ARTICLE I
Name

The student government shall be known as the Hofstra University School of Law Student Bar Association (hereinafter “SBA”).

ARTICLE II
Purpose

The purpose of the SBA is to serve as a vehicle for student self government at Hofstra University School of Law; to provide for the representation of student interests in all areas of law school life, including but not limited to academic, disciplinary and Intra-University matters; to address and seek solutions to the problems of Hofstra Law students; to provide for the expressions of student views; to facilitate communication between students and the University administration, the Law School administration and faculty, as well as, the community (both legal and non-legal) at large; to foster and maintain programs necessary to assist in the study of law; to build cohesiveness and interaction among law students by promoting social activities; and to provide for the general welfare of the student body.

ARTICLE III
Composition and Duties

Section One: The SBA shall consist of twenty-one (21) voting members elected by the Hofstra Law Student Body as set forth below:

(a) Four (4) officers: a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary which shall be elected by students enrolled as a member of the classes to be represented in the upcoming academic year in an election immediately preceding the Spring semester break to serve the last day of the last full week of Spring semester until the last day of the last full week of the following Spring semester.

(b) One (1) American Bar Association Representative who shall be elected by the entirety of the student body in an election immediately preceding the Spring semester break to serve the last day of the full week of Spring semester until the last day of the last full week of the following Spring semester.

(c) Five (5) first year student representatives, two (2) from each section of the full time day program and one (1) from the part time evening program, shall be elected by the incoming first year class in an election held no later than four (4) weeks into the school year. Only first year students may participate in the election of these representatives and may only vote in the election of their individual section’s representative. Each first year representative serves from the day the first year election results are certified in accordance with ARTICLE VIII to the last day of the last full week of Spring Semester.

(d) Five (5) second year student representatives, four (4) from the full time day program and one (1) from the part time evening program, shall be elected from the then first year class in an
election immediately preceding the Spring semester break to serve the last day of the last full week of Spring semester until the last day of the last full week of the following Spring semester.

(e) Five (5) third year student representatives, four (4) from the full time day program and one (1) from the part time evening program, shall be elected from the then second year class in an election immediately preceding the Spring semester break to serve the last day of the last full week of the Spring semester until the last day of the last full week of the following Spring semester.

(f) One (1) fourth year student representative from the part time evening program shall be elected from the then third year evening program class in an election immediately preceding the Spring semester break to serve the last day of the last full week of the Spring semester until the last day of the last full week of the following Spring semester.

Section Two: Any Hofstra Law student is eligible for a position on the SBA provided:

(a) The student is enrolled as a member of the class and/or section to be represented, as set forth in ARTICLE II, Section One, Subdivisions (a)-(e); and
(b) The student has paid their Student Activity Fee; and
(c) The student is not be on academic or disciplinary probation or suspension.

Section Three: Powers of the SBA:

(a) Shall manage the allocation process of the Student Activity Fund in accordance with the SBA Budget Code.
(b) Shall represent the interests and views of their fellow students.
(c) Shall provide social, educational and any other type of programming desired by the student body.
(d) Shall create committees as necessary to carry out these responsibilities.

Section Four: Duties of SBA Executive Officers:

(a) The President, as Chief Executive Officer, shall preside over all SBA meetings, prepare an agenda for each meeting and post such agenda on the SBA bulletin board or electronically at least two (2) full days before the SBA meeting; faithfully communicate all SBA decisions to the student body; authorize the Treasurer to release previously allocated Student Activity Funds in accordance with the budget determinations of the SBA’s Budget Committee; and perform other duties as deemed necessary by the SBA.
(b) The Vice President shall serve as a liaison to all student organizations in all matters except financial, chair the Constitution Committee, serve in the capacity of the President, due to his or her disability, resignation or removal, perform all duties set forth in Section Four (a) of this Article, and assume other duties as deemed necessary by the SBA.
(c) The Treasurer shall dispense all previously allocated Student Activity Funds upon authorization of the President and keep faithful accounting of the financial records of each student organization as well as that of the SBA, preside over the Budget Committee and conduct a mandatory meeting for all student groups seeking funds to explain the budget process no later than two (2) weeks after the first day of classes.
(d) The Secretary shall keep a faithful account of the proceedings of each SBA meeting, post a copy of the minutes of each SBA meeting no later than two (2) days after the meeting and maintain the governing documents of the organization including the Constitution.

(e) All officers are ex-officio members of all SBA committees.

Section Five: Duties of the American Bar Association Representative:

(a) Shall attend all SBA general body and committee meetings.
(b) Shall serve as the liaison between the Hofstra University School of Law and the American Bar Association Law Student Division (ABA/LSD)
(c) Shall attend ABA/LSD events (including but not limited to the Fall and Spring Roundtables and the annual meeting)

Section Six: Duties of the Class Representatives:

(a) Shall attend all SBA general body and committee meetings.
(b) Shall serve on either the Budget or Constitution Committee of the SBA.
Shall organize one (1) event, program or project each semester that benefits either the entirety of the student body or the particular class.

Section Seven: Duties of Appointed Positions:

(a) Shall be approved by a majority vote of the SBA to be created.
(b) Shall not have a vote on the SBA.
(c) Shall have a defined purpose and function relevant to the general welfare of the student body.
(d) Shall organize one (1) event, program or project each semester that benefits the entirety of the student body.

ARTICLE IV
Meetings

Section One: Meetings of the SBA shall be held at least six (6) times each semester and at other times deemed necessary. Scheduled meetings shall be announced at least a week in advance to SBA members and the student body.

Section Two: As deemed necessary and appropriate by two thirds (2/3) vote of those members of the SBA present, the board may meet in executive session, closed to public comment, but open to silent observation. In matters of an extremely sensitive nature, the public may be excluded by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the board, only if there is quorum of two thirds (2/3) present.

Section Three: A quorum of SBA members requires fifty percent (50%) plus one of voting members in attendance. A quorum is necessary for all SBA transactions. If there is no quorum, the SBA members present may not vote on any matter except to adjourn to a later date with notice to the absent SBA members and the public.
Section Four: A majority vote of the SBA members present is required for all SBA business, except as otherwise specified in the Constitution.

Section Five: Upon the petition of at least 12% of the current student body, an SBA meeting must be called, but such a meeting is limited in scope to those items specifically listed in the petition unless a majority of the SBA votes otherwise.

Section Six: All items and matter of procedure not covered under this Constitution shall be referred to Robert’s Rules of Order where reasonable and necessary.

ARTICLE V
Committees

Section One: There will be two standing committees of the SBA each with an equal number of representatives from each class:

(a) Constitution Committee: maintains the governing documents of the SBA including amendments and drafting.
(b) Budget Committee: allocates the Student Activity Fund in accordance with the SBA Budget Code.

Section Two: The SBA may create ad hoc committees as required to assist it in the conduct of student affairs. To be created, these committees must have a narrowly tailored purpose and the majority vote of the SBA. Meetings of such committees shall be held in accordance with ARTICLE IV.

Section Three: The SBA shall, by majority vote, appoint the student members of faculty committees from among interested students who submitted resumes and applications. The SBA shall post notice of committee vacancies on the bulletin board or via email in cooperation with the Office of Student Affairs. Once the SBA makes a determination on the student representatives to faculty committees, the Dean of the law school conducts a final review for approval.

ARTICLE VI
Student Activity Fund

Section One: Allocations and disbursements shall be at the discretion of the SBA based on the criteria set forth below and in accordance with the SBA Budget Code.

(a) Organizations that receive Student Activity Funds must open their membership to all Hofstra Law Students, allow their members to democratically elect the leadership of their organization, maintain complete and open financial records, and serve the interests of the entire student body.
(b) All funds must be spent in connection with Hofstra Law related activities.
(c) The SBA may revoke the funding of any group that violates the regulations provided in the SBA Budget Code so long as the affected organization has been provided with the regulations and has been given a chance to be heard before the SBA.

(d) No organization may be denied funds because of the race, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation of its members of the underlying philosophy of the organization.

(e) In making budget allocations, the SBA shall respect the editorial independence and integrity of student media.

(f) All allocations must be content neutral as to the purpose and mission of the organization.

(g) Such allocations must be made by a recommendation of allocations from the Budget Committee, followed by the majority vote of the SBA.

Section Two: The recipients of any Student Activity Fund allocations shall have the responsibility for the strict accounting of their fiscal records.

Section Three: Student Activity Fund allocations shall be made during the Fall semester after the First Year Representatives assume office. Provisional allocations are permissible prior to that time as detailed in the SBA Budget Code. The SBA may:

(a) Allocate matching funds to groups that fulfill the requirements of Section I, Subdivision (a), but want to provide some of their own funding;

(b) Allocate funds outright to support activities for the benefit of the law students and that in good conscience should be paid for by the Student Body and not the members of the organization; and

(c) Co-sponsor any worthy program benefiting the Hofstra Law student body.

Section Four: New Organizations:

(a) Shall only be eligible for funding its first year if approved by a majority vote of the SBA before December 1 of that academic year and after meeting all the necessary qualifications.

(b) Shall receive no more then the allowable amount indicated in the SBA Budget Code.

(c) Shall meet the current guidelines set forth by the SBA New Organization form.

Section Five: All increases in the Student Activity fee must be approved by a two thirds (2/3) vote of SBA members and affirmed by a majority vote in a Student Referendum.

ARTICLE VII
Representatives

Section One: The Bar Association Representatives shall faithfully represent Hofstra Law School to their respective organizations through communications and attendance at meetings and events. The SBA shall have an appointed student representative to each of the following bar associations:

(a) New York State Bar Association
(b) Nassau County Bar Association
Section Two: The University Senate Student Representative shall faithfully represent the interests of the Hofstra Law students to the University Senate.

Section Three: Candidates for the positions in sections one and two must meet the qualifications contained in ARTICLE III, Section Two, Subdivisions (a)-(c).

Section Four: The representative positions outlined in Sections One and Two of this Article shall be filled by qualified and interested students appointed by the SBA. The SBA shall post notice of such positions and solicit applications and resumes.

ARTICLE VIII
Elections

Section One: Election Manager:

(a) Shall be in accordance with ARTICLE III, Section Two, Subdivision (a)-(c).
(b) Shall be appointed by the SBA and approved by a majority vote.
(c) Shall oversee the entire SBA election process both during the First Year Representatives elections in Fall and the General elections in Spring.
(d) Shall remain completely unbiased toward election results.
(e) Shall supervise election results and resolve disputes arising from the election.
(f) Shall serve until the last day of the last full week of Spring semester.

Section Two: The First Year Representative elections shall be held within four (4) weeks of the start of school.

Section Three: The General elections shall be held immediately prior to the Spring semester break and extended as necessary to insure maximum participation. All current law students who at the end of Spring semester are in good standing and who have paid their Student Activity Fee, shall be eligible to vote for: one (1) President, one (1) Vice President, one (1) Treasurer, one (1) Secretary, and one (1) American Bar Association Representative.

Section Four: In addition, currently enrolled Third Year Students shall vote for one (1) Student Representative to speak at commencement exercises on their behalf as well as for one (1) Teacher of the Year. Recipients of the Teacher of the Year award are ineligible to receive the award again the following year.

Section Five: All candidates for SBA positions must submit a candidate statement and petition to the Election Managers by the deadline advertised on the election packet. Each petition must be signed by at least twenty five (25) current law students from the appropriate constituency. Candidates must be provided with at least five days to collect signatures.

Section Six: Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in disqualification.
ARTICLE IX
Vacancies

Section One: Any SBA member who has two (2) unexcused absences to SBA meetings during their term of office will be subject to removal after a hearing. If the SBA member does not appear at the hearing, the SBA members shall automatically be removed from office.

Section Two: A two thirds (2/3) vote of the SBA is required for the removal of any SBA member for cause.

Section Three: Upon notice of a resignation, removal, or otherwise incapacity of the President of the SBA, the Vice President shall assume the office of President. All other vacancies shall be filled by an appointment by a majority vote from applications accepted from qualified and interested students. The SBA shall post notice two (2) weeks prior to the appointment.

Section Four: Upon petition signed by at least 12% of the current student body calling for the removal of a SBA member, the SBA must, by a two thirds (2/3) vote, decide if a hearing is necessary, and if a hearing is deemed necessary, schedule a hearing at which, by a two thirds (2/3) vote, the SBA can remove the SBA member.

Section Five: Any elected student office is subject to a recall election if deemed necessary by a petition signed by 15% of that student’s constituents. Any recall petition must be presented to the Elections Manager, who shall have one week to determine whether a sufficient number of students have signed the petition and schedule the recall votes. For recall to be successful, it must pass by a two thirds (2/3) majority of those voting or total vote to remove must be greater than the total vote when elected.

ARTICLE X
Amendment Process

Section One: This Constitution may be amended by a recommendation by the Constitution Committee and a two thirds (2/3) vote of the SBA after adequate public notice and two (2) scheduled public hearings held at least fourteen (14) days before the vote; or

Section Two: This Constitution may be amended by a majority (1/2) vote of the Law School Student Body in a referendum held during the Spring semester election. At least two (2) public hearings on any amendments must be held at least fourteen days before the referendum. The referendum may be called by either a majority of the SBA of by a petition signed by at least 12% of the Student Body.
ARTICLE XI
Adoption

This Constitution takes effect immediately upon its adoption by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the law students in a referendum.

ARTICLE XII
Reference

Copies of this Constitution shall be kept in the following manner: Ten (10) copies on reserve in the Law Library, two (2) copies at the SBA office, one (1) copy with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, one (1) electronic copy on the SBA website and one (1) with the SBA Secretary.

Revised: 4/1/1998, 2/6/2005