

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

**Chapter I
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 in an Active Chapter, the prospective initiates shall be those students at least 18 years of age, and shall be in good standing in an accredited law school and shall have attended at least one-half of the academic standards are established by the local chapter; provided, however, that membership may be extended with the approval of the Executive Committee of the National Organization to students who are upper classmen in the pre-legal department of an accredited law school; provided further, that 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 2A. Alumni Chapters shall have initiatory powers to initiate candidates who are law students or members of the bar of any state, who meet the established requirements of membership as established by the Constitution under the following circumstances:

1. Where no Active Chapter exists;
2. Where Active Chapter is dormant, dead, or nonfunctioning;
3. By special direction of the Grand Executive Committee when it considers it to be in the best interest of the Fraternity.

Each candidate so initiated shall have full rights, duties, and responsibilities of membership in Sigma Delta Kappa.

Section 3. Honorary and faculty membership may be conferred as provided under this Constitution, provided, however, that Alumni members of such Chapter must be given the privilege of voting upon each person under such regulations as the Chapter may prescribe; provide further, that any failure to vote under this provision at the time designated shall be construed as a vote in favor of the person proposed.

Section 4. Any member in good standing may acquire a Life Membership upon payment of the sum of \$250.00 to the Grand Chapter, which payment shall relieve them from the payment of all Grand Chapter dues thereafter, and shall entitle said member to all privileges of the Fraternity, including membership in the National Convention and a paid-up life subscription to the Official Fraternity Publication.

Section 5. Students may be pledged at any time, provided, however, such student shall not be initiated into membership until they have qualified under Chapter 1, Sections 1 and 2 of the By-Laws.

Section 6. A uniform petition initiation and membership shall be promptly filed with the Grand Secretary, as provided in Chapter IV, Section 11 of the By-Laws.

Section 7. 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.

CHAPTER II NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1. The Grand Secretary and the Grand Treasurer shall furnish fidelity bonds in an amount sufficient to cover the assets of the Fraternity, the premiums for which shall be paid from the funds of the Grand Chapter; and the Grand Treasurer shall furnish proof of such bonding to the Grand President.

Section 2. There shall be paid to the Grand Secretary from the general fund such sums as are necessary to reimburse the Grand Secretary for the secretarial, clerical and incidental expenses as are necessary for the Secretary to carry out the responsibilities of the Office, provided, however, that all such expenses shall be supported by proper and sufficient documentation, and subject to the budget established at the preceding National Convention for such Office.

Section 3. The Grand President and Grand Secretary shall have power to adopt and purchase such blank forms as may be necessary to enable them to properly conduct the duties and keep the records of their respective offices.

Section 4. The Grand Secretary shall furnish a uniform receipt for the use of all chapters.

Section 5. The Grand Secretary shall prescribe uniform application and membership forms for the use of the local and alumni chapters.

Section 6. The Grand Auditor is hereby authorized to prescribe all accounting forms and the manner of rendering accounts of the Grand Chapter. The Grand Auditor shall, also, with the approval of the Executive Committee, prescribe accounting forms and the manner of rendering financial reports of local and alumni chapters.

Section 7. The Official Publication of the Fraternity shall be known as the "Si-De-Ka," and shall be issued at such times as the Board of Editors shall direct. The Board of Editors shall consist of the Grand Editor, Grand Secretary, Grand Treasurer, and associate Editors as the Grand Editor shall select. Each year the National Convention shall make an appropriation to defray the expenses of the publication of Si-De-Ka. One copy of Si-De-Ka shall be sent to each active member, and one copy to each honorary faculty and alumni member of the Fraternity who shall have paid the annual alumni dues as prescribed by Section 4 of Chapter V of these By-Laws.

Section 8. All Grand Officers must reside within one of the fifty States of the United States or the District of Columbia. Upon a change of residence of the Grand Officer to any jurisdiction beyond the fifty States or the District off Columbia, the Executive Committee shall appoint a successor.

CHAPTER III NATIONAL MEETINGS

Section 1. Each Active and Alumni Chapter in good standing shall be entitled to two delegates in the National Convention, provided, however, that when a Chapter is represented by only one delegate, that delegate shall be vested with two votes. An Alumni Member may represent an Active Chapter as a delegate therefrom in the National Convention whenever authorized by the Active Chapter.

Section 2. No Chapter indebted to the Grand Chapter in excess of \$50.00 shall be deemed in good standing nor shall such chapter be entitled to representation in National Convention.

Section 3. Each Life Member shall be entitled to one vote in the National Convention, provided, however, that such member shall be present to cast his ballot, and provided, further, that any Life Member entitled to vote in any other capacity shall not receive an additional vote by reason of their Life Membership.

Section 4. Each Grand Officer shall be entitled to one vote as such in the National Convention, provided, however, such member shall be present in person to cast their ballot.

Section 5. Before any member shall be entitled to vote in the National Convention, their credentials shall have been examined and approved by a Credentials Committee, appointed by the Grand President, provided, however, an appeal may be taken form the decision of the Credentials Committee to the accepted members of the National Convention.

Section 6. At the National Convention, the following shall be the order of business:

1. Call to order
2. Convocation (Prayer)
3. Report and address of Grand President
4. Roll call of Officers and Chapters
5. Reading of Minutes of previous Convention
6. Communications
7. Appointments of Committees:
 - A. Standing
 - B. Special
8. Report of Grand Officers
 - A. Secretary
 - B. Grand Vice President

- C. Grand Chief Justice
- D. Treasurer
- E. Auditor
- F. Editor
- G. Board of Trustees
- H. Grand Director of Membership
- I. Grand Chancellor

SECOND DAY

- 9. Call to order opening prayer
- 10. Reports of the Chapters
 - A. Active
 - B. Alumni
- 11. Reports of Standing Committees
 - A. Ritual
 - B. Necrology
 - C. Credentials
 - D. Resolutions
 - E. Rules
 - F. Convention
 - G. Budget
 - F. Nominations
- 12. Reports of Special Committees
- 13. Unfinished Business

THIRD DAY

- 14. Call to order and opening prayer
- 15. New Business
- 16. Election of Grand Officers
- 17. Installation of Grand Officers
- 18. Good of Order
- 19. Adjournment
- 20. Benediction

Section 7. The Grand President shall appoint six Standing committees on Ritual, Necrology, Credentials, Resolutions, Rules and Convention, of not less than three members each; the Grand President shall appoint such special committees as deemed desirable or as the Convention directs.

The Convention Committee shall consist of three (3) members, one member being appointed for one (1) year, one member for two years, and one member for three (3)

years. The Committee will be responsible for selecting Annual Convention sites in addition to acting as a consulting resources to the current Convention Chairman.

Section 8. The Grand Secretary shall bill and collect a Convention fee of \$50.00 from each Active Chapter and \$100 from each Alumni Chapter. The payment of said Convention fee shall constitute a condition precedent to the seating and voting of any delegate. Any inconsistent provisions contained in the Bye-Laws are hereby repealed.

Section 9. Out of each initiation fee there shall be taken the sum of \$3.00 which shall be placed in a Convention Trust Fund, except that no sum shall be taken from the initiation fee of Honorary Members to be placed in this fund. From the Convention Trust Fund, the Grand Chapter shall pay to each student delegate of an Active Chapter in good standing, in attendance and present at all Sessions, unavoidable absences excused, at the Convention an amount of the lesser of 20 cents per mile or the actual cost of public transportation from the respective Active Chapter to the place of the Convention, provided, however, that where an Active Chapter is represented by only one student delegate, then only one mileage allowance shall be paid. Provided, further that no more than two delegates from each Active Chapter shall be compensated. The mileage referred in this section shall be (Bus) mileage over the shortest route. But in no event shall any Active Chapter received this sum unless it shall have a student delegate in attendance at the Convention. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to obligate the Grand Chapter to make the above payment to active Chapters which have not complied with provisions of the By-Laws pertaining to the payment of initiation fees to the Grand Secretary; nor shall payment be made to Active Chapters who have failed to pay the Convention Fee. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to obligate the payment of more money than is available in the Trust Fund. Further, it is provided that in the event that the Trust Fund is insufficient to adequately reimburse the Active Chapter delegates as herein provided, that the actual reimbursement be within the discretion of the Executive Committee, which action can be overruled by three-fourths the majority vote of the qualified members of the Convention present and voting.

Pursuant to the 75th Convention, all payments required pursuant to Chapter III, Section 9 of the By-Laws are hereby suspended for the 76th and 77th National Convention and the status thereof shall be reviewed at the 77th National Convention. The Executive Committee is authorized to establish appropriate reimbursement subject to the financial capability of the Fraternity, during the suspension of the By-Laws.

Section 10. Reimbursement, not to exceed \$500.00 in actual travel expenses, shall be made for Grand President, Director of Membership, Grand Vice President, Grand Chief Justice, Grand Secretary, Grand Editor, Grand Chaplain, Grand Marshall, Grand Treasurer, Grand Chancellor(s), Grand Auditor and Grand Trustees who have not graduated from law school more than five (5) years prior to the date of the 82nd National Convention and the status of the By-Laws shall be reviewed at the 82nd National Convention. This reimbursement will not be made if the individual is deemed unworthy by a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee and notice of such decision is given to said individual not less than sixty (60) days prior to the commencement of the annual

convention. Pursuant to the 81st Convention, the status of said By-Laws shall be reviewed at the 82nd National Convention.

CHAPTER IV ACTIVE CHAPTERS

Section 1. The procedure for establishment of Active Chapters shall be as follows: (a) Any seven or more qualified students in an accredited law school may petition the Grand Chapter for a Chapter; (b) all such petitions shall be received, considered, and approved or rejected by the Grand Chapter after due investigation shall have been made by the Grand President or Grand Secretary; (c) Upon approval of such application and before extension of a Chapter, the petitioning group shall pay a fee of \$350.00 to the Grand Secretary, provided, however, the fee shall be \$50.00 a member where the local organization consists of more than seven members.

Section 2. Each Active Chapter shall furnish the Grand Chapter with a copy of their Constitution, By-Laws and Amendments thereto as soon as effective.

Section 3. An Active Chapter may, by a two-thirds vote, suspend any member of the Chapter after a hearing at a regular or special meeting of the Chapter, 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 Active Chapter 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.

Section 4. Expulsion from membership in Sigma Delta Kappa shall be effected by order of the Grand Chapter, according to the rules of procedure established by the Supreme Council, provided, however, any member expelled by Order of the Grand Chapter may appeal to the National Convention.

Section 5. Each Chancellor of an Active Chapter shall prepare a written report of the condition of his/her Chapter and shall submit such report to the National Convention, which report shall contain membership, financial, and other important details necessary to reflect the true condition of his/her Chapter.

Section 6. A copy of the Ritual shall be in the custody of the Officers of the Active Chapter and no Chapter shall have more than seven copies of the Ritual in its possession.

Section 7. All copies of the Ritual in possession of Active Chapters shall be transmitted to each National Convention for such changes as the National Convention may enact.

Section 8. Certificates for transfer of membership shall be issued upon request to any member when a proper application blank has been filed with the Secretary of the local chapter, accompanied with fee of 50 cents, and a report of the same be filed with the Grand Secretary.

Section 9. The failure of any local Chapter to abide by any of the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Organization, shall subject that Chapter to a fine of not more than \$25.00, the amount to be fixed by the National Convention.

Section 10. The local chapters shall regulate all dues and fees, except that no chapter can claim less than \$50.00 for initiation and except that when a local chapter desires to initiate an Honorary Member, it may not claim a fee of less than \$15.00 for such Honorary Member.

Section 11. Before any local chapter may proceed with the initiation of any candidate, said chapter must remit to and hold a receipt from the Grand Chapter for the sum of \$50.00 and the original application for initiation shall accompany the remittance of the sum above mentioned; provided, however, that a local chapter may initiate an Honorary Member, if said chapter remits to and holds a receipt from the Grand Chapter for \$15.00. Failure to comply with this Section shall be considered a gross violation of these By-Laws and the grand President and the Grand Secretary are empowered to levy a fine of \$50.00 upon the local chapter for each failure to comply with the above conditions.

Section 12. The Grand Chapter shall confer upon each member at the time of their initiation a Standard Regulation Badge and a Certificate of Membership, together with a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 13. Each Active Chapter Student Member shall pay the sum of \$20.00 to the Grand Chapter for the current calendar year which shall be known as the Grand Chapter dues. Such dues become due and payable as aforesaid the first year after the student has been initiated into the Fraternity.

Section 14. An Active Chapter Operations Manual shall be issued by the Executive Committee of the Grand Chapter, which Manual shall be followed by each Active Chapter in its operation provided that the Manual shall not conflict with the Constitution and bylaws of the Fraternity. The Manual shall be reviewed, modified, and updated as needed annually by the Executive Committee.

CHAPTER V ALUMNI CHAPTERS

Section 1. The procedure for the establishment of Alumni Chapters shall be as follows:

(1) Any five or more alumni members residing in a city where there is no Alumni Chapter may petition the Grand Chapter for a Charter; (b) Said petition shall be accompanied by a payment of \$50.00; (c) After due consideration, the Grand Chapter may issue a Charter to the petitioning group.

Section 2. Each Alumni Chapter shall be entitled to two delegates to the National Convention.

Section 3. The annual fees of alumni members shall be \$50.00, payable to the Grand Chapter for the current calendar year, and shall be known as Grand Chapter Dues.

CHAPTER VI GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. The Official Badge of the Fraternity shall be a coffin-shaped shield, which shall bear the Greek letters "SDK" and around the top edge there shall be placed six pearls when only the six virtues are to be jeweled; but if the entire outside edge of the pin is jeweled, the six virtues shall be represented by six diamonds or rubies or six large pearls at the top of the badge and the balance of the jewels shall be pearls.

Section 2. The Official Badge should be worn upon the left side, directly over the heart, on the vest or shirt (not on the coat) in a perpendicular manner.

Section 3. The official Pins and Badges of this Fraternity shall be distributed by the Grand Secretary. Any member desiring to exercise their right and privilege of wearing an Official Pin or Badge of Sigma Delta Kappa, should file written application with the Secretary of their local chapter and should deposit with the local chapter the list price of such Pin or Badge. The local secretary will forward the application together with remittance to the Grand Secretary, who will procure the insignia desired and forward to the local secretary or member making application. The Grand Secretary may require any person expelled from membership in this Fraternity to surrender any Pin or Badge issued to them, with or without refunding any part of the purchase price.

Section 4. Upon request of any member or chapter in good standing, the Grand Secretary may authorize the purchase of the proper Pin or Badge where same is to be given to an Honorary Member, or to some individual then engaged to be married to the member so applying. When the purchase of any Pin or Badge is authorized by the Grand Secretary, under this Section, the Grand Chapter shall have no title in same.

Section 5. The Grand Chapter shall at each Annual Convention appoint an Official Jeweler, who shall hold such position for one year or until his successor shall be duly chosen. Such Official Jeweler shall not sell any Official Pin or Badge to anyone except the Grand Secretary or to a person duly authorized by the Grand Secretary. The Official Jeweler shall make a contract not to sell any jewelry or article bearing the letters or insignia or symbol of this Fraternity to any person, unless the sale shall have been authorized by the Grand Secretary.

Section 6. The Executive Committee may at any time during the year change the appointment of Official Jeweler, if they shall deem the same to be for the best interest of the Fraternity unless when such appointment was made by the Grand Chapter, it was made without the power to change.

Section 7. The Coat of Arms of this Fraternity shall be a checkered shield, with six consecutive stars placed diagonally across it, and over which rests an owl supporting in his beak a pair of balance scales, and surrounding the above is a folded wreath.

Section 8. The accounting fiscal year of the Grand Chapter shall be from July 1 through June 30, inclusive.

Section 9. The Grand Chapter shall set aside as a trust fund 5% of the gross receipts of the general fund of the Grand Chapter. Such funds shall be administered by the Executive Committee, but no part of such fund shall be expended until after authorization by a National Convention and thereafter not more than 50% of said fund.

Section 10. All trust funds shall be promptly deposited in a savings account; provided, however, that the Grand Executive Committee is authorized to invest such funds in those liquid Securities permissible to trustees as allowed by the laws of the various states.

Section 11. The Grand Executive Committee is authorized to appoint a Finance Committee of not less than three members to consult with, advise, and recommend to the Grand Executive Committee on all matters relative to expenditures and investments; and to submit a budget to each National Convention, including recommendations for expense allowances to Grand Officers

CHAPTER VII

PERMANENT CHAPTER MINUTES

Section 1. The Grand Secretary shall provide a standard form for the use of the Active and Alumni Chapters, for the recording of the Minutes of all meetings and functions of the Chapters. The original of this report shall be forwarded to the Grand Secretary by the Secretary of the respective Chapters and shall become a part of the Grand Secretary's permanent record of the respective Chapter.

CHAPTER VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Any duly qualified member of the National Convention may submit in writing proposed Amendments of 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 Convention Amendments shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the qualified members of the Convention present and voting.