

The Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law
Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)

ARTICLE I – THE STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION

Section A: Name

1. The name of this organization shall be the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association at the Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law and shall be referred to as “APALSA” in all APALSA governing documents.
2. The Michael E. Moritz College of Law will be referred to as “Moritz” in all APALSA governing documents.

Section B: Purpose

The purpose of this organization is:

1. To represent the issues, opinions, and ideas of all self-identifying AAPI Moritz students to the faculty, staff, and administration of Moritz and The Ohio State University.
2. To serve as a liaison between self-identifying Moritz APALSA students, Moritz administration and faculty, and the legal community.
3. To provide support and programming for Moritz APALSA students.
4. To serve as a forum for the discussion of academic and professional issues and ideas.
5. To organize student social and recreational events at Moritz.

Section C: Powers

APALSA shall be the student representative body for Asian-American law students at Moritz. APALSA shall have the power to carry out its necessary and proper functions, as outlined in its governing documents.

Section D: Membership

All students enrolled at Moritz, or a Moritz joint-degree program, shall be members of APALSA. Eligible students can join by contacting any APALSA officer, showing up to any APALSA event, or registering during the Moritz fall club event. All APALSA Moritz students are entitled to vote in APALSA elections, and participate in APALSA sponsored events. However, only qualified electors are entitled to vote in the spring elections.

Section E: The APALSA Advisor

The Advisor shall be a faculty member at Moritz. The Advisor shall be responsible for providing continuity to the organization and working with the Treasurer to ensure APALSA maintains its tax-exempt status.

Section E: Non-Discrimination Policy

APALSA shall not discriminate against any individual for reasons 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 II – THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section A: The executive officers shall:

1. Serve as the governing body of APALSA.
2. Be referred to as “the executive officers” in all APALSA governing documents.
3. Convene at least twice per semester, during the academic year.
4. Approve all Presidential appointments and nominations by a majority vote.
5. Approve the annual budget as prepared by the Treasurer.
6. The term of executive officers will begin either following election and installation. Their term of executive officers will terminate immediately upon a scheduled transition to the new executive officers. This must take place after the annual APALSA Banquet.
7. Exercise all other powers and abide by all rules enumerated in APALSA’s governing documents.

Section B: The APALSA Executive Board (“The Board”) shall:

1. Consist of the following positions with specific responsibilities set forth in Section C:
 - a. a. The President
 - b. b. The Vice President
 - c. c. The Treasurer
 - d. d. The Secretary
 - e. e. The Banquet Chair
2. Convene prior to each general body meeting.
3. Approve all emergency spending by a unanimous vote and announce it at the next properly scheduled general body meeting.
4. Exercise all other powers specific to the Board by APALSA’s governing documents.
5. Maintain and secure all APALSA offices, spaces, and equipment.

Section C: Each Executive Board position shall have their designated responsibilities set forth below.

1. The President shall:
 - a. Serve as the chief executive of The Board
 - b. Call and preside over all General Meetings and Executive Board Meetings
 - c. Supervise all club activities, schedule speakers and events, and preside over all discussions on expenditures of The Board
 - d. Shall serve as a liaison to any such other organizations as The Board deems necessary
2. The Vice President shall:
 - a. Assist the President as necessary and shall preside in case of the President’s absence or disability
 - b. Maintain all official records of The Board
 - c. Organize and execute events to actively recruit new members and to foster engagement for returning members
3. The Treasurer shall:
 - a. Be responsible for the finances of The Board and shall present and supervise the budget
 - b. Be responsible for submitting reimbursements, if necessary and after the approval of the President and Faculty Advisor
4. The Secretary shall:

- a. Record and distribute all pertinent information to members, including meeting minutes, upcoming events, and opportunities
 - b. Maintain APALSA social medias
 - c. Keep accurate APALSA membership list/roster
- 5. The Banquet Chair shall
 - a. Plan and oversee banquet logistics, including date, venue, food, and budget.
 - b. Invite speakers, secure sponsorships, and promote the event.
 - c. Manage RSVPs, coordinate with vendors, and ensure smooth execution.
 - d. Follow up with speakers, sponsors, and gather feedback.

ARTICLE III- REMOVAL OF MEMBERS

Section A: Removal for Cause

- 1. Removal for Cause is the removal of a member from office for failure to follow the membership requirements enumerated in the APALSA governing documents.
- 2. Any member may be removed for cause by a unanimous vote of the Board members present.
 - a. The Board shall announce the removal at the next regularly scheduled Senate meeting.
 - b. If a Board member is being removed for cause, that member shall not be permitted to participate in the discussion of, or the vote on, the removal for cause.
- 3. Members removed for cause may appeal the removal at the next Senate meeting following the meeting where the removal is announced.
 - a. The member shall have 3 minutes to address the Senate, with additional time for questions as permitted by the President.
 - b. A 2/3 vote is required to overturn a removal for cause.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTION AND SUCCESSION

Section A: Schedule of Elections

- 1. All executive officers, except the LLM, shall be elected in the General Election held during the month of March.
- 2. The 1L Senators and the LLM Senator shall be elected by the end of the fifth full academic week of the Autumn Semester.

Section B: Qualified Electors

- 1. All Moritz students shall be qualified electors.
- 2. All 1L students shall be allowed to vote for the 1L Senators.
- 3. All LLM students shall be allowed to vote for the LLM Senator.
- 4. The Board will determine whether these positions are feasible and necessary each term.

Section C: Nomination of Candidates

- 1. Candidates shall be in good standing with, enrolled in, and taking classes at Moritz or engaged in a Moritz joint-degree program both Autumn and Winter Semester to be eligible for any elected office.
- 2. Each nominee for a Board position shall provide a personal statement to be posted in a public Place. Each year, those applying to the President position, must submit a personal statement.

Section D: Manner of Election

1. Each APALSA member shall be allowed to cast one vote for each position to which they are entitled to vote. The President must be elected.
 - a. For positions that consist of multiple seats, the candidates who receive the most votes cast for the positions shall be elected.
 - b. For positions that consist of only 1 seat, the candidate who receives a majority of votes cast for each position shall be elected. If no candidate receives a majority of votes cast for each position, a runoff election shall be held 2 academic days later between the 2 candidates receiving the most votes.
 - c. In no event shall a candidate be elected to two or more positions. In the event a candidate has the most votes for multiple positions, a member of the outgoing Board shall contact the candidate and give that person 12 hours to decide which position they want to accept.
2. If there are fewer candidates than positions open on a committee, no write-in candidate may be elected who has not received at least 20 votes. Positions not filled by election shall be considered vacant.

Section E: Vacancies in any Board position other than President shall be filled by the President after careful consideration of potential member interest and recommendations of the outgoing executive board. The President shall consider the recommendations and nominate people to fill the vacancies.

Section F: All vacancies in the Board shall be installed at their first meeting following certification of the election results by the sitting Senate and shall have the full powers of their position upon being sworn into office.

ARTICLE V: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section A: Constitutional Amendments may be introduced and ratified by either:

1. Through Board recommendation and approval by a 3/5 vote of the Board.
2. Discussion with APALSA's faculty advisor.

Section B: Ratification of Amendments must occur by either:

1. If done by referendum, the Senate shall hold 1 public hearing where the question is discussed and debated. 5 academic days after the public hearing, the question is voted upon by SBA. A majority of all Moritz students voting is required to approve the amendment
2. If done by Senate recommendation, the Senate shall hold 2 public hearings where the question is discussed and debated. 5 academic days after the last public hearing, the question is voted upon by the Moritz student body. A majority of all Moritz students voting is required to approve the amendment.

Section C: Revisions

1. The Secretary or Vice President may correct drafting errors or redundancies in any APALSA governing document and shall announce the corrections at the Board meeting immediately following when the corrections are made.
2. The APALSA General Body may overrule the Secretary or Vice President correction by a majority vote.
3. President has full authority to make adjustments and amendments to this governing document as needed to keep updated. These decisions must be approved by a majority vote of the Board.

ARTICLE VI: DISSOLUTION

This organization may be dissolved after the Senate approves dissolution by a 3/4 vote of the Senate, provided that there is at least 60 days' notice of a vote on dissolution. Upon dissolution, the Board shall utilize the assets of the organization, including those arising from dissolution and distribution. Any balance shall be distributed proportionally among the contributing factors.