**CONSTITUTION OF THE MORITZ LAW STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

* Moritz Law Students for Justice in Palestine shall be the name of this organization. On all official documents and publications that the organization sponsors, its name or the abbreviation MLSJP must be written.

**ARTICLE II – PURPOSE/ MISSION**

* The Moritz Law Students for Justice in Palestine (MLSJP) stands in solidarity with, not on behalf of, the Palestinian people against the colonial-apartheid Israeli regime and the material reality of dispossession, displacement, and death it imposes on the indigenous Palestinian population. Through campus-wide events, we aim to give voice to the Palestinian struggle, promote the rights of Palestinians, and highlight the plight of Palestinians under Israeli aggression. We support the Palestinian cause for liberation, justice, and self-determination, while combating anti-Palestinian narratives.
* Our organization rejects any notion that equates anti-Zionism or any criticism of the Israeli government with antisemitism, as this inaccurate interpretation fundamentally ignores the many Jewish individuals and organizations that have allied themselves with the Palestinian people and are actively fighting against Israel and Zionism.
* We wholeheartedly reject the framing of the violence in Palestine and the history of Israel’s oppression of Palestinians as a nuanced event, a two-sided war, a religious issue, or merely an international conflict. This framing is ignorant and implies complicity in normalizing and maintaining apartheid. The reality of the situation is much simpler, with an oppressor that possesses all the governing power, is backed by the U.S. to the tune of a billions of dollars a year, and employs the latest in militarization practices, and an oppressed people that is subject to a system of apartheid and treated as second-class citizens. This is a purely asymmetrical relationship; the existence of Israel makes the relationship so.
* We firmly reject the apartheid system created by Israel under which the Palestinians live and condemn the oppressive conditions created by Israel, including, but not limited to, the Apartheid Wall, the blockade on Gaza, and the unjust and political imprisonments of Palestinians in Israeli cells.
* We understand the link between the long history of global colonialism and the Palestinian struggle and aim to bring other organizations also devoted to dismantling settler-colonialism and fighting for liberation in the conversation for Palestinian freedom.
* We echo the Palestinians people’s stance: justice is a prerequisite to peace. We recognize oppression is an inherently violent state, and that only when oppression is eliminated will violence be extinguished, as well.
* As a student-led organization at a legal institution, we recognize the power of law and place a critical eye on the legal implications of the oppression against the Palestinian people, including the illegality of the creation and maintenance of Israel, and its practices against the Palestinian people. However, we also uphold and believe in the notion that legality is not the benchmark for morality.

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP AND NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

* **Section 1: Voting Members –** Any student from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law student is eligible to be a voting member of LSJP. To qualify as a voting member, a Moritz College of Law student must attend at least one general meeting or event during that school year.
* **Section 2: Honorary Members –** Any undergraduate or graduate student at the university (outside the Moritz College of Law) or any faculty or staff member at the university is welcome to attend LSJP meetings and events but is not eligible to be a voting member.
* **Section 3: Student Run Nature –** As required by the Guidelines for Student Organizations, 90% of the membership of a student organization must include current Ohio State University students. Active members and the Executive Board are able to make decisions regarding the membership of community and other non-student members of an organization. Community or other non-student members may be temporarily suspended with a majority vote of the Executive Committee.
* **Section 4: Non-Discrimination Policy –** This organization does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

**ARTICLE IV – REMOVAL OF MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

* **Section 1: Removal of Voting Members –** If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization’s constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization’s advisor.
* **Section 2: Removal of Executive Offices –** Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization’s advisor.
* **Section 3: Suspension –** In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending), the executive board, in consultation with the organization’s advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

**ARTICLE V – OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD**

* **Section 1: Officers**
	+ **(A) Positions –** The organization shall have a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and 1L representatives.
	+ **(B) Duties**
		- **(i) President –** The President shall be the chief executive officer. The president, with approval of the executive board, directs the budget. Vacancies in offices will be filled by appointment of the President with approval of the general membership. The President shall, together with the vice-president, be in charge of planning and communications relating to events, communications with the organization’s general membership, and other tasks relating to the daily and long-term operation of the organization.
		- **(ii) Vice-President –** The vice president shall be the parliamentarian for the organization. The vice president shall assume the duties of the president should the office become vacant, or in the absence of the president. The vice president will keep and have available current copies of the constitution and bylaws. The vice-president shall, together with the President, be in charge of planning and communications relating to events, communications with the organization’s general membership, and other tasks relating to the daily and long-term operation of the organization.
		- **(iii) Treasurer –**  The treasurer shall keep a current record of all financial transactions. The treasurer will be responsible for properly requesting funds from the University, SBA, or IPC when necessary. The treasurer will be responsible for checking the accuracy of all bills and invoices and paying them correctly and on time. The treasurer will perform other duties as directed by the president.
		- **(iv) 1L Representatives –** The 1L representatives shall promote the organization and its events. The 1L representatives shall perform any other duties as prescribed by the Executive Board
* **Section 2: Executive Board**
	+ **(A) Organization –** This organization shall be run by an Executive Board. The Executive Board of this organization shall be composed of the President, the Vice-President, and the Treasurer.
	+ **(B) Process for Adding Executive Board Position –**  The Executive Board shall have the power to, by a majority vote, add executive board positions as it sees fit without going through the usual Amendment process outlined in Article IX.

**ARTICLE VI – ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

* **Section 1: Executive Board**
	+ **(A) Voting Body and Requirements for Election –**  The Executive Board will be composed of members (officers) who are elected on a yearly basis by the general voting membership. The candidate with the highest numbers of votes shall be deemed the winner of their election. Executive Board members must remain in good standing with the College of Law.
	+ **(B) Election Cycle and Term Length –**  The election cycle for executive board members of this organization will be held during the Spring semester, in April. The term of executive board members will therefore run from election in April until the following April.
* **Section 2: 1L Representatives**
	+ **(A) Voting Body and Requirements for Election –** 1L reps shall be elected on a yearly basis by the general voting membership.
	+ **(B) Election Cycle and Term Length –**  The election cycle for 1L reps for this organization will be held during the Fall semester, in September. The term of 1L reps will run from election in September until the end of their 1L year in May.

**ARTICLE VII – ADVISOR**

* **Section 1: Qualification –** The advisor of this organization shall be a full-time member of the College of Law faculty.
* **Section 2: Duties –** The advisor of this organization shall provide feedback to the organization regarding its operation and functioning. The advisor shall serve as a resource. The advisor should provide advice upon request, and also should share knowledge, expertise, and experience with the group.
* **Section 3: Non-Voting Nature –** The advisor will be a nonvoting member of the organization,

**ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

* **Section 1: Frequency –** There is a minimum requirement of one meeting or event per semester. Beyond that, meetings and events may be planned at the discretion of the executive board.
* **Section 2: Disruptive Behavior –** The organization reserves the right to address member or event attendee behavior where the member or event attendee’s behavior is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with the organization’s constitution.

**ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS**

* **Section 1: Process –** Any proposed amendments should be presented to the organization in writing and should not be acted upon when initially introduced. Upon initial introduction, the proposed amendments should be read in a general meeting or otherwise communicated to the group, then put up for a vote of from the general voting membership. Amendments shall require a two-thirds majority of voting members. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.
* **Section 2: Approval of initial Constitution –** This Constitution shall be approved by two-thirds vote of the founding executive board.