



CONSTITUTION

I: MISSION: The mission of the Nova Board of Advocates is to train and prepare students to be elite advocates by participating in and hosting advocacy competitions and advanced advocacy trainings.

The Nova Board of Advocates is a combination of the NSU Moot Court Society and the Nova Trial Association. This merger occurred in the spring of 2024.

II: Advocacy Director: This is a faculty member assigned by the dean to oversee the advocacy activities of NSU Law including but not limited to supervision of the Board of Advocates. The Advocacy Director will have the following responsibilities as they relate to the Board of Advocates:

1. The Advocacy Director, through a tryout process and/or a point system based upon activities of the Board of Advocates will select those who are eligible to be offered initial acceptance to the Board of Advocates. Once admitted the Advocacy Director may not disqualify any member except as set forth in this constitution.
2. The Advocacy Director will through a rigorous audition process select members for the Board of Advocates. If a student accepts, they cannot be removed except under conditions set forth in this constitution.
3. Be responsible for all Board of Advocacy activities and shall be an active participant in all events and competitions.
4. Select and assign all the coaches for all interscholastic teams.
5. Select and assign all the student participants for all interscholastic teams.
6. Select all interscholastic competitions that NSU will participate in.
7. Allocate appropriate funds from the Advocacy Budget for activities for competitions and the Board of Advocates.

III: BOARD OF ADVOCATES OFFICERS and ROLES

Chairman: Leader of the organization, responsible for all activities and will report weekly to the Advocacy Director.

Vice Chair of Moot / Vice Chair of Trial: These people will be responsible for assisting all moot or trial activities including setting up and scheduling practice judges, scrimmages, boot camps, and other informational sessions for 1Ls in preparation for Dobson, Feinrider and the 1L LRW oral arguments.

Competitions: This person will work closely with the Advocacy Director to organize, facilitate, advertise, and run all competitions hosted by NSU law both internally and externally.

External Relations: This person will be point person for reaching out to the legal community for events and to request judges for competitions. This person should serve as a liaison between area bar associations and Inns of Court as well as any specialty bar areas from the Florida Bar Association. This person will also work with Membership Chair to maintain and update alumni data bases.

Community Service: This person will work closely with the Advocacy Director to identify and fulfill community service activities with the University School and other entities that we can serve. Activities include the 3rd grade Mock Trial and the 11th and 12th grade Criminal Moot Court Class that will end with oral arguments (Will need an army to supply and teach the University School moot – 10 people that the officer will need to recruit.)

Membership: This person will not only keep track of the activities of the current members but will reach out to update and maintain a data base of advocacy alumni so that we can keep them updated on NSU activities and get them to come judge when needed. Perhaps a quarterly “magazine” update to alumni would help maintain a connection. This person will also collect and maintain all dues.

Publications: This person would work closely with the Advocacy Director to set up, maintain, and facilitate the Nova Board of Advocates online presence on popular social media platforms. Not only will they highlight teams but also the individual members, coaches, and helpful alums. This person will also create a tri-annual newsletter for alumni.

IV: GOOD STANDING:

In order to be in good standing, a member must have a GPA above 2.80 and meet the minimum number of required organizational activities including, but not limited to, assisting teams for competitions, running intermural competitions, community service activities, and social engagements. To be in good standing, a member must have zero (0) strikes on their record.

If a member falls out of good standing for any reason, they will be placed on probation for one (1) semester to cure any deficiencies. Students may join the Board on probation if, for example, they are just below the minimum required GPA. If a member ends a semester with strikes, those carry over into the next semester.

Members not in good standing by April 1 (November 1 if fall graduate) of their graduating year at the time of graduation shall not be allowed to claim membership in the Board of Advocates or wear a Board of Advocates stole or cord.

V: MEMBER OBLIGATIONS:

Members are all expected to participate or be available to participate in all “Command Performance” events and participate in at least three (3) activities from the menu of “Team Building” activities.

“Command Performance” events are all events hosted by the Board of Advocates such as any regional or national tournament and all the internal competitions such as Dobson Closing Argument and Feinrider Moot Court as well as community service activities. The Advocacy Director may also designate events as “Command Performance” events but must do so at least three (3) months before the event so members can plan appropriately.

“Team Building” activities are the menu items, and each member must complete three (3) menu items each semester. This includes being a juror for a different trial team; being a scrimmage team (this counts as 2 but you must do two trials); benching a moot practice for a team that you are not on; being a witness for a trial team practice; helping with

Feinrider workshops; and other events added by the Advocacy Director or Chairman of the Board.

VI: DISCIPLINE AND DISMISSAL:

Members that fail to meet their obligations will receive a strike. If a member receives three (3) strikes without curing any strikes, they will be dismissed from the organization. A member will be provided an opportunity to erase or cure a strike by participating in three (3) additional menu items above the three (3) required. (3 additional items cures 1 strike). If members know they are potentially going to miss a “Command Performance” event later in the semester, it is their responsibility to work off that strike earlier in the semester.

Missing a “Command Performance” event is two (2) strikes unless there is a valid excuse preapproved by a majority of the Executive Council. If an excuse is granted, then only one (1) strike will be issued for missing a “Command Performance” event.

Failing to satisfy the “Team Building” activities will count as one (1) strike. No excuses are permitted.

VII: ELECTIONS:

Elections for the Executive Council Members shall take place in April of every year. Only members that are in their third-year (full-time) or fourth-year (part-time) are eligible to run for office. The Executive Council will be selected by the rising senior members of the Nova Board of Advocates and the prior executive council. Whomever receives the most votes for a particular office wins that office.

VIII: DUES

Each year members will pay annual dues as set by the Executive Council. The dues will cover costs for organizational activities but will not be used for competitions. The Membership chair will collect the dues.

IX: AMENDMENTS

This organizational document can be amended at any time with a 75% vote of the Executive Council and consent of the Advocacy Director.

2024-25 Executive Council Members

Chairman: Luiza Biaggi
Vice-Chair Trial: Alexandria Birk
Vice-Chair Moot: Maxwell Baroody
Competitions: Alexa Brin
Membership: Pantea Atashbar
Publications: Nisa Moses
External Relations: Zachary Brill
Community Service: Ivania Teran & Carolina Hernandez

2025-26 Executive Council Members

Chairman:
Vice-Chair Trial:
Vice-Chair Moot:
Competitions:
Membership:
Publications:
External Relations:
Community Service:

2026-27 Executive Council Members

Chairman:
Vice-Chair Trial:
Vice-Chair Moot:
Competitions:
Membership:
Publications:
External Relations:
Community Service: