

**UNIVERSITY OF DENVER STURM COLLEGE OF LAW  
STUDENT ETHICS BOARD**

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**Article I: Name**

- A. The name of this organization shall be the Student Ethics Board (SEB) of the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver.

**Article II: Purpose and Mission**

- A. The Student Ethics Board exists to promote, uphold, and foster a culture of ethical conduct, professionalism, integrity, and respect within the Sturm College of Law community. The SEB serves as an educational, advisory, and investigative body concerning student conduct matters that implicate ethical responsibilities, both academic and professional.
- B. The mission of the SEB is to:
- a. Educate students regarding professional and academic ethical standards;
  - b. Provide peer-led resources and programming to promote ethical decision-making;
  - c. Review and address alleged violations of the Student Code of Conduct, Honor Code, or other applicable ethical standards, as authorized by the administration;
  - d. Serve as a liaison between the student body and administration on matters of ethics and professionalism.

**Article III: Authority**

- A. The SEB operates under the authority granted by the Student Bar Association and the administration of the Sturm College of Law and in coordination with the University of Denver's Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities, the Honor Code, and any applicable law school policies.
- B. The SEB's recommendations and findings may be advisory or binding based on the scope of authority delegated by the law school administration.

**Article IV: Composition**

Section 4.1 Membership

- A. The SEB shall consist of:
  - a. One (1) Chairperson, elected who shall also serve as the SEB Delegate to the SBA Senate;
  - b. A minimum of four (4) and a maximum of eight (8) student members, selected through an application and interview process appointed by the SBA President and confirmed by the SBA Senate;
  - c. One (1) faculty advisor, appointed by the Dean of Students or their designee;
  - d. Additional non-voting administrative liaisons, as designated by the Dean.

#### Section 4.2 Standing

- A. Student members must be in good academic standing and free of any current disciplinary sanctions. Diversity of class year, background, and perspective will be considered in member selection.

#### Section 4.3 Term Limits

- A. Student members shall serve for one (1) academic year, beginning at the start of the fall semester and concluding at the end of the spring semester.
- B. A student member may be renewed for one (1) additional academic year, for a maximum total service of two (2) consecutive academic years.
- C. Renewal is not automatic, and requires reapplication or affirmative reappointment by the SBA President, confirmed by the Senate.
- D. The Chairperson shall serve for one (1) academic year and may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms in that role.
  - a. Time served as a student member prior to serving as Chair does not count toward the Chair's Term Limit
- E. The Faculty Advisor serves at the discretion of the Dean of Students and is not subject to the term limits applicable to student members.

#### Section 4.4 Grace Period and Automatic Removal

- A. Any board member who is no longer in good standing or is subject to disciplinary measures during their term must notify the Chair and Faculty Advisor in writing within five (5) business days of becoming aware of the change in status. If the Chair is the affected member, notice shall be provided to the SBA President directly.
- B. Upon receiving notice, or upon independent discovery by the Chair or SBA President, the Chair or SBA President shall initiate a review within ten (10) business days. A complete review shall include:
  - a. Confirmation of the member's current academic disciplinary status with the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities or the Registrar, as appropriate; and
  - b. Written notice to the affected member that a review is underway, with an opportunity to provide a written response within five (5) business days.
  - c. Following the review, one of the following outcomes will be selected by the SEB:

- i. Grace Period. If the loss of good standing is due to a temporary or remediable academic issue, the Faculty Advisor, in consultation with the Chair, may grant a Grace Period not to exceed one (1) academic semester. During the Grace Period, the member may continue to participate in non-investigative functions of the SEB but shall be recused from all active proceedings. If good standing is not restored by the end of the Grace Period, removal is automatic.
  - ii. Automatic Removal. If the loss of good standing results from a formal disciplinary sanction, an Honor Code violation finding, or any matter directly implicating the member's ethical fitness, removal shall be automatic and effective immediately upon confirmation of the change in status. No additional vote is required.
  - iii. Reinstatement. A member who is automatically removed solely on the basis of a GPA deficiency that is subsequently corrected within the same academic year may petition the Faculty Advisor for reinstatement. Reinstatement is discretionary and shall not extend the member's original term.
- C. Any vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the SBA Constitution and its By-Laws.

## **Article V: Responsibilities**

### Section 5.1 Duties

- A. The Student Ethics Board shall have the following duties:
- a. Develop and deliver educational programming on ethics, professionalism, and integrity;
  - b. Serve as a peer resource for students seeking guidance on ethical dilemmas;
  - c. Review alleged ethical violations referred by students, faculty, or administration, consistent with law school policies;
  - d. Review alleged ethical violations within the SBA and their affiliated organizations and provide the SBA with formal reports upon request;
  - e. Conduct a character and fitness assessment for any candidates seeking elected office on the SBA;
  - f. Provide student recommendations in the hiring of tenure track professors;
  - g. Make recommendations to the administration regarding the resolution of ethical matters, where appropriate;
  - h. Maintain confidentiality of all proceedings and materials, except as required by law or university policy; and
  - i. Provide an annual report to the Dean and SBA Senate summarizing the SEB's activities, programming, and recommendations.

### Section 5.2 Procedures

- A. All members of the SEB shall maintain confidentiality of all proceedings and materials, except as required by law, University policy, or this charter.

- a. All investigative records, findings, and deliberations shall be accessible only to Board members directly involved in the matter, the Faculty Advisor, and designated administrative liaisons.
- b. Records shall be retained for a minimum of five (5) years from the date of resolution, after which they may be destroyed in accordance with University records retention policy.
- c. Any member who discloses confidential information without authorization shall be subject to removal under this Charter.
- d. Parties to a proceeding may access records directly pertaining to their matter upon written request to the Chair.

#### **Article VI: Meetings**

- A. The SEB shall meet at least once per month during the academic year. Additional meetings may be convened by the Chair or at the request of the faculty advisor or administration.
- B. A quorum, defined as a majority of the voting student members, must be present to conduct official business.

#### **Article VII: Removal**

##### Section 7.1 Grounds

- A. A SEB member, including the Chairperson, may be removed for:
  - a. Violation of confidentiality obligations;
  - b. Loss of good academic standing or imposition of disciplinary sanctions;
  - c. A conflict of interest that was not properly disclosed;
  - d. Failure to attend three (3) or more meetings without prior notice to the Chair; or
  - e. Other conduct unbecoming of a member of the SEB.

##### Section 7.2 Proceeding

- A. Removal proceedings may be initiated by the Faculty Advisor, the Chair, or a majority of voting student members.
- B. The affected member shall receive written notice of the grounds for removal at least seven (7) days before any vote.
  - a. The member shall have the opportunity to respond in writing and to address the SEB before a vote is taken

##### Section 7.3 Removal Threshold

- A. Removal requires a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of all voting student members, excluding the member under review, and confirmation by the Faculty Advisor.

##### Section 7.4 Chairperson Removal

- A. If the Chairperson is subject to removal proceedings, the Faculty Advisor shall preside of the process in place of the Chair.

##### Section 7.5 Appeal

- A. A removed member may appeal to the Dean of Students within ten (10) days of the removal vote. The Dean's decision shall be final.

**Article VIII: Amendments**

- A. This Charter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the SBA Senate, with approval from the faculty advisor and the Dean or their designee.

**Article IX: Adoption**

- A. This SEB shall become effective upon approval by the SBA Senate and Dean of the Sturm College of Law and shall remain in effect until amended or dissolved by the Dean or the University of Denver administration.