THE RULES OF THE SOCIETY OF LEGAL SCHOLARS

1. NAME

The Society shall be styled:
'THE SOCIETY OF LEGAL SCHOLARS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND'.

2. OBJECTS

The object of the Society shall be the advancement of legal education in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In furtherance of this object, but not further or otherwise, the Society shall have the following powers:
(a) to hold discussions and enquiries;
(b) to publish documents; and,
(c) to take such other steps as may from time to time be deemed desirable.

3. DEFINITION OF LEGAL SCHOLARS

For the purpose of these Rules, the expression 'legal scholars in the United Kingdom and Ireland' shall include
(1) all persons regularly and continuously engaged in law teaching and/or legal scholarship in the United Kingdom or Ireland by virtue of an appointment by a university, university college, or any other Higher Education institution, which is currently providing law teaching for a degree or a postgraduate legal qualification,
(2) or any other person or class of person involved in law teaching and/or legal scholarship and approved by the Council. The Council may require evidence of such qualifications if it thinks fit; and on any question that may arise as to the interpretation and application of this Rule the decision of the Council shall, unless and until reversed by a general meeting of the Society, be conclusive.

4. MEMBERSHIP

There shall be four classes of Members of the Society, to be called respectively:

(a) Ordinary Members (rule 5)
(b) Honorary Members (rule 6)
(c) Emeritus/Emerita Members (rule 7)
(d) Associate Members (rule 8)

The Council shall prescribe from time to time what publications shall be delivered to each Member as well as what information shall be accessible to each member *via* the internet, providing that the Council may prescribe differently for different classes of members.

5. ORDINARY MEMBERS

(1) Persons engaged in law teaching and/or legal scholarship in the United Kingdom or Ireland as prescribed in Rule 3 above are eligible to become Ordinary Members of the Society.
(2) An eligible individual becomes an Ordinary Member of the Society once their application for membership has been accepted by the Honorary Treasurer and the required subscription has been paid.

(3) Any university, university college, or any other Higher Education institution in the United Kingdom or Ireland may pay for eligible individuals within its employ to be Ordinary members.
(4) A list of all new Ordinary members will be placed before Council.
(5) In the event of an application for membership being refused, the individual may submit their application to Council which may approve it or refer the question to the next general meeting of the Society, whose decision shall be final.
(6) In the event of an application for membership being accepted of a person who is not eligible under (1) Council may refuse to approve the application or refer the question to the next general meeting of the Society, whose decision shall be final.

6. HONORARY MEMBERS

(1) Any person who has in times past been engaged in law teaching and/or legal scholarship in the United Kingdom or Ireland, any person who is or has been so engaged in other countries, and any person interested in legal education who shall have conferred important benefits on the Society or on legal education, may be invited by the Council to become, and shall on giving her or his consent become, an Honorary Member of the Society.
(2) Honorary members shall not be called upon for any subscription. They shall be entitled on the same terms as an ordinary member to attend the Society's Annual Conference and other activities promoted by the Society, but they shall have no voting rights.

7. EMERITUS/EMERITA MEMBERS

(1) The Council may elect to be an Emeritus/Emerita Member of the Society in recognition of services rendered to legal education any person who is or has been a member of the Society and who has ceased or substantially ceased to be engaged in law teaching and/or legal scholarship as prescribed in Rule 3 above.
(2) Emeritus/Emerita members shall not be called upon for any subscription. They shall be entitled on the same terms as an ordinary member to attend the Society's Annual Conference and other activities promoted by the Society, but they shall have no voting rights.

8. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

(1) The following are eligible to apply to be Associate Members:
(i) Persons engaged in law teaching and/or legal scholarship who have ceased or substantially ceased to hold a post entitling them to Ordinary membership under Rule 5;
(ii) Persons engaged in law teaching and/or legal scholarship by virtue of an appointment held in a law school outside the United Kingdom and Ireland.
(2) An eligible individual becomes an Associate Member of the Society once their application for membership has been accepted by the Honorary Treasurer and the required subscription has been paid.
(3) Any university, university college, or any other Higher Education institution outside the United Kingdom or Ireland may pay for eligible individuals within its employ to be Associate members.
(4) A list of all new Associate members will be placed before Council.
(5) In the event of an application for membership being refused, the individual may submit their application to Council which may approve it or refer the question to the next general meeting of the Society, whose decision shall be final.

(6) In the event of an application for membership being accepted of a person who is not eligible under (1) Council may refuse to approve the application or refer the question to the next general meeting of the Society, whose decision shall be final.
(7) Associate members shall have no voting rights in any Society affairs, although they shall be entitled on the same terms as an Ordinary Member to attend the Society's Annual Conference and other activities promoted by the Society.

9. SUBSCRIPTIONS

(1) The expenses of the Society shall be met from subscriptions of Members of the Society and from such funds as the Society may by donation or otherwise acquire.
(2) The amount of the annual subscription of each Ordinary and Associate Member shall be prescribed from time to time by the Council and shall be payable by standing order (or such other method as the Honorary Treasurer allows or requires) delivered to the Honorary Treasurer along with the application to join the Society.
(3) No Ordinary Member shall vote at any meeting or election whilst her or his subscription is in arrears.
(4) A delay of twelve months in payment of any subscription shall *ipso facto* in the absence of an excuse satisfactory to the Council be equivalent to resignation by the member concerned, who may not rejoin the Society without paying the arrears.

10. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP

Any member wishing to suspend their membership for a period of up to twelve months may request this in advance by writing to the Honorary Treasurer. The suspension will take effect at the end of the last full year for which the member's last subscription was paid.

11. RESIGNATION

Any member wishing to resign shall do so in writing sent to the Honorary Treasurer to take effect at the end of the last full year for which the member's last subscription was paid.

12. THE FUNDS OF THE SOCIETY

(1) All subscriptions and other property received for the purposes of the Society shall be kept by the Honorary Treasurer under the supervision of the Council. The Council shall have power to direct or approve the expenditure of the Society's funds in such manner as they think fit in accordance with these Rules, but shall ordinarily leave matters of expenditure to the Executive Committee.
(2) The Council may allow any of the funds of the Society to remain at any bank in the name of the Society and may authorise an Officer to draw thereon.
(3) Any part of the funds of the Society may be invested in the names of not less than two nor more than four holding Trustees who shall be Ordinary or Associate or Emeritus Members of the Society in or upon the purchase of or at interest upon the security of such stocks funds shares securities or other property of whatsoever nature and wheresoever and whether involving liabilities or not as the Council shall in their absolute discretion think fit.
(4) The Trustees for the time being shall give effect to any directions given from time to time by the Council and shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the funds of the Society against any claims or liability arising from acts done under such direction as aforesaid.

(5) The Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removal from office by the Council. Where by reason of such age, death, resignation or removal it is necessary to appoint a new Trustee or new Trustees the Council shall nominate the person or persons to be appointed and the President for the time being shall appoint the person or persons so nominated.
(6) The Council may revocably delegate its powers of directing investments and of directing the variation and transposition of investments to the Trustees or to the Honorary Treasurer and the Trustees who shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the funds of the Society against any claim or loss arising from any act done in good faith in exercise of the powers so delegated.

13. OFFICERS

(1) The Officers of the Society shall be:
- (i) a President,
- (ii) a Vice-President,
- (iii) an Honorary Treasurer
- (iv) an Honorary Secretary,
- (v) an Honorary Membership Secretary,
- (vi) a Secretary of the Subject Sections,
- (vii) a Convenor for Scotland, and
- (viii) a Convenor for Ireland.

(2) The expected term of office for all Officers is five years, save for the President and Vice-President, who each serve for one year. No officer may serve more than two consecutive terms of five years in the same office.
(3) There shall be an Administrative Secretary who shall be expected to be in attendance at meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Council.

14. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(1) The Officers of the Society shall be elected from among the Ordinary Members of the Society at its Annual General Meeting in accordance with the following procedure.
(2) Any Ordinary Member is eligible for election. Their nomination must be supported by a proposer and seconder and signed by the individual being nominated. Such nomination must be notified to the Honorary Secretary at least eight weeks before the Annual General Meeting.
(3) It shall be the duty of the Honorary Secretary to circulate all duly notified nominations to all Ordinary Members in due time for the Annual General Meeting. In the event of no nomination for an office having been duly notified eight weeks before the Annual General Meeting, it shall be the duty of the Council to present a suitable nomination at the meeting.
(4) In the event of nominations for an office in excess of the vacancies notified, then an election shall be convened prior to the Annual General Meeting. The election will be conducted in accordance with rules prescribed by the Council and the outcome reported to the Annual General Meeting for ratification.
(5) The period of office for all roles except that of President runs from 1st October to 30th September in the calendar year following the election.
(6) The person elected as Vice-President automatically becomes President the year after.
(7) Officers are subject to re-election annually.
(8) Any casual vacancy occurring among the Officers or the Council may be provisionally filled by the Council until the next Annual General Meeting or annual election of Council respectively.

15. COUNCIL

(1) The affairs of the Society shall be controlled by a Council, consisting of

(i) the officers of the Society;
(ii) the Vice-President Elect
(iii) former Presidents of the Society for a period of three years from their ceasing to hold office as such;
(iv) the chairs of any committee of the Society;
(v) the Editors of the Society's publications;
(vi) the Social Media Director;
(vii) Ordinary Members co-opted under rule 16;
(viii) Ordinary Members elected as Constituency representatives under rule 17.

(2) Subject to the control of any general meeting, the Council shall be entitled to take any action on behalf of the Society which it shall deem to be conducive to the interests of the Society. It shall be the duty of the President to present a brief report on his or her year of office.

16. CO-OPTED MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Council may from time to time co-opt, for any period not exceeding three years, not more than three Ordinary Members of the Society to serve on the Council, and may renew such appointments from time to time.

17. ELECTION TO COUNCIL

(1) Elections to Council of Constituency representatives under rule 15(1)(viii) shall take place in June each year, for the calendar year next following.

(2) Each Constituency may elect one member.

(3) A Constituency consists of

(i) the Ordinary Members of the Society within any law school in the United Kingdom or Ireland that has a minimum of six Ordinary members, whether at one location or not, under the name of the university or other institution to which that school belongs;

(ii) the United Constituency, to which any Ordinary Members of the Society in a law school with fewer than six Ordinary members are deemed to belong.

(4) All Ordinary Members within one university or other institution shall be presumed to fall within one constituency unless it is established to the satisfaction of Council that different units having Ordinary Members among their staff and associates are geographically and organisationally distinct and that it would be in the best interests of the Society that they should not be treated as a single constituency.

(5) Any law school which has become a constituency of the Society shall retain that status and shall not fall back within the United Constituency unless on the 30 June of any year the number of Ordinary Members of the Society within it is found to have fallen below four.

(4) All members of the Council shall, in each instance, be elected for one year only but shall be re-eligible.

(5) In the event of there being an equality of votes for two or more candidates for any one constituency, it shall be the duty of the President to exercise a casting vote.

(6) It shall be competent for any Member of the Council, subject to prior written notification to the President, to appoint any other Ordinary Member to attend a meeting of Council in her or his place.

18. EXECUTIVE

(1) There shall be an Executive Committee of the Society taking up office on 1st October each year and consisting of
(i) the Officers of the Society;
(ii) the immediate past President of the Society;
(iii) the Vice-President elect of the Society;
(iv) the persons appointed by the Council to be Editors of the Society's publications;
(v) the Chairs of the Society's Committees;
(vi) the person appointed by Executive as the Society's Social Media Director; and
(vii) nine Ordinary members of the Society of whom three shall be 'recent' members of the Society (being members of recent professional standing who, at the date of their election, have fewer than eight years membership), such persons to be appointed by the Council to the Executive Committee to serve for no more than three years. Once appointed to serve for a three years term and re-elected for a further three years term, a member shall not be eligible for re-appointment until one year after expiry of such term**.**
(2) In appointing such nine members as set out in sub-paragraph (vii) above, the Council shall, so far as practicable, procure a reasonable balance in such appointments, taking account of factors such as gender, ethnicity, regional representation, type of institution and subject section representation.
(3) The functions of the Executive Committee shall be to manage the affairs of the Society, with power to direct or approve expenditure of the Society's funds and to provide for such committees as it may from time to time deem useful, prescribing the duties of such committees and how membership (not restricted to members of the Executive Committee) is to be determined. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to report any action it has taken to the meeting of the Council next following such action.

19. SUBJECT SECTIONS

The Executive Committee, *via* the Secretary of the Subject Sections, shall ensure that there are subject sections covering key areas of legal scholarship and that a convenor of each subject section appointed by the Executive Committee takes all reasonable steps to develop a thriving section, in accordance with the guidelines regulating Subject Sections.

20. GENERAL MEETING

(1) The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in each year on a date to be fixed by the Council.
(2) The President shall have power to summon a Special General Meeting whenever she or he may deem it advisable to do so.
(3) The President must summon a Special General Meeting on being requested to do so in writing by 300 Ordinary Members of the Society, or 10% of the membership, whichever is less.
(3) At any General Meeting, the President, or, in their absence, the Vice-President, shall take the chair. In the absence of both of them the meeting shall elect a chair.

21. BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

(1) The business at the annual general meeting shall include, unless the meeting otherwise decides –
(i) minutes of the last general meeting;
(ii) election of new officers;
(iii) replies by the officers to questions;
(iv) motions proposed;
(v) balance sheet.
(2) Notices of all motions, including the names of proposers and seconders, shall reach the Honorary Secretary at least fourteen days before the day fixed for holding the meeting.

22. EXPULSION AND SUSPENSION

(1) Every Member of the Society undertakes and agrees to abide by the Rules for the time being in force during the period of their membership, and to accept as final and binding the decision of the Council in all cases of dispute or disagreement as to the interpretation thereof.
(2) Any member of the Society who may be guilty of any conduct which in the opinion of the Council renders her or his membership detrimental to the interests of the Society may be requested to resign, and if she or he refuses to do so, may be expelled and/or suspended, by a resolution of the Council, subject to an opportunity being given to her or him to explain her or his conduct. Any such resolution shall require a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Council present and voting.

23. ALTERATION OF RULES

Any of these Rules may be rescinded or amended by a resolution passed at any annual or special general meeting of the Society by a two-thirds majority of the ordinary members present and voting. Provided that:

(i) such a majority shall consist of not less than ten ordinary members;
(ii) notice of such resolution, stating the nature of the proposed alteration and the name of the proposer and seconder, shall have reached the Honorary Secretary at least fourteen days before the date fixed for the meeting;
(iii) in the event of a resolution being passed to rescind or amend any part of Rules 1 to 8 and Rule 17, or this Rule, such resolution shall not be effective until confirmed by a simple majority vote of ordinary members voting in a postal ballot to be conducted within two months after the date of the meeting at which it was passed;
(iv) no amendment alteration or deletion should be made to Rule 2 or this rule, or that would cause the Society to cease to be a Charity in law.

~ENDS~