

ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN LAW STUDENT ASSOCIATION (APALSA)

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Asian/Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Asian/Pacific American Law Students Association shall be to provide its members with a common forum for expressing their needs and concerns as law students; to provide members with a mechanism for meeting their needs and adequately handling their concerns. Toward accomplishing the organizational purpose, the Association shall effectuate programs and maintain viable organizational operations.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I: Members of the Asian/Pacific American Law Students Association shall be University of Miami Law students committed to the goals and objectives of this organization.

SECTION II: Membership dues shall be determined by the majority of members in attendance at the last general body meeting of the preceding year and must be paid at a time determined by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall make recommendations as to the level of dues.

SECTION III: Each member is expected to actively participate on at least one standing committee

SECTION IV: Membership shall be held by those meeting the criteria established in Sections I, II, and III of this Article.

ARTICLE IV: NONDISCRIMINATION

In compliance with the policy of the University of Miami, the Association does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, handicap, age, or marital status. This nondiscrimination policy covers membership selection, activities, policies, and practices of the Association.

ARTICLE V: GOALS

The goals of the Association shall be:

- A. One hundred percent (100%) retention of all Asian/Pacific American law Students.
- B. Increase in the number of Asian/Pacific Americans admitted and enrolled each year.
- C. Pursue academic excellence for Association members through tutorials and exam taking preparedness.
- D. Foster community interface and assistance.
- E. Forge solidarity with Asian/Pacific American Law Students and other Asian/Pacific graduate and undergraduate students for purposes of heightening awareness toward issues for purposes of heightening awareness toward issues effecting the Asian/Pacific American communities.
- F. Improve employment and training opportunities for Association members.
- G. Increase the awareness of Association members of needs and concerns regarding national and international issues confronting Asian/Pacific Americans.

ARTICLE VI: OBJECTIVES

The Association shall set objectives that are designed to help reach its general organizational goals and fulfill its purpose. Objectives shall be drafted by a standing committee prior to election of the new board and read to the general body.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

The Association shall have standing committees to plan and organize activities and events aimed at achieving specified objectives and identifying specific organizational needs. Committees shall submit a list of related organizational objectives prior to election of a new board for purposes of implementing programmatic activity in the subsequent academic year. The Association shall consist of, but not be limited to the following committees:

- A. **COMMUNITY SERVICE:** Shall be charged with the responsibility of planning, and organizing community related projects. Shall make recommendations to the Executive Board and general body regarding community needs and programs.
- B. **SOCIAL:** Shall be responsible for planning, organizing, and identifying events that will foster unity, and student relations for Association members.
- C. **RECRUITMENT:** Shall be charged with the responsibility of the law school recruitment process and reporting to the Executive Board and general body relevant information. Shall be responsible for organizing programs and operations to increase Asian/Pacific American student applications for admission and enrollment.
- D. **PROGRAMMING:** Shall be responsible for planning, organizing, and identifying events that will influence and foster cultural awareness and consciousness raising for Association members.

- E. **ACADEMIC SUPPORT:** Shall be charged with the responsibility of identifying and making available needed academic resources to Association members. Shall be responsible for planning and organizing events and activities designed to improve members' general academic performance.
- F. **FUNDRAISING:** Shall be charged with the responsibility of planning and organizing ways and means of generating financial support for the carrying out of programs and operations of the Association.

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIVE OFFICERS

The elective officers of the Association shall be the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Community Outreach Chair(s), Social Chair(s), Recruitment Chair(s), Programming Chair(s), Academic Support Chair(s), and Fundraising Chair(s). Officers must, at all times, be members in good standing. They shall take office as provided in Article XII.

SECTION I: There shall be a Chairperson of the Association. The Chair shall be second or third year members in the Fall terms of the academic year following the election and shall be members within the provisions of Section IV of Article III. The duties and powers of the Chair are as follows:

- A. Be the Chief Executive Officer.
- B. Preside over board and general body meetings.
- C. Serve as the official representative of the Association in all activities of the Law School, the University, and the community.
- D. To request volunteers to serve on any committee created by this constitution or the executive Board, for the purpose of conducting the affairs of the Association.
- E. Subject to two-thirds approval of the Executive Board, the Chairperson may appoint a chairperson of any committee created by the Executive Board whose chair is not so designated by this constitution.
- F. Be a member, ex officio, of all subordinate boards and committees of the Association.
- G. Coordinate all APALSA activities.

SECTION II: The Vice-Chairperson/secretary shall be a members within the provisions of Section IV of Article III. The duties and powers of the Vice-Chair are as follows:

- A. Act as Chair in case of the permanent or temporary absence and represent the Association in all meetings if the Chair is unable to attend.
- B. Assist the Chair as liaisons between the Asian/Pacific American Law Students and campus officials, individuals and organizations.
- C. Take minutes of Executive Board and General Body meetings.

SECTION III: The Treasurer shall be a member within the provision of Section IV of Article III. The duties of the Treasurer are as follows:

- A. Collect and maintain dues from Association members and maintain records of members in good standing.
- B. Be responsible for accurate recording and keeping of funds the Association may have and maintain accurate expenditure records.
- C. Make monthly reports to the body, in writing and orally, on current assets and expenditures of the Association.
- D. Work in conjunction with the Fundraising Committee in organizing fund raising events.
- E. Act as Chair in case of the Chair's permanent or temporary absence represent the Association in all meetings if the Chair and Vice-Chair are unable to attend.
- F. Be responsible for collection of all monies generated in an Association event.
- G. Not serve in a Treasurer capacity for any other University of Miami Law Student organization while holding office for the Association.

SECTION IV: There shall be one or two Community Outreach Co-chairs. The Community Outreach Co-chairs shall be members within the provision of Section IV of Article III. The duties and powers of the Community Outreach Co-chairs are as follows:

- A. Chair the Community Outreach Committee.

SECTION V: There shall be one or two Social Chairs. The Social Co-chairs shall be members within the provision of Section IV of Article III. The duties powers of the Social Co-chairs shall be as follows:

- A. Be responsible for organizing social activities for the Association.
- B. Chair the Social Committee.

SECTION VI: There shall be one or two Recruitment Chairs. The Recruitment Co-Chairs shall be members within the provision of Section IV of Article III. The duties and powers of the Recruitment Co-chairs shall be as follows:

- A. Work in conjunction with the Dean of Admissions and Student Recruiting office on recruiting for the law school
- B. Coordinate and plan recruiting missions at undergraduate institutions on their law days.
- C. Chair the Recruitment Committee.

SECTION VII: There shall be one or two Programming Chairs. The Programming Co-chairs shall be members within the provision of Section IV of Article III. The duties and powers of the Programming Co-chairs are as follows:

- A. Be responsible for coordinating forums, panel discussions, and

- publicity.
- B. Be responsible for coordinating the Attorney-student support program with the various Asian Bar Associations.
 - C. Chair the Programming Committee.

SECTION VIII: There shall be one or two Academic Support Chairs. The Academic Support Co-chairs shall be members within the provision of Section IV of Article III. The duties and powers of the Academic Support Co-chairs are as follows:

- A. Be responsible for coordinating mentor-mentee program.
- B. Be responsible for establishing tutorials and maintaining the office library/files.
- C. Chair the Academic Support Committee.

SECTION IX: There shall be one or two Fundraising Chairs. The Fundraising Co-chairs shall be members within the provision of Section IV of Article III. The duties and powers of the Fundraising Co-chairs shall be as follows:

- A. Be responsible for coordinating all fundraising activities of the Association.
- B. Chair the Fundraising Committee.

ARTICLE IX: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

All administrative and policy making decisions of the Association shall be vested in the Executive Board, subject to veto power by two-third vote of members present at general body meetings.

SECTION I: The Executive Board shall have the power to make decisions for the Association in cases of emergency. An emergency decision is one that cannot be made prior to the next general body meeting.

SECTION II: The Executive Board shall adopt a program budget prior to the beginning of each academic year.

SECTION III: All funds of the Association shall be administered by the Treasurer. Checks shall be signed by the Treasurer and the Chairperson, or such other two officers as the Chairperson shall appoint, subject to two-thirds approval of the Executive Board.

SECTION IV: All position appointed by the Chairperson and confirmed by the Executive Board may be removed by two-thirds vote of the general body members in attendance.

SECTION V: The Executive Board shall be composed of the following members

of the Asian/Pacific American Law Students Association.
Succession to the position of Chairperson shall be determined by the following order:

1. Vice-Chairperson
2. Treasurer
3. Community Outreach Chair
4. Academic Support Chair
5. Programming Chair
6. Fundraising Chair
7. Social Chair

Any position vacated by succession shall be filled by special appointment of the Chairperson.

SECTION VI: To conduct Association affairs, a quorum of the Executive Board Members must be present. A quorum consists of two-thirds of the members of the board. A majority quorum shall be required to pass any motion.

SECTION VII: The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Chairperson or by consensus of three board members or of two-thirds of the general body.

SECTION VIII: Any Executive Board member absent from a total of five Board or general body meetings shall be subject to dismissal by two-thirds vote of the Association members in attendance at the general body meeting.

ARTICLE X: THE ASSOCIATION

SECTION I: Each member of the Association shall have one vote. Proxy voting is permitted.

SECTION II: A majority of the members present shall be necessary to pass any motion, except a motion to veto Board policy shall be passed by two-thirds vote.

SECTION III: Meetings of the Association shall be held at a regular time to be determined by the Executive Board. Emergency meetings may be called by the Chairperson, or in their absence, by the Vice-Chair.

SECTION IV: All meetings of the Association shall be open to all persons unless otherwise decided by two-thirds vote of the general body.

ARTICLE XI: THE CONSTITUTION

SECTION I: This constitution shall be ratified by two-thirds of those present voting at the constitutional ratification meeting.

SECTION II: Constitutional amendments shall be by a vote of two-thirds of the Association.

ARTICLE XII: ELECTIONS

SECTION I: Election of Officers shall be by a majority of the members (in good standing) of the general body in attendance.

SECTION II: Officers of the Association shall be elected during the Spring semester of each year and are to assume office at that time.

SECTION III: Adjustments in the size of the Executive Board shall be decided prior to the elections by a majority of the members of the general body in attendance.

SECTION IV: Two-thirds vote by Association members in good standing will impeach an officer. An officer may request a secret ballot vote.

ARTICLE XIII: FINANCIAL RECORDS

Pursuant to University of Miami policy, the Association shall make its financial records available to authorized University officials upon request.

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We are a new organization whose goals are to increase the number of Asian/Pacific Americans admitted and enrolled each year, pursue academic excellence, foster community interface and assistance, improve employment and training opportunities for Association members, and increase awareness of Association members of needs and concerns regarding national and international issues confronting our communities.

All are welcome to participate and help make APALSA a viable organization here at the University of Miami Law School.