

What is Constitutional Council?

Constitutional Council (CC) is the Judicial Branch of Student Government. Consisting of four Associate Justices and one Chief Justice, the Council maintains the Student Government Codes and Constitution, and interprets them when there is a dispute on their meaning.

The CC can also resolve internal disputes about the governing documents of student organizations.

Constitutional Council

Judicial Branch of USC Student Government





What Kinds of Cases Does the Constitutional Council hear?

- **Elections Appeals:** If a candidate in a Student Government election thinks that the Elections Commission has failed to follow the codes in a violations penalty decision, he or she may file an appeal to have the issue reviewed.
- **Constitutional Challenge:** If a student or group of students feels that any Student Government code, pending legislation, or actions violates the Student Government Constitution, he or she may file a constitutional challenge.
- **Organizational Challenges:** If a student feels that a student organization or Student Government has violated the constitution or codes pertaining to that organization, he or she may challenge.

How Do I Bring a Case to the Constitutional Council?

All cases begin with a one or two page letter to the CC alleging that a Constitution, Code, or other governing document has been violated.

The Council will review these letters and determine if the case will proceed.



Glossary

Appellant- In an Elections Appeal, the person who appeals a case to the CC.

Brief- A document containing all of the evidence and arguments supporting or refuting the issues in a case. The length of briefs depends on the issues in a given case, but they are generally between three and ten pages, with ten being the maximum page limit.

Defendant- The person or group who is alleged to have committed a violation.

Discovery- A period of time during which all evidence, including a list of potential witnesses, should be submitted to the Council.

Opinion- The full reasoning and findings of the Council on the issues presented in a case.

Plaintiff- In an Organizational or Constitutional Challenge, the person who brings a violation to the CC.

Rules of Evidence and Procedure- The rules that govern the admission of evidence for consideration by the Council.

Where to find us

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