

**The Constitution of the
Chicago-Kent College of Law Asian Pacific American Law Students Association**

As proposed on September 5, 2012

Preamble

The Asian and Pacific Islander American law students of the Chicago-Kent College of Law establish this Constitution in order to better facilitate meaningful change and to promote and address the needs and concerns of the Asian Pacific American community within Chicago-Kent and the surrounding Chicagoland area.

I. Purpose

1. The Chicago-Kent College of Law Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (hereinafter known as APALSA) exists to:
 - a. promote and facilitate a greater understanding of Asian Pacific American culture at the law school;
 - b. serve as a vehicle for Asian Pacific American political activity and awareness;
 - c. work with other diversity and minority organizations toward the realization of common goals;
 - d. serve as a support network for Asian Pacific American students and the Chicago-Kent community.

II. Membership

1. Membership is open to all Chicago-Kent students and alumni regardless of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, age, handicap or disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion, or political affiliation.
2. Members are obligated to abide by this constitution and its by-laws.
3. Members have the right to participate in all events sponsored by APALSA.
4. Members have the right to run for and hold office only if they will be enrolled full time or part time during their term of office and have attended at least one APALSA-sponsored event.

III. Leadership Structure and Powers

1. The general APALSA board will be comprised of an Executive board and an Auxiliary board.
2. The Executive board is the governing body of the organization and will consist of the following officers:

- a. A *President* who is responsible for directing and facilitating all general events and affairs conducted by APALSA. The President calls and oversees all meetings of the general board and the general body. The President also acts as the liaison between the other APALSAs and Asian American Bar Associations in the greater Chicagoland community.
 - b. A *Vice President* who is responsible for assisting the President in facilitating all general events and affairs conducted by APALSA. The Vice President also acts as a liaison between the other Chicago-Kent student organizations and, in conjunction with the Auxiliary board, coordinates the APALSA mentorship program.
 - c. A *Treasurer* who is responsible for all of APALSA's financial matters. The Treasurer approves, in conjunction with the Executive Board, all APALSA-related expenses, such as those associated with fundraisers, signature events, attorney round-tables, and food outings. The Treasurer, in conjunction with the President, is also responsible for drafting and submitting a budget to present to the Student Bar Association each semester.
 - d. A *Secretary* who is responsible for keeping notes and meeting minutes and updating the APALSA board member task list. The Secretary is also responsible for facilitating event room reservations and submitting announcements to Chicago-Kent's Record system.
 - e. A *Programming Director* who is responsible for planning, organizing, and coordinating all major APALSA-sponsored events. The Programming Director also organizes social activities with other organizations at Chicago-Kent, with other law schools, and with Bar Associations in the greater Chicagoland area.
 - a. A *Website Editor* who is responsible for maintaining and updating the APALSA website. The Website Editor also works in conjunction with the Historian to publicize and promote awareness of APALSA-related events through signage and social networking sites.
3. The Auxiliary board supports the executive board in facilitating all APALSA-related affairs and will consist of the following officers:
- b. *Public Relations Coordinator(s)* responsible for establishing and maintaining connections with alumni and organizations outside Chicago-Kent. The Public Relations Coordinator position is a combination of the previous Alumni Relations and Minority Bar liaison positions.
 - c. *Community Service-Outreach Coordinator(s)* are APALSA's liaisons for community service and volunteer opportunities. Coordinators are also responsible for keeping records of APALSA members' involvement in community service activities.

- d. *Historian* who is responsible for taking photographs at APALSA-related events and functions. The Historian also works with the Website Editor to organize and keep the historical record of APALSA up-to-date.
 - e. *1L Coordinator(s)* are APALSA's 1L membership recruiters. They are responsible for helping the 1Ls adjust to law school and to the organization. The 1L Coordinator(s) are responsible for communicating with the 1L Representatives, organizing the mentor-mentee program, and setting up oral argument practices in the Spring. The 1L Coordinator(s) will also plan social event(s) through the year as opportunity for the 1Ls to meet APALSA.
 - f. *Fundraising Chair* is responsible for raising funds and finding sponsorship opportunities. They will work together with the President and the Treasurer to find new ways to support and fund the organization and its events.
 - g. Any other officer position the President deems necessary for improving the efficacy of APALSA's affairs during a given academic period.
4. The Executive board positions listed above are not subject to an amendment of the Constitution. The Auxiliary board positions listed may be expanded upon or removed at the discretion of the President for the duration of his or her Executive board's term, after of which the Auxiliary board will revert back to the baseline officers outlined under this Article.
5. Removal of a Sitting Officer
 - i. Failure to abide by the principles and laws of the Constitution and/or negligence of the duties required of a member of the board will be cause for removal.
 - ii. The removal of a sitting officer requires more than two-thirds vote of the entire board minus the officer who is the subject of the vote.
 - iii. If the officer is an executive board member, the remaining executive board at its discretion may hold elections according to the procedures outlined in Article IV to replace the removed officer. If the officer is an Auxiliary board member, the President may appoint a replacement at his or her discretion.

IV. Elections for Board Positions

1. Elections will be held every spring no later than the third week in April. Candidates will submit their candidacy statements to the outgoing President no later than five (5) days before the election date.
2. Only current APALSA members may vote in an election. Absentee ballots will be accepted on condition they are presented to the current board.

3. Members have the right to run for and hold office only if they will be enrolled full time or part time during their term of office.
 - i. Only incoming 2Ls may run for the President and Vice President positions.
4. A member may run for more than one position; however, if a member is elected to more than one position, he or she will be granted the higher of the positions and be removed from consideration for the lower. The lower position will be granted to the candidate who runs for that position and receives the next highest votes. Under the circumstances where no other candidate runs for the position, the Executive Board shall appoint an officer with two-thirds vote of the entire board.
5. The length of the question and answer session and the order in which the positions are voted on shall be determined by the outgoing board.
6. No quorum will be required for the election to be valid.
7. To be elected, a member must win a majority of the direct and secret ballot votes of the members participating in the election.
8. In the event that a position is not filled by a majority vote, a run-off between the two candidates with the highest amount of votes will be immediately conducted.
9. In the event that a board member is no longer able to serve in his/her position, a suitable replacement shall be voted in by two-thirds of the entire board.
10. The date of the turnover to the new board will be determined by the outgoing board.

v. Meetings

1. The Executive board will hold regular meetings as often as it requires.
2. The general board will hold meetings at least twice a semester. The President will determine the date of each meeting.
3. Two-thirds of the board must attend for the board meeting to be official.
4. On general business matters, the Executive board will decide by majority vote.
5. General body meetings when the entire membership is invited will be held regularly as the board decides.

VI. Amendments

1. The board will update the Constitution once a year during the summer before the beginning of the school year term. The Executive board will propose amendments to this Constitution. These amendments will be valid upon ratification by two-thirds vote of the entire board.