline will result in suspension until such time as dues are paid in full.

Section 5. Initiation. Proceedings for initiation of new members will take place upon membership verification of each applicant. At the latest, initiation of new members will be held within six (6) weeks of acceptance of the applications.

Section 5(a). A uniform petition for initiation and membership shall be promptly filed by the Chancellor with the Grand Chapter.

Section 6. Any member of Sigma Delta Kappa who shall be convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, which conviction is affirmed by an appellate court or which is not appealed to a higher court, shall automatically cease to be a member of this Fraternity. The meaning of the words "moral turpitude" shall be determined by reference to the laws of the jurisdiction in which conviction was made.

Section 7. No member of Sigma Delta Kappa, other than one who has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, shall be expelled from membership unless he shall have a fair trial before a duly constituted tribunal of the Fraternity; provided, however, he may waive his rights hereunder in writing or by failure for sixty days to respond to notice of proceedings against him.

Section 8. Any member who so requests shall be placed on an inactive status and shall remain thereon until a request to the contrary shall have been received. Any member that has been placed on inactive status shall be excused from all Fraternity activities. No member may maintain inactive status for two consecutive semesters. Members that are placed on inactive status either voluntarily or involuntarily that maintain inactive status

for two consecutive semesters will result in a recommendation of suspension. No member that is placed on inactive status during the three semesters that precede graduation will be considered for any Fraternity specific awards at graduation.

Section 9. A member may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the membership after a hearing at a regular or special meeting of the Fraternity, provided, however, the accused member shall be entitled to appeal the decision to the Grand Chapter within thirty (30) days; provided, however, in the event of suspension because of non-payment of dues in full for a period of three (3) academic semesters, such appeal shall not be allowed; provided, further, the Chancellor of the Fraternity shall forward to the Grand Chief Justice a copy of the Minutes of the regular or special meeting at which such hearing was conducted, which Minutes shall be reviewed by the Grand Chief Justice and transmitted to the Grand Executive Committee together with the recommendations of the Grand Chief Justice. The Grand Executive Committee shall forthwith consider such recommendations and said appeal and within thirty (30) days take such action thereon as deemed proper. An appeal may be taken to the National Convention from the judgment of the Grand Executive Committee, either by the accused member or by the Chapter concerned. No member that has been suspended will be considered for any Fraternity specific awards at graduation.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

Section 1. Regularly scheduled meetings will be held the second Thursday of every month, beginning at 5:45 P.M. at an announced location.

Section 1(a). At regularly scheduled meetings, the following shall be the order of business:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll call of Officers and Members
3. Reading of Minutes of previous meeting
4. Report of Officers (if necessary)
 - a. Chancellor
 - b. Vice Chancellor
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Reporter
 - f. Chaplain
 - g. Bailiff
 - h. Alumnus Advisor
5. Reports of Special Committees
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
8. Appointments of Special Committees

9. Speaker (if applicable)
10. Open Session
11. Adjournment

Section 2. Special Meetings may be called whenever necessary upon adequate notice.

Section 3. Special Committees may be formed for the performance of necessary projects or tasks. Each committee will consist of at least three (3) members in good standing. Special Committees will be responsible for reporting business at regularly scheduled meetings.

ARTICLE V

FACULTY ADVISOR

The faculty advisor should be selected from either administration or faculty from the current Birmingham School of Law roster.

ARTICLE VI

PROJECTS OF THE FRATERNITY

Student Directory

Section 1. A Special Committee will be appointed at the beginning of September to assist the Bailiff in preparing a student directory of all BSOL students wishing to be included. This committee will be responsible for compiling a list of student names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, for the solicitation of advertising, and for preparing, printing, and distributing the student directory. The directory will be distributed during the second week of October.

Newsletters

Section 1. A newsletter will be published at least yearly by SDK. Special Committees may be appointed when necessary to assist the Reporter in preparing articles and gathering information for said newsletter. Each officer shall have the responsibility of distributing the newsletter among students.

Projects

Section 1. Each year the chapter shall choose a service oriented project, to be completed no later than March of that school year. All members must participate in the service project. This project can be repetitive on an annual basis or the chapter can choose a new one each year.

ARTICLE VII

CONTROL OF FINANCES

Section 1. The Treasurer shall maintain primary control of all financial assets of the organization, and shall maintain records concerning the financial assets. The Treasurer shall make the records available to any member upon reasonable request.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall report on the condition of the organizations assets at each regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 3. All financial accounts shall be opened in the name of Alpha Phi Chapter of Sigma Delta Kappa of Birmingham School of Law, Inc. and shall use the Employee Identification Number as provided by the Internal Revenue Service.

Section 4. Access to all accounts shall be had by a minimum of the Treasurer and Chancellor.

Section 5. All expenditures shall be authorized by a vote by a two-thirds vote of the qualified members of the membership present and voting at a regular or emergency meeting.
