Dear Students,

Last Wednesday, the student body ratified a series of amendments to the Student Senate Constitution. This was the first referendum of its kind in a decade and culminated a revision process that began last academic year. Among the changes you approved were (1) a smaller Senate, (2) representation of transfer students, (3) an improved Senate committee policy and (4) several dozen other modifications needed to modernize the Senate.

The vote attracted a record turnout and each amendment was approved by a requisite two-thirds of students voting, in most cases by substantially greater margins. The official results are shown below. These amendments will take effect when the next Senate session begins in mid-April 2009. A revised constitution is available on the Senate website, at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/resources.html.

Thank you to those who voted in last week’s historic election. Your participation has breathed new life into your representative body and created in a new constitution that will better serve our Law School in the twenty-first century.

Sincerely,
Max M. Miller
Student Senate President

For a complete list of changes approved in the Constitutional Referendum, see page 3.

Interested in contributed to the Black Letter? The Student Senate newsletter committee is looking for volunteers to contribute to the weekly newsletter.

In the past we’ve run features on professors, administrators, and other familiar characters in the Columbia Law School community as well as features on notable ongoings around the neighborhood. Got ideas for how the BlackLetter can be improved? Have something you want to submit for publication?

Email senate@law.columbia.edu to get involved!
Your 2008-2009 Student Senate

Executive Board
Max Miller, President
William Leavitt, Vice President
L. David Peters, Treasurer
Jessica Isokawa, Secretary
Benjamin Brickner, Parliamentarian

Class of 2009
Rajiv Batra
Stephen Chu
Stephen Cockrell
Dustin Crawford
Gabe Gershowitz
Brian Goldberg
Craig Greiwe
Jason Lear
Amy Maffucci
Scott McJannet
Mikhaile Savary
Kathrin Schwesinger
Dan Y. Shin (University Senator)
Adam Sparks

Class of 2010
Elliott Ash
Esha Bhandari
Kelley Bolar
Max Dubin
Yael Fischer
Dimia Fogam
Ryan McDevitt
Austin Thompson
Meredith Uhl
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Kevin Boroumand
Lauren Bragin
Aditi Chatterjee
Rex Chatterjee
Gillian Horton
Christina Kim
Erik Lindemann
Oscar Loui
Andrew McCormick
Celia Muller
David T. Parkinson
Brittany J. Schoepp
Kahlil Williams
Charles Wolf

LL.M./J.S.D.
Celine Assaf (LL.M.)
Patryk Labuda (LL.M.)
Peter Lochore (LL.M.)
Mathias Oleskow (LL.M.)
Hiram Pagano Filho (LL.M.)

Please contact us with questions or concerns! We are working hard to represent you.

senate@law.columbia.edu

Congratulations New Student Senators!

On Wednesday, September 10th, fifteen 1Ls and five LL.M. students were elected to the Student Senate. Please feel free to approach them!

The Student Senate will hold its first general meeting this Monday, September 15th at 9:15 p.m. in JGH 105.

If there is anything that you would like the Senate to address, you may contact any of your senators or e-mail the e-board at senate@law.columbia.edu. In order to get an item on the agenda for a Senate general meeting, the request must be received by the executive board one week before the scheduled meeting.
## SEPTEMBER 2008 CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM RESULTS

### Technical Amendments

**Shall the technical amendments to the Student Senate Constitution be approved?**

- **Yes:** 406 (97.4%)
- **No:** 11 (2.6%)

### Conforming Amendments

**Shall the conforming amendments to the Student Senate Constitution be approved?**

- **Yes:** 398 (97.8%)
- **No:** 9 (2.2%)

### Substantive Amendments

#### Senate Size

**Shall the number of Senators be reduced from 51 to 41?**

- **Yes:** 329 (80.4%)
- **No:** 80 (19.6%)

#### University Senator

**Shall a continuing University Senator (i.e., one who is in the middle of her two-year term) be a member of the Spring Senate?**

- **Yes:** 363 (89.9%)
- **No:** 41 (10.1%)

#### Eligibility for Office

**Shall a one-term residency requirement apply to Senators?**

- **Yes:** 304 (74.7%)
- **No:** 103 (25.3%)

#### Transfer Student Senator

**Shall one 2L Senate seat be reserved for a transfer student to be elected in the fall?**

- **Yes:** 318 (77.2%)
- **No:** 94 (22.8%)

#### Expiration of Resolutions

**Shall Senate resolutions remain in effect until repealed, unless an earlier date is specified?**

- **Yes:** 340 (86.5%)
- **No:** 53 (13.5%)

#### Committee Service Required

**Shall Senators who chair Senate committees be required to serve on only one Senate committee instead of two?**

- **Yes:** 330 (84.4%)
- **No:** 61 (15.6%)

#### Duration of Committee Service

**Shall members of the Budget and Graduation committees continue to serve in their capacity as committee members until Commencement Day?**

- **Yes:** 380 (96.0%)
- **No:** 16 (4.0%)
This Week at CLS
September 15-21, 2008

Monday
- Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual Lunch and Pro-Bono training for 2Ls and 3Ls. 12:00-1:00 p.m. JG 602.
- Transfer Lunch. 12:10-1:00 p.m. Drapkin Lounge.
- CLS Military Association—first general interest meeting and elections. 12:10-1:00 p.m. JG 105.
- Information Session for Columbia Law Review's Publishable Notes Program. 12:10-12:40 p.m. JG 107.
- LL.M. Resume Workshop. 12:15-1:00 p.m. JG Annex Lounge.
- Columbia's Student Animal Legal Defense Fund (SALDF) Meeting. 12:15 p.m.-1:00 p.m. JG 807.

Tuesday
- Poverty Law / Direct Services—Public Interest Law interns speak about their summer internship experiences. 12:05-1:10 p.m. WJWH L104 (Lower Level)
- Environmental Law Society general meeting. 12:10-1:00 p.m. JG 546.
- LL.M. Resume Workshop Lounge. 12:15-1:00 p.m. JG Annex.
- Unemployment Action Center—Meet a Mentor. 6:00-9:00 p.m. JG 103.
- SIRR Immigrant Juvenile Status Project Training. 6:00-9:00 p.m. Case Lounge.
- APALSA (Asian Pacific American Law Students Association) First General Meeting. 9:00-10:00. JG 304.

Wednesday
- The Center for Public Interest Law presents: Postgraduate Legal Fellowship at The Door Legal Services. 12:05-1:00 p.m. WJWH L104.
- LL.M. Resume Workshop. 12:15-1:00 p.m. JG Annex Lounge.
- Meet the 1L Faculty. Come meet the faculty who teach the 1L Foundation Curriculum. 4:00-6:00 p.m. Drapkin Lounge.
- Columbia Law School's Faculty Panel on the Constitution. 4:30-6:00 p.m. JG 103.

Thursday
- Advocating for Children & Families—come hear Public Interest Law interns speak about their summer internship experiences. 12:05-1:10 p.m. WJWH L104 (Lower Level).
- "What Kind of International Agreement Is Possible and Desirable To Deal With The Challenge Of Global Warming," Talk by Professor Nicholas Robinson. 12:05-1:00 p.m. JG 107.

Event information is taken from the Student Services Event Calendar e-publication. To have your event listed, follow the link below and submit the on-line form. These must be submitted by 10 a.m. on Thursday, the week BEFORE your event. http://www.law.columbia.edu/current_student/studentorgs_abc/studentorgevent/eventform