

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOOL OF LAW –**  
**AFRICAN LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**  
**2018-2019**

**ARTICLE I**

CONSTITUTION

This Constitution shall be known as the Constitution of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law (TMSL) – African Law Students Association (ALSA).

**ARTICLE II**

GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Section 1:**

Students enrolled in TMSL can become members of ALSA by request. A requirement of this membership is the payment of ALSA's membership dues and completion of ALSA's membership application.

**Section 2:**

Each member shall pay dues totaling twenty-five (\$25) dollars per academic year or forty (\$40) dollars which includes a shirt. This amount is subject to change as may be determined by the General Body of this Association. Such proposed change must receive an affirmative vote of a majority of the General Body members present at either a regular or specially called meeting.

**Section 3:**

A measure adopted by ALSA for regular business shall be valid if agreed upon by the executive members of ALSA for the current semester who are present at either a regular or specially called meeting. Notice of ALSA's general meetings must be posted at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of such meeting.

**Section 4:**

Each member of ALSA shall have the right to engage in the general activities of the Association.

**Section 5:**

Membership in ALSA shall not under any circumstances be denied on the basis of race, religion, sex, ethnicity or national origin.

**Section 6:**

All members of ALSA shall have the right to demand a copy of this Constitution, its amendments, revisions and by-laws at any time, by presenting such demands to the President, Vice-President or Secretary of ALSA.

## ARTICLE III

### EXECUTIVE BODY OF THE AFRICAN LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

#### **Section 1:**

The executive power of ALSA shall be vested in the ALSA Executive Board.

#### **Section 2:**

The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the meetings, determine the hour and place of the meetings, make recommendations to the general members, and shall perform other duties as are specified by these by-laws. The Executive Board shall be subject to the orders of the Association, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Association.

#### **Section 3:**

The Executive Board shall be composed of the following ALSA officers: the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Financial Officer, and the Public Relations Officer. The members of ALSA shall elect such officers in the spring semester of each academic year. Authority to appoint any additional officers to the Executive Board shall be vested in the President and ratified by a majority (3/4<sup>th</sup>) vote by the Executive Board.

#### **Section 4:**

No action taken by the Executive Board shall be valid or legal unless passed or adopted by a majority of the quorum of the Executive Board members. A quorum shall consist of at least fifty (50%) percent of the Executive Board members.

## ARTICLE IV

### COMMITTEES

#### **Section 1:** *Standing Committees.*

The standing committees of ALSA shall be the: (1) *Constitutional*; (2) *Academic*; (3) *Election*; (4) *Event Coordinating*; (5) *Membership and Faculties*; (6) *Finance*; (7) *Alumni*; and (8) *Public Relations Committee*. The President and officer, whom the committee is under, by agreement, shall appoint the chairpersons to these committees; unless otherwise prescribed in this Constitution.

#### **Section 2:** *Constitutional Committee.*

The Constitutional Committee shall be responsible for reviewing the ALSA Constitution at least once per semester. The President shall serve as the Chair of the Constitutional Committee and may organize a specially called meeting if necessary.

#### **Section 3:** *Academic Committee.*

The Academic Committee shall be responsible for overseeing and organizing the ALSA 1L and 2L Tutorial sessions. The President shall appoint a 2L or 3L to serve as Chair of the Academic Committee.

**Section 4: *Elections Committee.***

The Vice-President shall serve as the Chair of the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee shall develop policies and procedures for elections and rights of candidates. Membership of the Elections Committee shall be comprised of all the members of the Executive Board.

**Section 5: *Event Coordinating Committee.***

The Event Coordinating Committee shall be responsible for all ALSA events—e.g. community service events, cultural events, fitness events, general board meetings, collaboration events with other organizations banquets, etc. The Vice-President shall appoint a member to serve as the Chair of the Event Coordinating Committee.

**Section 6: *Membership and Faculties Committee.***

The Membership and Faculties Committee shall be responsible for securing room reservations, table reservations, and manage membership records.

**Section 7: *Finance Committee.***

The Finance Committee shall be responsible for fundraising for each semester. Also, the Finance Committee shall create and update ALSA's budget.

**Section 8: *Alumni Committee.***

The Alumni Committee shall be responsible for keeping an up-to-date alumni and general attorney database. Also, the Alumni Committee shall work to pair members with practicing attorneys and coordinate with the other committees as needed—e.g. funding with the Finance Committee and events with the Event Coordinating Committee. The Finance Officer shall appoint a member to serve as the Chair of the Alumni Committee.

**Section 9: *Public Relations Committee.***

The Public Relations Committee shall handle social media presence, creation of flyers, and historian duties such as photography and videography.

**Section 10: *Non-Standing Committees.***

The President shall have the power to create a non-standing committee to effectuate the goals of his or her bar year. The President must notify the Executive Board of the purpose of the committee and must be approved by all Executive Board members prior to the committee working on a particular initiative.

## ARTICLE V

### AFRICAN LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

The following duties of each Executive Board member are hereby described:

PRESIDENT: The President shall:

- Call at least (1) meeting of ALSA each month of the regular Fall and Spring semester and preside over such meetings. The President or such other officer, as he/she may designate while he/she is present, shall preside over meetings of the Executive Board and shall generally be the executive officer of the ALSA.
- Be responsible for the proper performance of all activities carried out in the year and shall see that each member of the executive board properly carries out his or her expressed and assigned duties.
- Seek to further interest of ALSA.
- Sign all documents and countersign all checks.
- Call special meetings, as he/she deems necessary.
- Preside over the Constitutional Committee.
- Preside over the Academic Committee.

VICE-PRESIDENT: The Vice-President shall:

- Assist the President as directed by the President.
- Be responsible for arranging meeting and conference venues, including banquets and other events.
- Ensure ALSA is in line with her Constitution.
- Preside over meetings in the absence of the President or at the direction of the President.
- Preside over the Elections Committee.
- Preside over the Events Coordinating Committee.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall:

- Take the minutes at all meetings of the Association.
- Maintain and have custody of all records not specifically assigned to other officers as set forth in the by-laws.
- Be the liaison between ALSA and TMSL.
- Be guided by the President's directive in gathering and maintaining Association's records.
- Perform any other duties pertaining to ALSA as directed by the President.
- Preside over the Membership and Faculties Committee.

FINANCIAL OFFICER: The Financial Officer shall:

- Have custody of all the funds of the Association.

- Make monthly reports at all regular meetings and file a copy of the report with the Secretary; also, this report shall include all receipts and disbursements.
- Have his/her signature signed for any expenditure of the ALSA monies, or such other reports as directed by the President or Vice-President.
- Be responsible for creating a budget to be adhered to by the organization at the beginning of every year and shall create a report addressing any changes from the budget at the end of the year.
- Preside over Finance Committee.
- Preside over the Alumni Committee.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:** The Public Relations Officer shall:

- Be responsible for publicizing the activities of the organization and any outgoing document must be approved by the President.
- Maintain a positive public image of the organization through attendance in activities and functions where Association members and affiliates may be present.
- Be responsible for documenting and maintaining a record of all the Association's activities.
- Organize these records in a form to preserve and subsequently pass-on.
- Preside over the Public Relations Committee.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS**

**Section 1:**

Officers of the Executive Board who are negligent in carrying out the duties of their office may be removed from the office by impeachment proceedings. These proceedings shall include:

- a twenty (20) percent general member signed petition  
or
- a ten (10) percent Executive Board signed petition for removal which must allege with particularity the negligence of accused officer in performing his/her appointed task. This petition shall be presented to the President who will then call for a special meeting of the Executive Board.
- The Executive Board shall decide by a majority vote whether or not the accused officer shall be removed from officer.

Any member of ALSA who maliciously petitions for the removal of an Executive Board member knowing that the basis of his/her action is unfounded, shall be subject to impeachment proceedings.

**Section 2:**

If an ALSA officer is vacated either voluntarily or otherwise, the President shall fill the vacated officer by appointment or by election to be ratified by the Executive Board, if he/she sees fit.

**Section 3:**

If the President of ALSA vacates his/her office, then a special election shall be held. A notice shall be posted of such vacancy and nominations for the filling of this vacancy shall be received within a one week (7 day) period. An election shall be held in the same manner as all regular ALSA elections. Only those classified as ALSA members in the semester in which the vacancy occurred shall be eligible to vote in such an election. The successful candidate must receive at least a majority of the votes.

**ARTICLE VII**

**ELECTIONS**

**Section 1:**

The ALSA Executive Board shall by quorum, set the exact place and date for the general elections so long as the selected date is after the first four weeks of the semester.

**Section 2:**

The majority of the votes cast shall be sufficient to elect. In the case of a tie, where only two candidates are competing, balloting for such Office shall be repeated. If more than two candidates are running and none has a majority, the top two candidates having the most votes shall participate in the run-off election.

**Section 3:**

The ALSA Executive Board shall be responsible for conducting ALSA's general elections. The Election Committee, headed by the Vice-President, shall also be responsible for the tabulation of the votes cast in such an election and for giving the results of such elections to the President of ALSA. Counting of the ballots shall be in an open meeting and the results of each ballot shall be posted. Please also defer to election by-laws.

**Section 4:**

Any ballot from the same person that reflects a vote for any two candidates for the same office shall be void.

**Section 5:**

All disputes regarding the form of elections, nominations, balloting, political activities, and all other matters to nominations and elections not covered by this article shall be decided by the Executive Board.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1:**

Before becoming effective, this Constitution must be ratified by three-fifths (3/5<sup>th</sup>) vote of the entire membership of ALSA. A three-fifth (3/5<sup>th</sup>) affirmative vote shall constitute ratification.

**Section 2:**

This Constitution may be amended by the addition of either articles or section. Each of these forms must be made by at least a three-fifths ( $3/5^{\text{th}}$ ) vote for adoption of the entire membership, in an ALSA meeting. Any proposed amendment to the Constitution may be raised at a regular meeting or otherwise posted by the President seven days before it is voted on by the membership.

**Section 3:**

This Constitution, upon the completion of the ratification process set forth in Section 1 of this article, shall constitute the only valid, legal, and binding constitution of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law – African Law Students Association, and must be signed by a majority of the present Executive Board members.