

Durham Law School Alumni Association Rules for establishing Local Chapters adopted by resolution of the Executive Committee passed at a duly convened and held meeting on 23rd June, 2025

A. Definitions and interpretation

1. In these Local Chapter Rules, the following expressions have the following meanings:

“**DLS AA**” means the Durham Law School Alumni Association established on 17th September, 2024 under its Constitution signed and adopted on that date (available [here](#)).

“**DLS AA Executive Committee**” means the Executive Committee of the DLS AA.

“**DLS AA Member**” means a member of the DLS AA.

“**LC Establishing Members**” has, in relation to a Local Chapter, the meaning given in these Rules (and see **Rule B (Establishment of a Local Chapter)** below).

“**Local Chapter**” means a group established by resolution of the DLS AA Executive Committee on the Local Chapter Rules as applicable to that group which DLS AA Members based in a particular location or otherwise strongly connected with that location may apply to join.

“**Political Activity**” means an activity which involves trying to secure support for, or oppose, a change in the law or in the policy or decisions of central government, local authorities or other public bodies, whether in the United Kingdom or abroad. Political campaign and political neutrality shall be construed accordingly.

“**Local Chapter Member**” means, in relation to a Local Chapter, a DLS AA Member who is a member of that Local Chapter as provided for in these Local Chapter Rules.

“**Organising Committee**” has, in relation to a Local Chapter, the meaning given in these Rules (and see **Rule E (Governance of a Local Chapter)** below).

“**these Rules**” means these Rules as from time to time amended in accordance with **Rule I (Amendment)**. “**Rule**” shall be construed accordingly.
2. If not inconsistent with the subject or context, in these Local Chapter Rules:
 - (a) words importing the singular number shall include the plural number and vice versa;
 - (b) words importing any gender shall include all other genders.
3. The headings are inserted for convenience only and shall not affect the construction of these Rules.
4. Any right or power under these Rules may be exercised from time to time.

B. Purpose

1. The purpose of a Local Chapter is to promote the aims of the DLS AA (as set out in Clause 2 of its Constitution) amongst DLS AA Members who become members of that Local Chapter (and also to prospective members of that Local Chapter).

2. No part of the activities of a Local Chapter shall be the carrying on of Political Activity. A Local Chapter shall not participate in, nor intervene in, any political campaign including, without limitation, on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office. A Local Chapter shall, in the conduct of its activities, adopt a position of strict political neutrality.

C. Establishment of a Local Chapter

1. Any two or more DLS AA Members based in a particular location or otherwise strongly connected with a particular location may apply to the DLS AA Executive Committee for a Local Chapter of the DLS AA to be established in relation to that particular location.
2. The DLS AA Executive Committee may:
 - 2.1 determine to designate those DLS AA Members as “**LC Establishing Members**”, and
 - 2.2 resolve to establish a Local Chapter in relation to that particular location by passing a resolution in terms set out in **Annex A** and which specifies:
 - the name of that Local Chapter,
 - the location of that Local Chapter,
 - the names of the LC Establishing Members,
 - the effective date of establishment of that Local Chapter, and
 - such additional rules (if any) applicable to that Local Chapter.
3. If the DLS AA Executive Committee so resolves, that Local Chapter shall be established on the terms of that resolution.
4. Subject to the LC Establishing Members entering into an appropriate agreement, in such form as the DLS AA Executive Committee may from time to time specify, covering, among other things, confidentiality and data protection, the DLS AA Executive Committee and the LC Establishing Members shall use their respective reasonable endeavours to identify and invite DLS AA Members who are eligible to become members of that Local Chapter to do so on the terms of the membership application form for that Local Chapter as specified from time to time by the DLS AA Executive Committee.

D. Membership of a Local Chapter

1. Eligibility

- 1.1 Membership of a Local Chapter is open to all DLS AA Members who are:
 - based in, or
 - otherwise have a strong connection with,the location covered by the Local Chapter as specified in the in the resolution establishing that Local Chapter (or any amendment to the area of that location made by subsequent resolution of the DLS AA Executive Committee).
- 1.2 Any disputes or matters of doubt over whether an individual is eligible to become a member of a Local Chapter shall be determined in the sole discretion of the DLS AA Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding.

2. **Becoming a Local Chapter Member**

2.1 If a DLS AA Member eligible to do so wishes to become a member of a Local Chapter:

- that DLS AA Member shall complete the application form, as specified from time to time by the DLS AA Executive Committee in relation to the Local Chapter, and
- upon receipt by the DLS AA of such application form duly completed by the applicant and, upon its approval by or on behalf of the DLS AA Executive Committee, the applicant shall become a member of that Local Chapter with effect from such date as may be notified to the applicant by or on behalf of the DLS AA Executive Committee.

2.2 In relation to that Local Chapter, an eligible applicant who has become a member of that Local Chapter is, in relation to that Local Chapter, a **Local Chapter Member**.

3. **Ceasing to be a Local Chapter Member**

3.1 A Local Chapter Member may resign from membership of a Local Chapter at any time by giving notice to that effect by email addressed to the DLS AA at its email address as published on the DLS AA's website at the time in question. Resignation shall take effect on receipt by the DLS AA of that email.

3.1 A Local Chapter Member shall automatically cease to be a Local Chapter Member on ceasing to be a member of the DLS AA.

3.2 A Local Chapter Member shall cease to be a Local Chapter Member, if:

(a) that individual no longer is:

- based in, or
- otherwise has a strong connection with

the location covered by the Local Chapter, and

(b) is requested by the DLS AA Executive Committee, at the request of the Organising Committee of that Local Chapter, to cease to be a member of that Local Chapter.

3.3 Such termination of membership shall take effect upon the giving of that cessation notice in person or by email addressed to that member at the email address supplied by that member to the DLS AA. Service of any such notice by email shall be deemed to be effected at the time at which the email is sent.

3.4 Any disputes or matters of doubt over whether an individual is no longer based in or otherwise no longer has a strong connection with the location covered by that Local Chapter shall be determined in the sole discretion of the DLS AA Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final and binding.

E. **Governance of a Local Chapter**

1. The LC Establishing Members may make such arrangements as they determine to be appropriate for the establishment of a committee to conduct the operations and activities of the Local Chapter, and shall notify in writing the DLS AA Executive Committee of the arrangements made and the first officers of the organising committee (the "**Organising Committee**") of that Local Chapter.

2. Only members of that Local Chapter may become members or officers of the Organising Committee.
3. Once established, it shall be the responsibility of the Organising Committee, in relation to a Local Chapter, to make such arrangements as that Organising Committee may, from time to time, determine to be appropriate for the terms of office of members of that Organising Committee and the process for changes, from time to time, to the officers of that Organising Committee.
4. The Organising Committee shall:
 - 4.1 designate, from time to time, two responsible officers to liaise with the DLS AA Executive Committee,
 - 4.2 promptly provide to the DLS AA Executive Committee the names and email addresses of those responsible officers, and
 - 4.3 promptly provide such other information as the DLS AA Executive Committee may from time to time request as to the names and email addresses of the members and officers of that Organising Committee and as to the activities of that Local Chapter.
5. Any information to be provided by the Organising Committee shall be sent by email to the DLS AA Executive Committee at the email address from time to time supplied to that Organising Committee by or on behalf of the DLS AA Organising Committee.

F. Responsibilities of the Local Chapter Organising Committee

1. The Organising Committee of a Local Chapter shall seek to use its reasonable endeavours :
 - 1.1 to organise networking events and activities for Local Chapter Members and prospective Local Chapter Members,
 - 1.2 to keep the DLS AA Executive Committee informed of planned events and activities so that the DLS AA Executive Committee can arrange, where appropriate, for additional promotional support to be provided, and
 - 1.3 to cause the Local Chapter:
 - to comply with the fulfilment of the purpose of that Local Chapter at all times in the best interests of the DLS AA, Durham Law School and Durham University,
 - to collaborate with the DLS AA Executive Committee, Durham Law School and Durham University to foster a spirit of participation amongst Local Chapter Members,
 - to refrain, when acting in relation to the Local Chapter, from actions and involvements that may prove detrimental or contrary to the aims, policies, values and activities of the DLS AA, or Durham Law School or Durham University, and
 - to comply with applicable laws of the jurisdiction in which it is located.
2. The Organising Committee shall ensure that any events or activities which it organises are self-funded. Neither the DLS AA, nor the Durham Law School nor Durham University, in establishing or having involvement with a Local Chapter, is assuming any obligation to provide any financial support (or to assume any financial obligations or any liabilities) in relation to that Local Chapter or any events or activities organised by that Local Chapter.

G. Conduct of Local Chapter Members

Each member of a Local Chapter shall act in good faith to seek to cause the Local Chapter to conduct itself as follows:

- to act in the fulfilment of the purpose of that Local Chapter and at all times in the best interests of the DLS AA, Durham Law School and Durham University,
- to collaborate with the DLS AA Executive Committee, Durham Law School and Durham University to foster a spirit of participation amongst Local Chapter Members, and
- to refrain, when acting, in relation to the Local Chapter, from actions and involvements that may prove detrimental or contrary to the aims, policies, values and activities of the DLS AA, Durham Law School and Durham University, and
- to comply with applicable laws of the jurisdiction in which it is located.

H. Liability of LC Establishing Members, Organising Committee member of a Local Chapter, any officer of a Local Chapter, and a Local Chapter Member

1. No Exonerated Person, in the absence of fraud or bad faith, is under any liability whatsoever (including, for the avoidance of doubt, in negligence) to any Local Chapter Member, to any other Exonerated Person or, without limitation, to anyone else, for anything done or omitted to be done by that Exonerated Person acting, or purporting to act, in his or her capacity as all or any of the following:

- (a) a LC Establishing Member,
- (b) an Organising Committee member of a Local Chapter, and
- (c) an officer of a Local Chapter.

2. Each and every power and each and every duty (whether an express or implied power or duty) under the Local Chapter Rules of each Exonerated Person is to be construed accordingly.

3. The liability of an Exonerated Person, in the absence of fraud or bad faith, for any liability (including, for the avoidance of doubt, in negligence) whatsoever to any Local Chapter Member, to any other Exonerated Person or, without limitation, to anyone else, for anything done or omitted to be done by that Exonerated Person acting, or purporting to act, in his or her capacity as all or any of the following:

- (a) a LC Establishing Member,
- (b) an Organising Committee member of a Local Chapter, and
- (c) an officer of a Local Chapter

is hereby excluded.

4. In this **Rule H “Exonerated Person”** means an individual who is or was all or any of the following:

- (a) a LC Establishing Member,
- (b) an Organising Committee member of a Local Chapter, and
- (c) an officer of a Local Chapter.

5. A Local Chapter Member's liability is limited to any unpaid fees due from that Member.

Note: There are no fees payable to become a Local Chapter Member unless expressly specified in the resolution establishing a Local Chapter or in any amendment to these Rules or to such a resolution.

I. Amendment

1. The DLS AA Executive Committee, from time to time, by resolution:
 - 1.1 may amend, in relation to a Local Chapter, the terms upon which that Local Chapter is established (including, without limitation, its name and the extent of its location), and
 - 1.2 may amend these Rules.
2. Before an amendment under **1.1** above is made, the DLS AA Executive Committee shall, where it deems it reasonably practical and appropriate to do so, first consult with the Organising Committee of that Local Chapter for such period as the DLS AA Executive Committee determines to be appropriate.
3. Any amendment shall take effect from the date specified by the DLS AA Executive Committee in the resolution for that amendment to take effect.
4. The DLS AA Executive Committee shall take such steps as it determines to be appropriate to notify the Local Chapter Members to whom a resolution under **1** above applies of the amendment made.

J. Dissolution of a Local Chapter

1. The DLS AA Executive Committee may, by notice to the Organising Committee of a Local Chapter (and to the Members of that Local Chapter), dissolve the Local Chapter with effect from such date as is specified in that notice.
2. Before giving a notice under **1** above, the DLS AA Executive Committee shall, where it deems it reasonably practical and appropriate to do so, first consult with the Organising Committee of that Local Chapter for such period as the DLS AA Executive Committee determines to be appropriate.
3. If a Local Chapter is dissolved, then:
 - Local Chapter Members shall cease to be members of that Local Chapter but shall continue as DLS AA Members,
 - the Organising Committee of that Local Chapter shall cease to have any functions to perform in relation to that Local Chapter,
 - no member of that Local Chapter (and no member of that Organising Committee) may use personal data and any other confidential information about members of that Local Chapter which was received by that individual for the purpose of the operation or activities of that Local Chapter and each such individual shall use reasonable endeavours to erase or render inaccessible any such information held by that individual,

- no member of that Local Chapter (and no member of that Organising Committee) shall purport to represent that the Local Chapter is continuing or to arrange events in the name of that Local Chapter, and
- the DLS AA Executive Committee may determine how any other matters consequential on the dissolution of that Local Chapter are to be dealt with.

K. Notices

1. A notice may be given by the DLS AA to any Local Chapter Member either personally or by email at the email address supplied by that Local Chapter Member to the DLS AA for the giving of notice that Local Chapter Member. Service of the notice by email shall be deemed to be effected at the time the email was sent.
2. A notice may be given by the Organising Committee to any Local Chapter Member either personally or by email at the email address supplied by that Local Chapter Member to the DLS AA (or to the Organising Committee) for the giving of notice that Local Chapter Member. Service of the notice by email shall be deemed to be effected at the time the email was sent.
3. If a Local Chapter Member changes his or her contact details, that Local Chapter Member shall give due notice to the DLS AA (and, if the DLS AA so specifies, to the Organising Committee) and shall furnish the DLS AA (and if the DLS AA so specifies, the Organising Committee) with a replacement email address to which notices may be sent.
4. All notices sent by email to the last email address held by the DLS AA (or, as applicable, the Organising Committee for notices from the Organising Committee) for a Local Chapter Member shall be deemed to be effected at the time the email was sent.

Annex A

Form of Resolution to establish a Local Chapter

The Executive Committee of the Durham Law School Alumni Association hereby resolves to establish the following Local Chapter upon the term and subject to the conditions of the Durham Law School Alumni Association Rules, as from time to time in force, for establishing Local Chapters:

1. Name:

2. Location in which individual must be based or have a strong connection with:

3. The LC Establishing Members are:

3.1 Name _____. Email: _____

3.2 Name _____. Email: _____

4. Effective date of establishment of Local Chapter: _____

5. [EITHER] No additional specific rules apply to this Local Chapter [OR] [Add specific rules – eg if any are required by local law or if a membership fee is to be charged]

Resolution passed at a duly convened meeting of the Executive Committee of the Durham Law School Alumni Association held on _____

Signed Date:.....

Name: David Patient

Position: Chair of the Executive Committee of the Durham Law School Alumni Association

Approved:

Signed Date:.....

Name: Volker Roeben

Position: Dean, Durham Law School