Article I
Name and Purpose
These are the bylaws of the Hastings Women's Law Journal (hereinafter WLJ). WLJ is composed of and governed by students of Hastings College of the Law. It is WLJ's goal to promote scholarship in issues of concern common to all women, recognizing the unique concerns of communities that traditionally have been denied a voice. WLJ is dedicated to publishing an annual volume of legal scholarship affecting issues of gender which is of the highest quality and of the greatest usefulness to the legal scholar, judge and practitioner.

Article II
Definitions
1. "Membership" refers to all students who may receive academic credit for WLJ work during the current academic year.
2. "Editor-in-Chief" is the chief official of WLJ.
3. The "Executive Board" refers to the governing body of WLJ. The Executive Board is selected by the membership of WLJ.

Article III
Membership
1. Selection
Any registered student may join the membership of WLJ in compliance with the appropriate academic regulations.

2. Credit
Students who participate on WLJ will receive two units of credit per year for their work on WLJ. These credits will be counted as non-GPA elective credits, and will reflect the completion of a substantial writing project and hours put in on production. This writing project will be prepared for submission to WLJ, and will be a substantial piece that addresses a significant topic within an alternative discourse of the law, or provides a critique of the traditional legal discourse. Length will not be determinative of the decision to award credit, but will be one factor looked to in determining rigorous academic writing and research. An additional credit will be awarded for published writing.

3. Editorial Board
Members of the Editorial Board will receive three units of credit for their participation on WLJ. The Editorial Board will be responsible both for the ultimate product of WLJ, as well as the decision for awarding credit for student participation.

Article IV
Writing Criteria
To be awarded credit a student writing must fulfill the following specified criteria:
1. The piece must have a thesis or underlying argument developed and supported by the author's analyses in the writing.
2. The argument must contribute to an exploration of traditional legal discourse, or provide a critique of the existing legal structures and/or discourse.
3. The piece must be well-organized with clear arguments that are persuasive and do not omit crucial analytical steps. The author's claims must be supported by sufficient authority.

Article V
Journal Structure

The operations of the Hastings Women's Law Journal will be conducted in five different committees. The membership of each committee shall be determined in the preceding year. The five committees are as follows:

1. **Submissions**
   The members of this committee will be responsible for keeping abreast of the developing discourse of feminist jurisprudence, contacting potential contributors and providing assistance in the development of articles, and assisting in assuring maximum distribution of WLJ.

   The Submissions Committee also will be responsible for evaluating submitted pieces to determine what should be published and developing a recommended list of articles to be published that will be presented to the full membership. This recommendation will include a summary of each recommended piece as well as a list of the articles that were not approved. For each of the articles that was not approved the membership will be given both a topic statement for each article and the reasons that it was rejected.

   This recommended publishing list shall either be approved or disapproved by a simple majority of the general membership. If the recommendation is disapproved, the Submissions Committee will take alternative recommendations from the general membership. The Submissions Committee will then make a new recommendation of articles to be published at the next weekly meeting of WLJ.

2. **Student Articles and Writings**
   The members of this committee will be responsible for working with students to develop a piece to be written for WLJ, approving proposed pieces, and assisting WLJ members with their writing to assure that it meets the necessary requirement for receiving credit.

   Membership on the Articles Committee will be limited to second and third year participants of WLJ.

3. **Editing**
   The members of this committee will be responsible for both editing approved pieces and assigning WLJ members to teams for proofreading and cite-checking of the approved
pieces. All members of WLJ who are not on the Editorial Board will be assigned to proofreading and cite-checking teams.

4. **Production**
The members of this committee will be responsible for all of the tasks involved in getting the fully edited WLJ to the printer, including: inputting the articles, setting the production timeline, troubleshooting any technical, hardware or software problems, and communicating with the printer.

5. **Editorial Board**
The members of this committee will be responsible for the oversight and general management of WLJ. The Executive Board of WLJ will be composed of a selected representative from each of the above four committees and one representative elected by the full WLJ membership who will serve as Editor-in-Chief of WLJ.

The Editorial Board will select one of the WLJ members as the Managing Editor. The Managing Editor will be the chief financial officer of WLJ. The Managing Editor will organize and supervise all fund raising efforts for WLJ and be responsible for constructing the budget.

The full Editorial Board will have final responsibility for handling the operations of WLJ. The Editorial Board's responsibilities will include the approval of the production schedule proposed by the Production Committee, policy statements suggested by the full WLJ membership, and credit recommendations made by the Articles Committee.

**Article VI**

**Meetings**

1. **General Membership**
The general membership of WLJ shall meet not less than four times a year. The minimal number of meetings may be changed by a vote of the majority (50% +1) of the membership, or by a simple majority of the Executive Board. The Executive Board may require attendance at regular meetings and may give membership credit for attendance.

The Editor-in-Chief will chair both the membership meetings of WLJ and the Executive Board meetings.

A special meeting may be called by the Editor-in-Chief, by two (2) or more Board members, or by at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the membership by a petition in writing submitted to the Editor-in-Chief. The special meeting shall be held as soon as possible but in no event later than fourteen days after a request as described above is received by the Editor-in-Chief.

2. **Notice of Meetings**
Notice of membership meetings shall be posted by the Executive Board in a prominent place at least one week before the meeting.
3. **Committee Meetings**  
Each committee of WLJ, including the Editorial Board, shall meet not less than twice a month.

**Article VII**  
**Voting Procedures**  
1. **Voting**  
The vote needed to pass a motion or elect an official is based on the votes actually cast, unless the bylaws or rules provide otherwise. Thus, a majority is more than half of those voting, abstentions and blank ballots are disregarded.

2. **Voting at a Meeting**  
A vote taken at a regular, committee or special meeting shall bind the membership if:  
   a) A quorum is present and a majority of those voting favor the motion  
   b) A quorum was present when the meeting was called to order, less than a quorum is present when the vote is taken and the number of votes in favor of the measure at least equals a majority of a quorum, and the matter was listed on the agenda posted prior to the meeting

   A vote may be conducted in any of the following ways:  
   a) If there is no objection to the decision, general consent may be used to avoid a formal vote on routine matters.  
   b) Voice vote may be taken where only a majority is needed to pass the measure.  
   c) A show of hands may be used.  
   d) If unsure of the result, the presiding officer will order an actual count.  
   e) A secret written vote may be made if the bylaws do not already require one.

3. **Voting Outside of a Meeting**  
Voting on the following items must be conducted during regular school hours:  
   a) Elections of Editor-in-Chief and Executive Board members  
   b) Voting on Membership Policy  
   c) Amendment of Bylaws  
   d) Matters referred to such a vote by a motion at a membership meeting which carried by a majority of those voting  
   e) Matters submitted to the Editor-in-Chief for a vote by the written request of 25% of the membership.

Except as otherwise provided, approval by the majority of the membership is required to pass any item in this section.

4. **Quorum**  
No general meeting of WLJ may conduct official business unless a quorum of 50% + 1 of the membership is present. No committee of WLJ may conduct official business unless a quorum of 50% + 1 of the committee members are present.
5. **Time of Voting**
Voting for issues before the general membership shall take place during regular school hours for two consecutive days, either Tuesday and Wednesday or Wednesday and Thursday, unless these bylaws provide otherwise.

6. **Notice of Voting**
Notice of voting shall be given at least seven (7) days before the balloting by posting the information in a prominent place.

7. **Absentee Voting**
Members who will not be at school during a voting period may vote by proxy, absentee ballot, or by telephone if arrangements to do so are made with the Managing Editor at least five (5) days prior to the date on which voting begins.

The requirement of prior notice may be waived in the discretion of the Managing Editor in the event of illness or emergency.

**Article VIII**

**Elections, Removal and Vacancy**

1. **Nominations and Elections of the Editor-in-Chief**
Any WLJ staff member is eligible to run for Editor-in-Chief by announcing her or his candidacy. Any candidate for Editor-in-Chief must provide a copy of her/his writing for examination by the membership prior to election. Any member seeking an Executive Board position must provide a copy of her/his writing for examination by the membership of her or his committee prior to election by that committee.

2. **Statement of Official Candidacy**
Official statements of candidacy for the Editor-in-Chief position or any Executive Board position occurs by submitting position statements to the Editor-in-Chief no later than one week before the election. The WLJ will copy and distribute, at its expense, any statement of candidacy submitted no later than two (2) weeks before the election. Statements shall be limited to two (2) pages.

3. **Non-Official Candidacy for Editor-in-Chief**
Any member who is not an official candidate for Editor-in-Chief but submits a position statement at any time before the day of the candidate's forum, or is nominated and accepts the nomination during the candidate's forum, or is nominated and accepts the nomination during the candidate's forum when the presiding officer calls for such nominations, thereby becomes a non-official candidate. The name of non-official candidates for Editor-in-Chief will not appear on the ballot. However, write-in votes are permitted for non-official candidates.

4. **Candidates' forum for Editor-in-Chief**
At the candidates' forum, which shall be held during the last week of January, each nominee will present a statement of her/his position and answer questions from the floor. Both official and non-official nominees may participate in the forum. The Executive Board will determine how the forum is to be conducted.
5. **Voting for Editor-in-Chief**
Voting will occur during the two weekdays following the candidate's forum, but not on a Monday or Friday. In the event that a candidate obtains 50% of the votes cast plus one, that candidate wins the election.

If no candidate obtains more than 50% of the vote, a run-off election will be held between the two top vote-getting candidates if they obtained a total of two-thirds of the votes. If no two candidates obtained a total of two-thirds of the votes, a run-off election will be held among the top three candidates. The candidate receiving more than 50% of the votes in the run-off wins the election. If no candidate receives more than 50% of the votes a run-off election will be held among the top two candidates. Voting in a run-off will occur over two consecutive days which may include a Monday or Friday.

The Executive Board will run and monitor the voting. The Board will not disclose specific vote counts to person other than the candidates.

6. **Voting for the Executive Board**
Each committee will vote for its Executive Board representative in the meeting following the election of the Editor-in-Chief. The candidate from each committee who receives the highest percentage of votes cast in the committee will win the election.

7. **Removal**
A member of the Executive Board may be removed at the written request signed by two-thirds of the total WLJ membership.

8. **Vacancies**
A vacancy on the Executive Board that occurs outside of the regular electoral process shall be filled with an Editor selected by the Editor-in-Chief. If the office of the Editor-in-Chief becomes vacant, the Executive Board shall select one of its members or a third-year Editor to fill the position for the remainder of the term. If the Board selects one of its members, the Board may also select a third-year Editor to fill the resulting vacancy on the Board.

**Article X**
**Bylaw Amendments**
The Executive Board will also be responsible for proposing changes in the by-laws to the full WLJ membership. A simply majority of the general membership (50% + 1) is required to amend, repeal or adopt new bylaws. Such a vote may be taken in accordance with the rules promulgated in Article VII herein.
Proposed Addition to Bylaws to Allow for LLM Membership
(please see description of pros & cons)

F. LLM Members

1. Rationale: Participation of LLM students in HLJ will provide HLJ with a broader perspective on legal issues. It will benefit LLM students by allowing them an opportunity to participate in student-run journals which are not available in their home countries.

2. Application to the LLM Admissions Program shall be by essay and interview, as organized annually by those journals that allow LLM membership and shall be organized in conjunction with the head of the LLM Program at Hastings.

3. LLM Members will be selected by the current board through the LLM Admissions Program.

4. LLM Members will be appear as "Associate Members" on the masthead.

5. Once selected, LLM Members will participate in 2L events and will be required to fulfill the hours requirement set for Associate Members by the respective journals.