Model Bylaws/Constitution

Preamble
Law Students for Reproductive Justice is a student-led, student-driven national non-profit network of law students, professors, and lawyers committed to fostering the next wave of legal experts for the reproductive justice movement. Mobilizing and mentoring new lawyers and scholars is a long-term strategy that will build capacity, vision, and leadership for a more successful reproductive justice movement. Law functions as both a catalyst to prompt the expansion of rights and a tool with which to hold governments and communities accountable for the delivery of liberty, equality, dignity, and fairness promised by those rights.

Reproductive justice will be achieved when all people and communities have access to the information, resources, and support they need to attain sexual and reproductive self-determination. We dedicate ourselves to ensuring access to medically accurate, age-appropriate, culturally competent sex and sexuality education, as well as comprehensive, quality reproductive healthcare, including prenatal care, postnatal care, contraception, abortion services, and alternative reproductive technologies for women and men, free from coercion, discrimination and violence.

Today, a growing number of law schools offer comprehensive courses in reproductive rights law, but opportunities for professional training remain scarce. As individuals, each of us faces difficulties obtaining the education and training we need to become strong, successful advocates for reproductive justice. Together, we can change this situation and become a powerful, educated force that defends and expands reproductive rights in the United States and around the world.

Article I: Name & Purposes
1. Name
The name of the organization is Law Students for Reproductive Justice.

2. Purposes
Law Students for Reproductive Justice educates, organizes, and supports law students to ensure that a new generation of advocates will be prepared to protect and expand reproductive rights as basic civil and human rights.

Article II: Membership
1. General Membership
a) The general membership of Law Students for Reproductive Justice shall consist of matriculated students who support and further the purposes and goals listed in Article I, Section 2 of these by-laws and who regularly attend Law Students for Reproductive Justice activities.
b) Members shall provide the President with their names and email addresses in order to facilitate distribution of discussion materials.
c) Law Students for Reproductive Justice does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, national origin, gender expression, sexual orientation, immigration status, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disabilities.

Article III: Officers
1. Titles
The officers of Law Students for Reproductive Justice shall consist of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Publicity Director and other positions the Board deems necessary to create.
2. Powers and Duties
The President and Vice President
a) shall select meeting times and places;
b) shall work with group members to create an events calendar;
c) shall ensure that group goals are met;
d) shall communicate with the LSRJ National Office;
e) shall perform all duties pertaining to that office;
f) must be matriculated students at the Law School.

3. Selection and Removal of Officers
a) Qualifications
1) Any student member of Law Students for Reproductive Justice is an eligible candidate;
2) Each officer shall be appointed in April at the last Law Students for Reproductive Justice meeting for the academic year and shall serve until a successor has been duly appointed, or until s/he resigns or is removed from office, whichever is earlier;
3) There shall be no limit to the number of consecutive terms an officer may hold;

b) Selection Process
1) The President and Vice President shall announce the commencement of the selection process at the penultimate Law Students for Reproductive Justice meeting for the academic year;
2) Candidates interested in filling an officer position within Law Students for Reproductive Justice shall alert the Coordinators on or before the last Friday in March;
3) The Board shall by a vote appoint President/Vice President based upon those who express interest and who have demonstrated previous outstanding commitment to LSRJ. Additional positions are elected in the fall of the following year;

c) Removal from Office
An officer who repeatedly fails to comply with the duties listed in Article III Section 2 of these bylaws may be removed from office by a two-thirds majority vote of Law Students for Reproductive Justice members present at the meeting.

4. Appointments
Additional officers and their specified duties may be appointed by the Board as the needs of Law Students for Reproductive Justice shall require.

Article IV: Vacancies
1. Vacancies
Impromptu elections will be held throughout the year as necessary to fill officer positions should positions become vacant.