Seeking to help and support LSA members

The Ombuds Committee has been established to provide confidential off-the-record opportunities for LSA members to obtain assistance regarding a wide range of issues. We shall promote fairness, equity, and inclusion—especially within all purviews of the LSA. Every effort will be made to promote harmonious resolution of problems impacting LSA members.

Access the Ombuds Committee via the LSA member portal

Members can request to speak with an Ombuds Committee member by phone, or submit a written request for assistance. Both processes can be initiated through the LSA member portal. All requests for assistance will maintain strict confidentiality.
Ombuds Committee Membership

Faruk Akkus (U. Mass.)
Eric Acton (Eastern Michigan U.)
Matt Barros (Washington U.)
John Baugh (Washington U.)
Jeremy Calder (U. of Colorado)
Qi Cheng (U. of Washington)
Elaine Chun (U. of S. Carolina)
Sandra Chung (U.C. Santa Cruz)
Tracy Conner (Northwestern U.)
Michael (Mitch) Yoshitaka Erlewine (U. of Singapore)
Robert (Bob) Frank (Yale U.)
Shelome Gooden (U. of Pittsburgh)
Lauren Hall-Lew (U. of Edinburgh)
Heidi Harley (U. of Arizona)
Barbara Johnstone (Carnegie Mellon U.)
Chris Kennedy (U. of Chicago)
Scott Kiesling (U. of Pittsburgh)
Monica Macaulay (U. of Wisconsin)
deandre miles-hercules (U.C. Santa Barbara)
Savithry Namboodiripad (U. of Michigan)
Frederick (Fritz) Newmeyer (U. of Washington)
Rafael Orozco (Louisiana State U.)
Robin Queen (U. of Michigan)
Rebecca Scarborough (U. of Colorado)
Michael Terry (U. of North Carolina)
Gregory Ward (Northwestern U.)
Alicia Wassink (U. of Washington)
Tracey Weldon (U. of S. Carolina)
Ana Celia Zentella (U.C. San Diego)
Lal Zimman (U.C. Santa Barbara)

LSA Ombuds Code of Ethics

Confidentiality  LSA Ombuds will maintain strict confidence and not disclose confidential information unless given permission to do so. Exceptions will be limited to situations where imminent harm is at risk.

Impartiality and Neutrality  LSA Ombuds will remain neutral and impartial, never engaging in situations that could create a conflict of interest.

Informality  LSA Ombuds represent an informal resource that does not participate in adjudicative procedures.

Independence  LSA Ombuds operate independently and engage only at the direct request of an LSA member.

LSA Ombuds Standards of Practice

1) LSA Ombuds communication will be held in strict confidence and all reasonable steps will be taken to safeguard confidentiality.

2) Communication with LSA Ombuds is confidential and will not be shared without permission, except as required by law. LSA Ombuds will not testify in any formal process and will resist doing so, even when given permission.

3) LSA Ombuds will provide feedback, and do so in ways that safeguard the identity of relevant parties.

4) LSA Ombuds will attempt to identify a range of solutions and facilitate discussion that promotes remediation whenever possible.

5) LSA Ombuds are neutral, impartial and unaligned.

6) LSA Ombuds suggestions, proposals, and solutions are produced independently.

7) A two-step process will be used: a rapid confirmation response will be provided, followed by careful selection of 3-to-4 committee members to assess the specific issue being addressed.