



BLSA Canada

Election Rules & Procedures



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Black Law Students'
Association of Canada



www.blsacanada.com

2025–2026 BOARD ELECTIONS

BLACK LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

I. Positions Available for Election¹

Any member of a 2024–2025 active BLSA Canada chapter² or an individual identified as a member-at-large³ attending the National Conference (hereafter referred to as a “delegate”) may run for office. The following BLSA Canada positions are eligible for election:

- National President
- National Chair
- National Secretary
- National Treasurer
- National Francophone Director
- National Director of Communications
- National Mentorship Director

II. Positions Available for Appointment⁴

- Julius Alexander Isaac Moot Director
- National Conference Chair
- National Director of Professional Development
- National Common Law Chapter Representative
- National Civil Law Chapter Representative
- National Director of Advocacy
- National Director of Alumni Relations
- National Director of Sponsorship

III. Candidate Qualifications

There are two ways to be certified as a candidate for the BLSA Canada Executive Board:

- (1) Pre-Certification; or
- (2) As a nomination from the floor (“Floor Nomination”).

¹ One of the Directors must be fully bilingual.

² An active chapter is a chapter that is recognized by BLSA Canada. To be considered a member of a chapter, your name must be included in the chapter’s membership roster. You must be a student in good standing, enrolled in an accredited Canadian law school.

³ A member-at-large is:

- (a) an individual who has no chapter affiliation, but is currently a member within the BLSA Canada Membership database. You must be a student in good standing, enrolled in an accredited Canadian law school.
- (b) a Student-at-Law in a Canadian provincial jurisdiction that has graduated from an accredited Canadian law school and, while enrolled, was a Member of BLSA Canada who was a student in good standing.

⁴ Once the new board has been elected, the 2025–2026 board will provide descriptions of the appointed positions and solicit applications.

1. Pre-certification Process

1. Qualifying as a Candidate

Any active member who completes the documentation and fulfills the requirements of both the pre-certification and the final certification phases will qualify as a candidate for the National Executive Board.

2. Pre-Certification Deadline

If a candidate wants an opportunity to cure any deficiencies, all materials must be submitted online via the Google Form (www.blsacanada.com/candidateform) no later than **11:59 PM MST on February 14, 2025**. Each candidate will have until **12:00 PM MST on February 15, 2025** to cure any deficiencies. No applications will be accepted beyond that deadline.

3. Pre-Certification Submission Requirements

There are **six (6)** pre-certification submission requirements. Each member must declare their intent to run for a national position by submitting the documents below. **All of the items below are included in the online form, except: resume, headshot, and the two endorsement pages (local chapter and members). Please upload these to the form once completed.**

A. Candidate Statement

One (1) page Statement of Intent.

B. Résumé

One (1) page résumé, including BLSA position(s) held at the local or national level.

C. Completed Application

D. Signed Statement of Understanding

Signed statement of understanding of financial obligations for office.

E. Signed Acknowledgement of the Required Duties

Signed acknowledgement of the duties and obligations associated with the office sought. Interested parties may apply for only one position and must plan to enroll at their institution for the complete ensuing academic year.

F. Signed Endorsement from Local Chapter

Form signed by the (Co-)President of the local BLSA Canada chapter in which you are a member, certifying your good standing with the chapter. If you are the (Co-)President of your local chapter, your form must be signed by the Co-President/Vice-President. You may not sign the form for your own candidacy. If your school does not have a BLSA chapter, please indicate this on the application form.

G. Member Endorsements (10)

10 members of BLSA Canada must endorse your intention to run for a position. These endorsements can be **any** BLSA Canada member of **any** chapter that is attending the National Conference. This **does not** mean that the member is voting for you. A member **can** endorse multiple applications for candidates.

2. Floor Nomination Process

A member who did not submit the required materials per the pre-certification process may still become a candidate via a nomination from the floor. The rules and procedures regarding floor nominations are as follows:

1. Eligibility for Floor Nomination

Members who do not submit the required materials by the deadline may still run for election. Nominations from the floor are subject to the following rules:

- a. Any registered delegate or properly appointed proxy may nominate an active member at the National Conference for a national position, unless said position has two (2) or more pre-certified candidates already on the ballot.
- b. This means that if an elected position has one (1) pre-certified candidate, the position will still be open for floor nominations, and up to two candidates may be nominated. If there are no pre-certified candidates, any number of candidates may be nominated.

2. Time of Floor Nominations

Floor nominations will occur during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at **8:30 am MST on Saturday, February 15, 2025. Every candidate nominated on the floor will have until 12:00 PM MST on Saturday, February 15, 2025, to submit their completed election package to be eligible for the election. There will be no opportunity to cure any deficiencies.**

3. How to Make a Floor Nomination

To make the nomination, a Chapter's delegate must rise and state:

"I nominate _____ for the position of _____."

No second is required. Members are only permitted to nominate one person for each position. Each nominee must be present at the AGM to accept the nomination.

4. Submission Requirements Upon Accepting a Floor Nomination

If a candidate is nominated from the floor, they must orally accept the nomination and give a speech on why they will be suitable for the office during **the Annual General Meeting - Plenary B at 12:30 PM MST on Saturday, February 15, 2025.**

3. Important Considerations

1. Mandatory Transition Meeting

Any candidate who is elected to the National Executive Board is required to attend the Executive Transitional Meeting on **Sunday, February 16, 2025, from 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM (MST)**. This meeting is mandatory, so please make your travel arrangements accordingly.

2. Time Commitment and Financial Duties

Serving on the National Executive Board is a significant commitment which requires a substantial amount of travel and extracurricular work. Please factor this into your considerations when deciding whether to run for office.

4. Election Calendar: Key Dates

Event/Task	Date
Election Information Sessions	
Election 101: What's a BLSA Executive? <i>Learn more about a day in the life of BLSA Canada execs!</i>	Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 7:30 PM (EST)
Election 101 Booth <i>During the conference, visit current and past BLSA Canada execs to hear about their experiences, how to navigate anxieties about running, and the impact you can make for BLSA Canada's future.</i>	Friday, February 14, 2025, from 10 AM - 6 PM (MST)
Pre-Certified Applications: Open Jan. 23 - Feb. 14, 2025	
Election Application Deadline:	Friday, February 14, 2025, at 7:00 PM (MST)
Deadline to Resolve Any Application Issues:	Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 12:00 PM (MST)
Floor Nominations: Only open for positions with 1 or less pre-certified applications	

Floor Nominations Due:	Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 8:30 AM (MST)
Deadline to Submit Election Application: <i>(only applicable to candidates nominated from the floor)</i>	Saturday, February 15, 2025, at 12:00 PM (MST)
Annual General Meeting Schedule: Saturday, February 15	
Plenary A (1st Session):	8:30 AM – 10:30 AM (MST) – Floor Nominations & Executive Reports
Break: 10:30 AM – 12 PM (MST) <i>(Use this time to campaign/collect signatures!)</i>	
Plenary B (2nd Session):	12:30 PM – 2:00 PM (MST) – Election Debates
Campaigning/Voting Period: 2:30 PM – 6:30 PM (MST)	
Results Announcement: Conference Gala (8:00 PM MST)	

IV. SPEECHES AND QUESTIONS

a. *Candidate Speeches/Questions*

All candidates running for a national position must give a speech and participate in a debate during the AGM.

b. *Order of Speeches*

The order of Candidate Speeches and Questions and Answers (Q&A) will be determined before the AGM.

V. DELEGATE VOTING PROCEDURES

A. **Method of Voting**

Voting will be held virtually via Google Forms. The voting link will be circulated directly to eligible voters after the Annual General Meeting.

B. **Eligible Voters**

Any active member of BLSA Canada for the 2024-2025 year⁵ who is registered at the 2025 National Conference may vote in the election.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2025-2026 BLSA CANADA ELECTED OFFICIALS

- a. The newly-elected officers will be announced during the 2025 National Conference Gala on **Saturday, February 15th, 2025.**

VII. CAMPAIGN RULES

Campaigning and Publicity

Campaigning begins at 12:30 PM MST on February 15, 2025. **Candidates may not campaign for each other, nor may they run together on 'slates'.**

Referring to your opponents/other candidates is banned, except in certain contexts. You cannot make allegations about your opponents or other candidates in the elections in any of your published material, whether physical or online. You can, however, refer to them in forums where the Elections Committee thinks they have a fair opportunity to respond directly. This includes direct questions on BLSA Canada's Facebook page.

Flyers and posters are permitted for campaign purposes. Please adhere to the publication rules of your law faculty. Flyers and posters that, in the view of the Elections Committee, insult, degrade, or denounce other candidates are not permitted. E-mail and similar electronic messages, including text messages, which promote your candidature may

⁵ For this purpose, the membership cycle is September 1st, 2024 to August 31st, 2025.

only be sent to friends of the candidate by the candidate – such messages must not be used for promoting or denouncing other candidates.

Campaign Instagram and Facebook pages are acceptable and encouraged. Please provide a link to your social media page on the general BLSA Canada Instagram/Facebook page. You must be careful not to violate rules on making direct references to your opponents if they are not given the opportunity to respond. Social media pages are to be used for the sole purpose of creating a safe space for electorates to ask questions to candidates about their platforms.

Hate Speech

Hate speech, including any language or action which is deemed racist, sexist, homophobic or transphobic, is banned in all contexts.

Penalties and Complaints

Contravening the Rules, including sections of standing orders issued by the Elections Committee, may result in penalties or disqualification. The Elections Committee reserves the right to issue both the standard penalties defined below, as well as any other non-standard penalty deemed appropriate.

“Standard Penalties” include, at first strike, a disciplinary meeting; at second strike, a campaign ban at the Election Committee’s discretion; at third strike, disqualification from the election.

The Elections Committee shall strictly enforce penalties, and all candidates are strongly advised to consult the Elections Committee if they are unsure of any aspect of the Rules. Penalties will generally be applied to all candidates who gain benefit or who are culpable by actions that are contrary to the Rules.

Remember that the Elections Committee may be approached informally at any time for guidance, clarification of the rules or a ruling without submitting an official complaint. Any complaints about how the Elections Committee is running elections should be sent to chair@blsacanada.com and president@blsacanada.com.

Results Announcement

The Elections Committee will release the 2025-2026 election results at the Conference Gala on the evening of **February 15, 2025**.

The Elections Committee

Contact chair@blsacanada.com to message the Elections Committee. All election-related enquiries should, in the first instance, be sent to this address.