

Constitution of the Consumer Advocacy and Protection Society (CAPS) @ USC 2019-2020

Article I - Name

- I. The official name for this organization is Consumer Advocacy and Protection Society @USC.
- II. This organization will use the name or its acronym, CAPS @USC, in all publicity materials and correspondence.

Article II -Purpose

The Consumer Advocacy and Protection Society (CAPS) @USC is dedicated to fostering research, discussion, and advocacy in the field of Consumer Protection Law. We are committed to strengthening ties between consumer law groups and the USC Gould Law community. We work to:

1. create networks between consumer law attorneys, advocacy organizations, and the Gould student body in order to promote the field of consumer protection law and provide training opportunities for students;
2. foster community among student advocates whose interests intersect with consumer protection; and
3. encourage and maintain consumer protection curriculum and clinic opportunities at Gould.

Article III -Membership

- I. Only currently registered students, faculty, and staff may be active members in a registered student organization. Only active members may vote or hold office.
- II. All other USC students and USC staff, faculty, alumni, and alumnae are eligible to be non-voting members.
- III. All members are required to demonstrate support for the purpose of this organization.
- IV. We will not hazy according to California State Law. We will not restrict membership based upon race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (including pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (including membership, application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services.)

Article IV - Officers & Elections

- I. The CAPS leadership team consists of:
 - a. **President--** Responsible for keeping the team on track and effective, coordinating executive board meetings, recruitment activities (tabling, etc.), monitoring email account and maintaining member lists, and communicating with faculty advisors.

- b. **Vice President**-- Responsible for assisting the president with their duties when needed, help with social media and outreach to expand awareness of the club within the community, and contacting legal professionals as speakers for events.
 - c. **Treasurer** -- Responsible for applying for funds, maintaining budgets, facilitating reimbursement requests, and planning at least one CP event during the year.
 - d. **Secretary** – Responsible for keeping meeting minutes, help with announcements and social media and outreach to expand awareness of the club within the community, help maintain emailing list and student contact information.
 - e. **1L representative per each section (3x)** -- Responsible for announcing events to their respective sections, attending executive board meetings, providing feedback on events and gauge student reactions to events, and helping with putting on events.
- II. Elections will be held once a year in the spring semester. Officers will serve for one year. The president is the primary contact, and the leadership team are signatories. The exact composition of the leadership team is flexible based on student interest and subject to reorganization (i.e. new positions or shuffling of duties) based on needs.

Article V - Faculty/Staff Advisor

- I. Advisor Requirements
 - a. As a recognized student organization at the University of Southern California, CAPS @UCS is required to have an official advisor from the USC faculty and/or staff.
 - b. Other persons may serve as special advisors as needed.
- II. Duties
 - a. The advisor must sign the recognition application each year, or whenever officer information changes or amendments are made to the constitution.
 - b. Officers should meet with the advisor at least 2 times per semester but may meet as frequently as needed.
 - c. An advisor may not vote in CAPS @USC matters, hold office or unduly influence decisions of the student organization.

Article VI - Meetings

CAPS @USC will hold one general meeting per semester, and at least 2 executive board meetings per semester. Meetings will be called by the President. CAPS @USC will aim to host at least 2 events per semester (dependent on budget constraints).

Article VII - Constitutional Amendments

Any active member can propose a constitutional amendment by email to the president. Amendments will be discussed among the executive board members and voted upon with a 2/3 majority vote to pass.

Article VIII - Affiliations

I. USC

- a. CAPS @USC is a recognized student organization at the University of Southern California but is not part of the University itself.
- b. In all correspondence and business transactions, it may refer to itself as an organization at USC, but not as part of USC itself.
- c. CAPS @USC accepts full financial and production responsibility for all activities it sponsors.
- d. CAPS @USC agrees to abide by all pertinent USC policies and regulations. Where USC policies and regulations and those of ASP differ, the policies and regulations of USC will take precedence.
- e. CAPS @USC recognizes and understands that the University assumes no legal liability for the actions of the organization, and that the University is not providing blanket indemnification insurance coverage for any activities of the organization, unless those activities expressly benefit and further the goals of the University, and have received prior review, approval, and consent of Campus Activities, Risk Management, and/or General Counsel.

II. National Associate of Consumer Advocates (NACA)

- a. National Associate of Consumer Advocates (NACA) is a nonprofit association of attorneys and consumer advocates committed to representing consumers' interests. NACA members are private and public sector attorneys, legal services attorneys, law professors, and law students whose primary focus is the protection and representation of consumers.
- b. CAPS @USC is affiliated with the National Associate of Consumer Advocates as a local chapter of the consumer law student organization.
- c. CAPS @USC is a CLASS (Consumer Law Advocates, Students, and Scholars) member through NACA.
- d. In order to support law school chapters, NACA will:
 - i. assist with administrative issues;
 - ii. suggest potential speakers;
 - iii. connect NACA members (private attorneys and/or law professors) with student chapters;
 - iv. help to promote chapter programming;
 - v. offer listserv for student chapter officers to freely communicate about chapter activities.

Article IX -Dissolution

Dissolution will be decided by consensus within the leadership team. Any funds still remaining under the organization name shall be processed according to GSG and SBA guidelines. If no

such guidelines exist, any remaining funds shall be donated to the Public Interest Law Foundation at USC Gould.