**Latinx Law Student Association**

***Constitution***

**Preamble**The Latinx Law Students Association serves to promote and to enhance the progress of individual Latinx Law Students as well as the political socio-economic progress of the Latinx community.

*This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.*

**Article I**
*Composition*

Section 1
Latinx Law Student Association (LLSA) will be the official name of this organization.

**Article II**
*Objectives*

In furtherance of the general purpose set forth in the PREAMBLE, the students of LLSA will strive to achieve the following specific objectives but shall not be limited to these and may also strive to achieve such other objectives as the members of LLSA will from time to time deem appropriate.

Section 1
To increase the number of Latinx law students at The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law.

Section  2
To participate in the retention of currently enrolled Latinx law students and other minority students.

Section 3
To conduct a national effort to recruit applicants to The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law, with an emphasis on areas with a high Latinx population.

Section 4
To encourage the participation of Latinx alumni in developing and remaining responsive to the social, political, and academic promotion of the Latinx community.

Section 5
To provide a cooperative atmosphere conducive to creativeness, innovativeness, and friendliness among its members.

Section 6
To promote an awareness in the law school of Latinx problems and perspectives, culture and heritage.

Section 7
To participate in community projects designed to assist others in the Latinx community.

Section 8
To promote and encourage the hiring of Latinx faculty and visiting professors as well as administrators.

Section 9
To encourage the law school curriculum to include courses, seminars, and clinical skills related to Latinx concerns.

Section 10
To rebut and refute any racial ethnic stereotype images of our Latinx culture and heritage both within and outside the organization.

Section 11
To promote the understanding and respect of the various Latinx cultures.

Section  12
To promote and encourage unity between all Latinx organizations on campus.

Section 13
To enhance leadership among members in a national level by attempting to become an active chapter of the National Latino Law Student Association (NLLSA), subject to available funding.

**Article III**
*Membership*

Section 1
Membership in LLSA is open to any individual interested in fulfilling the purposes of LLSA.

Section 2
Members may elect to impose annual or semester dues as a condition of membership.

Section 3
Membership will be extended to any present and past law students or other members of the campus community who identify with the goals of LLSA.

Section  4
Honorary membership may be extended to any individual in appreciation of their contribution to the organization by a majority vote of the membership.

**Article IV**
*Organizational Structure*

Section 1
The Executive Board will consist of 4 positions to be elected at large by the membership with additional positions created by the President that receive majority Executive Board approval available as needed.

a) The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary will be elected by the General Membership in the Winter term and will serve in their positions beginning with the last meeting of the Winter semester.
b) The outgoing President may open up the following positions, which shall be elected by the General Membership in the Winter term and will serve in their positions beginning with the last meeting of the Winter semester: Public Relations Chair and Alumni Chair.

Section 2
Any decision of the Executive Board can be overturned by a majority vote at a General Membership meeting.

**Article V**
*Structure of the Executive Board and Conduct of Executive Board Meetings*

Section 1
The Executive Board will meet on a regular basis and no less than once a month.

a) It will answer and record all correspondence directed to the organization, and refer inquiries to the appropriate Executive Board members.
b) Notify all Executive Board members of any special Executive Board meetings at least one full week before that meeting.
c) Any action required to be taken by the Executive Board may be taken without a meeting, without prior notice, if a resolution of the action is signed in writing by a majority of the Board. The written resolution may be signed after the vote is taken by telephone.

Section 2
Meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.

a) Specifically:
a.1 The following format will be followed: Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Announcements, New Business, Unfinished Business, Committee Reports, Open Forum, Adjournment.
a.2 Executive members will be  allowed to speak on the issue at hand only in the same order with which they asked to speak. No exceptions.
a.3 A motion to vote on the issue must be  called before any issue can actually be voted upon. If the motion fails, discussion of the issue must continue.

Section 3
Voting within the Executive Board will be conducted in the following manner:

a) A quorum of the Executive Board will consist of 50% of the Executive Board membership.
b) Every Executive Board member will automatically have a vote at the beginning of each term and will subject this vote to forfeit if s/he is exceedingly absent.
c) There will be no absentee voting. To vote, the Executive Board member must be present at the meeting in which the vote is taken.
d) Whenever a vote is taken, the President will count the votes and ensure that the motion, if approved, is accurately approved.

**Article VI**
*Authority and Duties of the Executive Board*

Section 1
In general, policy should be made by the general membership. The Executive Board will act to enforce such policy guidelines.

Section 2
Any expenditures must be approved by the Executive Board. Expenditures should be notified to the general membership during committee reports.

Section 3
The President will:

a) Preside over all meetings of the organization and the Executive Board.
b) Prepare and post agenda before every Executive Board and General  Membership meeting.
c) If the President forsees her/his absence, the Vice-President will preside over the meeting. In the event that the Vice-President is unable to preside, the Treasurer shall preside that particular meeting.

Section 4
The Vice-President will:

a) Preside over meetings that the President is unable to attend.
b) Serve as an official liaison to alumni in conjunction with the President.

Section 5
The Treasurer will:

a) Maintain an accounting of the financial affairs of the organization.
b) Pay bills of the organization when receipts for expenditures are turned in.
c) Submit quarterly reports to the membership.
d) Disburse all monies as the organization may direct.
e) Conduct an auditing report at the end of the academic year.

Section 6
The Secretary will:

a) Record all meetings: date, time, members present, members absent, name of member who introduces a motion, etc.
b) Maintain a yearly calendar of activities.
c) Give written notice to all members of meetings and agenda to be covered, as well as have it posted.
d) Keep and read the minutes of the previous meeting.
e) Read important correspondence or give summary of it.
f) Call a meeting to order in absence of the President until election of an interim President.

Section 7
The Public Relations Chair will:

a) Publicize monthly meetings and all LLSA activities and events.
b) Maintain the bulletin boards.
c) Work with the law school Office of Minority Affairs in the recruitment of Latinx students.

Section 8
The Alumni Chair will:

a) Maintain a record of all graduating LLSA members.
b) Communicate alumni about LLSA events.
c) Coordinate an alumni event or panel for current LLSA members.

**Article VII**
*Meetings*

Section 1
The entire membership will meet on a regular basis, but not less than once per month. The regular scheduled meeting will be held during the first week of the month on the agreed day and time.

Section 2
A duly constituted meeting requires only three days posted notice.

**Article  IX**
*Voting and Elections*

Section 1
To qualify to vote in the General Elections, a member, as defined in Article III, must have attended at least one general membership meeting prior to the vote.

a) Only a member qualified to vote may run for elective positions.
b) The Secretary will maintain a list of all members qualified to vote.
c) The vote should be by secret ballot, to be counted by an exec board member not running for a position.

Section 2
Elections for membership to the Executive Board are to be held two weeks after Winter Break, with nominations allowed until one day prior to the scheduled vote.

a) A First-Year Representative will be elected during the second week of the Fall semester, with nominations remaining open until the day prior to the elections, unless the General Membership provides otherwise. There is no maximum limit on the number of First-Year Representatives elected. They are not required to attend Executive Board meetings, but they are welcomed (and encouraged) to do so. They shall have voting rights if present at the Executive Board meetings.

**Article  X***Resignation, Removal and Excessive Absences of Executive Board Members and General Members*

Section 1
Members and officials wishing to resign  from elective or appointive positions must submit a signed letter of resignation to the President, Vice President, or Secretary stating the reason therein.

Section 2
The members of the organization may remove from office any elected official or general member upon a two-thirds vote of the membership.

Section 3
Three unexcused absences anytime during the academic year from a scheduled Executive Board meeting will operate as the resignation of that Executive Board member.

a) Three unexcused absences from either regular or special Board meetings at any time during the academic year by an Executive Board member will operate as a resignation.
b) An unexcused absence is defined as a failure to notify the Executive Board of the Executive Board member's absence. Notification occurs when the Board member posts her/his excuse in the office.

**Article XI**
*Amendments*

Section 1
This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the general membership.

Section 2
No amendment may be adopted without the entire membership receiving a written copy one week prior to the meeting at which the amendment will be voted upon.

**Article XII**
*Ratification*

Section 1
This Constitution will be ratified article by article by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership.

Section 2
The provisions of the Constitution will be effective immediately upon ratification.

**Article XIII**

*Method of Dissolution of Organization*

This chapter shall be deemed inactive if no member is currently enrolled at OSU. When disposing of assets, the amount should be distributed to the Moritz College of Law. The amounts of debts incurred by LLSA should be divided equally among those members responsible for incurring those debts.

**Article XIII**

*Non-Discrimination Statement*

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.