

Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

1.1 The name of this association shall be the National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association (APALSA).

1.2 The purpose of APALSA shall be:

- a. to advance Asian Pacific American law students through support, advocacy, and professional development on a national level;
- b. to develop a network of Asian Pacific American law student organizations across the nation;
- c. to foster the exchange of ideas and promote a deeper understanding of the legal, political, and social status of Asian Pacific Americans in society;
- d. to encourage leadership, participation, and involvement in the greater Asian Pacific American community;
- e. to inspire law students and legal professionals to serve the interests and aspirations of Asian Pacific Americans and all diverse populations.

ARTICLE II. AFFILIATION/MEMBERSHIP

2.1 There shall be two types of membership.

- a. **Affiliate Organization Member:** An Affiliate Organization is defined as a APALSA dues-paying law student organization at an American Bar Association (ABA) fully or provisionally accredited law school that is dedicated to the promotion and support of Asian Pacific American law students and their professional interests. Affiliate Organizations shall enjoy the rights and privileges to vote in NAPALSA related elections (pursuant to NAPALSA Election bylaws), participate in any social, academic, and professional functions, and be eligible for any NAPALSA awards and scholarships.
- b. **Active Member (Individual):** An Active Member is defined as a person who is a full or part time student at an American Bar Association (ABA) fully or provisionally accredited law school, and who is a member of a dues-paying APALSA. Active Members shall enjoy the rights and privileges to vote in APALSA related elections (pursuant to APALSA Election bylaws), hold APALSA elected office, participate in any

social, academic, and professional functions, and be eligible for any NAPALSA awards and scholarships.

- c. Honorary Member (Individual): An Honorary Member is defined as any professors of law, any practicing lawyer, or other legal professional, not meeting the qualifications in the previous section, who is an alumnus of a APALSA Affiliate Organization or who is otherwise admitted by application. Honorary Members shall have no right to vote or hold office, except as described by this Constitution or other adopted bylaws of APALSA. Honorary members are not eligible for APALSA awards and scholarships.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP DUES AND TERM

3.1 TERM. APALSA Membership Term runs annually from August 1st to July 31st of each calendar year (Academic Year). APALSA accepts dues from Affiliate Organizations on an annual basis. APALSA accepts Active Member dues from an individual student, if his/her law school is without a APALSA Affiliate Organization. Dues payments maintain the good-standing of an Affiliate Organization or Active Member and provide all of the rights and privileges of APALSA membership.

3.2 AMOUNT. Affiliate Organization membership fees (Dues) will be will be set by the Executive Board of Officers by May of each Term. Dues shall not increase in an amount greater than \$25 from the previous academic year Dues amount. Late fees shall be assessed for all Affiliates paying on or after October 1st. Late fee amounts shall be determined by the Executive Board of Officers by May of each Term. For individuals who wish to join NAPALSA as an Active Member, as defined in 2.1(b) above, Dues shall be \$35 per academic year, regardless of postmark date.

3.3 DUES STATEMENTS. Affiliate Organizations will receive a Dues Statement from the NAPALSA President, Treasurer, or Regional Director by August 15 of each Academic Year, which will indicate the current Dues amount and mailing address for Dues payment.

ARTICLE IV. REPRESENTATION, AUTHORITY, TERM

4.1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS. The ultimate power of APALSA shall be vested in its membership, as represented by an elected Board of Directors. A majority vote of dues-paying Affiliate Organizations shall elect the Board of Directors annually at the APALSA General Meeting in November of each year. The Board of Directors shall consist of an Executive Board of Officers and Regional Directors.

4.2 EXECUTIVE BOARD OF OFFICERS. There shall be an elected Executive Board of Officers consisting of a President, Vice President, Historian, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Marketing Officer and Director of Communication.

4.3 VOTE. Officers shall have one (1) vote. All Officers or Directors, including the Vice President, Conference Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Relations Officer shall have one (1) vote. The Faculty Advise shall only vote in the event of a tie vote. The vote of the Board of Officers shall be controlling. Any Officer not present at time of vote forfeits his/her vote.

ARTICLE V. BOARD OF DIRECTOR DUTIES

5.1 The Board of Officers of NAPALSA shall be composed of the following:

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Secretary
- d. Treasurer
- e. Etc.

5.2 The Board of Directors shall be elected during the APALSA General Meeting and installed in April of each year. Directors shall serve a term of 2 acedemic school years.

ARTICLE VI. RESIGNATION, SUSPENSION, AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS

6.1 RESIGNATION. An elected Officer may only resign his/her position within the first three months of their tenure. S/he may do so by presenting a written and dated statement to the President setting forth the reason for such action. Resignation shall be effective only if in writing, and shall become effective when tendered. It will be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting. The individual resigning must assist the board in filling the vacancy left by his/her resignation. Election to fill such vacancy shall be detailed in Article VIII.

6.2 CAUSE FOR SUSPENSION OR REMOVAL. An Officer may be suspended or removed from his/her position for reason of non-participation, incompetency, inefficiency, dishonesty, immoral conduct, insubordination, discourteous treatment of Members, Affiliates or community partners, neglect of duty, any other failure of good behavior which does not adhere to the mission and vision of APALSA. Any Member of APALSA may bring complaint against an Officer or Director by filing such reasons in writing with the President. The President may bring a complaint against any Officer in his/her capacity as Member. The President may not vote in any suspension or removal issues, except in event of a tie.

6.3 SUSPENSION. The suspension of any Officer, except for the President, shall be effective in the following manner:

- a. WRITTEN NOTICE. The President shall inform the Officer or Director in writing of complaint within ten (10) business days. The writing will inform the individual that the complaint may result in suspension or removal of the Officer or Director. The President must provide a reasonable time for the Officer or Director to cure the reasons for the complaint.
- b. 30 DAY SUSPENSION. Upon a second complaint, or a failure to cure the reasons for the initial complaint, the President may suspend the title of any Officer or Director for a period not to exceed 30 days, in which time the individual must cure the reasons for the complaint. Should the Officer or Director fail to cure the reasons for the complaint within 30 days, the President must initiate removal of the Officer or Director as described in Article 6.4.
- c. SUSPENSION OF PRESIDENT. Should the President be subject to suspension, the Vice President will serve as the noticing officer. A majority vote of the Full Board of Officers is required to suspend the President.
- d. MEETING TO APPEAL SUSPENSION. Any suspended individual may call a meeting of the Full Board of Directors to appeal the 30 Day suspension. Such meeting must be called within seventy-two (72) hours and held within seven (7) days of notice of suspension. A suspension of any individual may only be overturned with a three-fourths vote of the Board of Directors.

6.4 REMOVAL. The removal of any Officer, except for the President, shall be effective in the following manner:

- a. COMPLAINT. A written complaint setting forth reasons for removal shall be presented to the President. Should removal pertain to the President of APALSA, the written complaint shall be presented to the Vice President.
- b. WRITTEN NOTICE AND MEETING OF BOARD. A meeting regarding the reasons for the removal complaint shall take place within ten (10) days of receipt of complaint, including weekend days. The Officer against whom such complaint is brought shall be informed in writing at least five (5) days prior to the meeting and shall have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard and the persons bringing the complaint against the Officer shall have the same opportunity.
- c. VOTE OF THE BOARD CONTROLS. After discussion, a vote shall be taken to determine the issue of removal. A majority vote of the Board of Directors shall control the issue of removal for any Executive Officer (other than President) or

Director. A three-fourths vote of the Board of Officers is required for the removal of the President.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

7.1 NUMBER OF MEETINGS. The General Membership and Executive Board of Officers are required to meet during their Term.

a. The General Membership shall meet no less than annually. The General Membership meeting shall take place at the APALSA Conference each year. The General Membership shall elect the incoming Board of officers during this meeting.

i. VOTE OF THE MEMBERSHIP. Each Affiliate Organization, who has paid membership dues, shall have one (1) vote to elect the incoming Board of Officers.

1. Proxy Voting. Shall not be allowed.

b. The Board of Officer shall meet when needed during their Active Term.

7.2 CALLING MEETINGS. Meetings may be called by any member of the Executive Board of Officers.

7.3 PRESIDING OFFICER. The President shall be the presiding officer at all meetings of the Board of Officers, unless such duty is delegated by the President to another Officer, with notice given to the Secretary before the start of the meeting.

7.4 MINUTES. Minutes shall be taken by the Secretary during all meetings of the Board of Executive Board. In the absence of the Secretary, the President, or presiding officer, shall appoint another member of the Board to record Minutes. Minutes shall be approved by Motion or other method, such as email, as determined by the President. If the Secretary is not available then the President shall delegate the duties to another Officer.

7.5 AGENDAS. The calling officer is responsible to provide a detailed agenda to scheduled meeting participants in reasonable time in advance of the meeting time.

7.6 MOTIONS. Motions to be presented for consideration on the floor can be made by any Officer present at meetings. The presiding officer at the meeting shall entertain all reasonable discussion on the motion, including the tabling of the motion until a future meeting, prior to calling a vote on the motion. Motions, including the motion to table a motion, are passed by a majority vote of Directors present. It shall be at the sole

discretion of the presiding officer at the meeting to determine method of taking a vote, whether by voice or ballot. Anonymous voting is not permitted.

7.7 VOTING. Voting rights in meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Board of Officers are as follows:

- a. EXECUTIVE BOARD. Each Officer, including the President, shall have one vote. In the event of a tie vote, the tie shall be broken by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS AND INTERIM ELECTIONS

8.1 TIME FOR ELECTIONS. Elections for Board of Officers shall be held annually.

8.2 TIME FOR INTERIM ELECTIONS. Interim Election proceedings shall proceed once the vacancy becomes imminent.

8.3 ELECTION AND INTERIM ELECTION COMMITTEE. The Election and Interim Election Committee shall consist of all members of the Executive Board of Officers whom are not eligible as candidates for the Incoming Board of Directors. The Outgoing Secretary shall serve as Chair of the Election Committee. Should the Outgoing Secretary be eligible as a candidate for the Incoming Board of Directors, the Outgoing President shall serve as Chair of the Election Committee. Should the Outgoing Secretary and the Outgoing President be eligible as a candidate for the Incoming Board of Directors, the Executive Board of Officers shall appoint a Chair of the Election Committee.

8.4 ELECTION AND INTERIM ELECTION BYLAWS. See ELECTION BYLAWS for proceedings relating to the Interim Elections.

ARTICLE IX. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

the National Asian Pacific American Law Student Association not to discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, disability, race, color, age, religion, veteran status, or national or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

10.1 AMENDMENTS PERMITTED. APALSA may amend the Constitution and any corresponding bylaws.

10.2 PROCESS TO AMEND. Amendment proposals shall be in writing and shall be ratified with a majority vote of the Board of Officers.

- a. Prior to a vote of a Constitutional Amendment, Directors shall have no less than forty-eight (48) hours to review such Amendment. Amendments may be ratified via phone, email, or other method. Interactive discussion is not required to ratify an Amendment; however, any Director may call a meeting to discuss an Amendment within forty-eight (48) hours of a scheduled vote.
- b. Ratified Amendments are immediately effective.
- c. Ratification of amendments shall appear in the minutes of the next meeting of the Board of Directors, including the date of ratification.

10.3 EMERGENCY AMENDMENTS. Amendments may be made at any time when emergency so requires, by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board of Officers, which shall include a vote by the President. Such emergency Amendment shall be considered temporary for a thirty (30) day period, during which time the Amendment must be ratified by the procedures described in 10.2 above.

ARTICLE XI. BYLAWS

APALSA may have governing Bylaws to set forth rules of policy and procedure. Bylaws, shall compile to TSU and TMSL school policy and procedures.