

**CONSTITUTION AND RULES OF
The United States of America Group of the
International Society for Military Law and the Law of War**

Name and Duration

1. The name of the association shall be the United States of America Group (“the U.S. Group”) of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War (“the Society”).
2. The U.S. Group is established for an unlimited period.

Objectives

3. The objectives and role of the U.S. Group are as follows:
 - a) To pursue the Society’s objectives as laid down in Article 3 of the Society’s Articles of Association;
 - i. The objectives of the International Society are the study of military law and the law of armed conflict, research into the harmonization of internal systems of law both reciprocally, having regard to international conventions and the rule of international law relating to these fields, and also to the promotion of a body of military law and the law of armed conflict established with respect to human rights.
 - ii. To this end, the International Society shall organize international congresses, colloquies, and meetings and shall undertake the publication of essays, papers, and information concerning such matters. It shall also establish a Documentation Center.
 - b) To facilitate the growth of a professional network of attorneys and other professionals in the United States who practice or are interested in the subjects upon which the Society’s activities focus, particularly military, national security, and international law, including the law of armed conflict;
 - c) To provide the opportunity for members of the U.S. Group to meet and discuss topics within the Society’s fields of interest;
 - d) To encourage and assist teaching and research within the Society’s fields of interest;
 - e) To coordinate and focus the scholarship, knowledge, expertise, and experience that U.S. Group members of the Society can collectively bring to bear upon questions within the Society’s fields of interest, including responding to the triennial questionnaires

the Society circulates in preparation for its congresses;

f) To undertake the circulation of such publications as the U.S. Group deems appropriate; and

g) To organize conferences and meetings on the U.S. Group's behalf, in collaboration with the Society, or jointly with other institutions and organizations.

Members. Conditions of Admission, Exclusion, or Resignation

4. Members may be admitted to the U.S. Group upon payment of dues determined by the Board of Directors.

a) Ordinary members will pay annual dues, currently \$ 50 (subject to change by decision of the Board).

b) Student members will pay reduced dues, currently \$ 25 (subject to change by decision of the Board).

5. A member who has not paid annual dues after two warnings from the Treasurer shall be brought to the notice of the Board of Directors, which shall decide on the appropriate remedial measures, including suspension or exclusion.

6. Any member may resign from the U.S. Group by communicating the decision to do so in writing to the Secretary of the U.S. Group.

Organization of the U.S. Group

7. The U.S. Group's governing body is the General Assembly, and the Board of Directors is its managing body.

8. The General Assembly consists of all members of the U.S. Group. Meetings of the Assembly shall be held online or at such places and times as determined by the President of the U.S. Group. Every member has the right to be heard in person or represented by another. Decisions of the General Assembly shall be by simple majority; not less than ten (10) members of the U.S. Group shall constitute a quorum. Minutes of the General Assembly meetings shall be taken by the Secretary and be available for inspection by the members.

The Board of Directors

9. Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected to their post by a majority vote of the General Assembly for a term of three years. Members may be removed by a 2/3 General Assembly vote of no-confidence.

10. The Board of Directors shall consist of members of the U.S. Group filling the posts set forth below. The Board may make changes in its structure and appoint members of the U.S. Group to

fill vacancies pending a vote by the General Assembly.

- a) President
- b) Vice President
- c) Secretary
- d) Director of Operations (non-voting position appointed by President), if any
- e) Treasurer
- f) Assistant Treasurer (non-voting position appointed by President), if any
- g) Communications/Outreach/Membership for U.S. Group Members
- h) Liaison to the Academic Community
- i) Liaison to the Armed Forces
- j) Liaison to other professional bodies such as the ABA, ASIL, etc.
- k) Honorary board member (non-voting position appointed by Board of Directors)

11. The Board shall be convened at least annually by the President of the U.S. Group. Its decisions shall be taken by a simple majority vote of those present. Attendance by not less than four members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

12. The Board of Directors shall decide on the organization of conferences and meetings; their dates, place, and subject; and any fees that may be charged for attendance. The Board may establish specialized sub-committees and assign them their objectives and fields of study.

13. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for deciding upon the rates of dues, the budget and accounts, and any contracts by the U.S. Group. The Secretary will take the meeting minutes, which may be inspected by any member of the General Assembly on the occasion of its meetings. Members of the Board may deal with correspondence on behalf of the U.S. Group consistent with their responsibilities.

14. The President shall chair meetings of the General Assembly and the Board and have a deciding vote in case of a tie. If the President is absent, the Vice President shall preside. If both the President and Vice President are absent, the members of the Board present may elect one of their number to preside.

15. The Treasurer shall collect dues, keep the U.S. Group's accounts, and maintain a list of current members of the U.S. Group. The Treasurer may open any bank, building society, post office account, or online payment account and operate such an account. Any other member of

the Board may be granted access to the U.S. Group bank account as decided by the Board.

16. The remaining members of the Board will represent the Group in their area of responsibility. Members of the Board may also carry out such other duties on behalf of the U.S. Group as invited by the President or the Board.

Funds

17. The assets of the U.S. Group consist of:

- a) the dues paid by its members;
- b) any subsidies or grants that it may receive;
- c) any donations or legacies that it may receive; and
- d) any revenues resulting from the pursuit of the objects of the Group.

18. The U.S. Group's fiscal year begins on January 1 and ends on December 31.

19. Funds may only be expended for the purposes outlined in this Constitution and only upon approval of the Board by a simple majority of those present.

20. Members who have resigned, been suspended, or excluded from or otherwise left the U.S. Group shall have no claim on the U.S. Group's funds. In particular, such members shall have no right to a refund of the whole or part of the amount of any dues paid by them or on their behalf.

Dissolution

21. The U.S. Group may be dissolved, and its assets distributed only by a decision of the General Assembly.

Approved by Board, 1 October 2022



Michael N. Schmitt
Co-President