Constitution and By-Laws of St. Thomas More Society

Article I – Name.
The name of the student organization shall be: “The Saint Thomas More Society.”

Article II – Purpose.

A. The society is organized exclusively for educational and social purposes.
B. No part of the society’s funds shall be used to support political parties, PACs or political campaigns.
C. No society activity shall be carried out for the pecuniary benefit of a member of members of the society.
D. The purposes for which the society is organized are:
   1) Provide a structure within which Catholic law students and others in the Columbia Law community having an interest in the Catholic Church, its policies or positions on various issues, can develop among themselves and the general CLS community an awareness and appreciation of Catholic legal, social, political, historical and religious identity;
   2) Promote educational activities to raise awareness of legal, social, political, historical or religious issues of interest to Catholics;
   3) Conduct or sponsor educational activities, including seminars, meetings and lectures on issues, particularly legal issues, concerning Catholics;
   4) Participate with other organizations that are organized and operated for similar purposes to achieve purposes above stated.

Article III – Governing Structure.

A. The society shall be open to all students enrolled in Columbia Law School who are interested in the Catholic Church, and issues of interest to the Catholic Church.
B. Officers must be law students enrolled at Columbia Law School and in good standing.
C. There shall be two initial offices:
   1) Co-chair (1) – responsible for conducting meetings, setting agenda for meetings, initiating activities, and delegating responsibilities to other officers and members along with Co-chair (2).
      The Co-Chairs (1) and (2) shall be responsible for determining what activities are acceptable for the organization to pursue.

      The Co-Chair (1) shall have the authority to create new officers, but must have unanimous approval from all existing officers at the time of the new office creation.

      The Co-Chair (2) shall be responsible for the above duties and all other duties not specifically delegated to another office.
2) The Co-chair (2) shall be responsible for administration of meetings, maintenance of organization’s accounts and records, and delegating responsibilities to other officers and members along with Co-chair(1).

In the event that Co-Chair(1) cannot conduct meetings, Co-chair(2) shall fulfill this responsibility

D. Policy Creation or changes can be proposed by any member of the society. Co-Chairs (1) and (2) have discretion to put policy proposals to a vote. All members of the society are allowed to vote on a policy proposal. Proposals must receive approval by two-thirds of all members to become effective.

E. Selection and Removal of Officers shall be as follows:
   1) Officers are appointed to one-year terms, which will end in the spring, when the next year’s officers are appointed.
   2) All members are entitled to apply to be appointed an officer so long as they are enrolled in Columbia Law School for the term in which they seek election.
   3) Specific dates and procedures for the application process will be determined by the co-chairs.
   4) Candidates must submit written candidacy statements, specifying the office to which they seek appointment prior to the application deadline.
   5) Incoming officers will be selected by the unanimous consent of the outgoing officers and the campus chaplain.

Article IV – Initial Officers.
By name and position:
Kristin Yemm, ’08 Co-Chair
Eric Sievertsen, ’08 Co-Chair

Article V – Initial Members.
The names of the seven initial members are:
Kristin Yemm, ’08
Eric Sievertsen, ’08
Brandon Caire, ’08
Juan Gonzales, ’07
Jane Datillo, ’08
Katie Brandes, ’08
Adrian Rodriguez, ’08

Article VI – Amending Constitution and By-Laws.
A. Specific articles of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society can be amended through the following procedure:
   1) Proposed amendment made by any member of the society at general meeting of the society
2) Proposed amendment will be put to vote at the next general meeting, after the general membership has been given substantial notice of the proposed amendment.

3) Amendments receiving a two-thirds majority of the general members, and unanimous approval of the officers, will be incorporated into the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society.

B. Article VII is not subject to amendment.

Article VII – Affirmation of the Columbia Law School Student Senate’s Non-discrimination policy.

The St. Thomas More Society endorses Section 6(b)(5) of the Student Senate By-laws. Membership to the St. Thomas More Society or eligibility to be an officer of the St. Thomas More Society will not be denied or discouraged based on “race, ethnicity, color, national origin, age, handicap or disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, marital statutes, religion, political affiliation, or the general exercise of a student’s right of free speech or association.”