

CONSTITUTION

The membership of the Latina/o Law Student Association establishes this Constitution for the purpose of representing Hispanic law student interests to the law school and university; encouraging recruitment of qualified Hispanic law applicants; assisting in retention of Hispanic law students; promoting student unity; and pursuing justice for the legal rights, concerns, and issues of Hispanics.

ARTICLE I

- Section 1 The name of this organization shall be the Latina/o Law Student Association, hereinafter LLSA.
- Section 2 LLSA identifies and aligns itself with the constitution and policies of La Raza Legal Alliance, a national organization of which we are a chapter.

ARTICLE II

- Section 1 Membership is open to all students and members of the Indiana University community concerned with the goals and aims of this Constitution.
- Section 2 Active membership consists of law students who pay the yearly dues of the organization and attend at least one meeting per semester.
- 2.1 Only active members may vote and hold office.
- 2.2 Proxy votes are forbidden in all voting.
- 2.3 Any other individuals not covered in section 2 may participate in organizational activities, but may not hold an official position within the organization.
- 2.4 Membership is absolutely voluntary; being so, membership and participation shall be free from discrimination based on Race, Ethnic Group, Religion, National Origin, Handicap, Sex or Age.

ARTICLE III

- Section 1 The offices of the organization shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.
- 1.1 The officers shall be elected annually out of the voting membership, and must be in good standing with the University.
- Section 2 All officers shall hold office during the term of one year from the date of election.
- 2.1 The President shall preside at all meetings.
- 2.2 The Vice-President shall preside and perform the duties of the President in the absence of the President.
- 2.3 The Treasurer shall act as banker for the organization.
- 2.4 The Secretary shall keep and record the proceedings of the organization.
- Section 3 Vacancies in these positions shall be filled as prescribed in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV

The duties of officers and committees shall be:

Section 1 President

- 1.1 The President has the power to call special meetings, and presides at all meetings.
- 1.2 Though a President is traditionally endowed with great powers, it is the feeling of this organization that a President should only be a spokesman for the entire group's feelings. Therefore, though free to voice an opinion at all times, the President is not free to cast a vote when decisions are made by the organization.
 - A) There is only one circumstance where the President may vote: The membership is deadlocked on an issue and then the President may vote as a tie-breaker.
 - B) Should the President not be in attendance, the Vice-President assumes all rights, responsibilities and restrictions of the Presidency.
 - C) Should neither the President nor Vice-President be in attendance, those duties are in the hands of the Treasurer.
 - 1) One of the three prescribed officers must be present for any meeting to be official.
 - 2) A quorum of 2/3 active membership must be in attendance for any meeting to be official.
 - 3) If either condition is not satisfied, no voting may take place as the gathering is unofficial.
- 1.3 The President has the power to remove from meetings any person present not following correct parliamentary procedure and protocol.
- 1.4 The President must conduct all financial transactions for the organization through the office of the Treasurer.
- 1.5 The President shall expedite all actions and charges given to him at the general meetings or by individual members. The actions and charges can include, but are not limited to: charges of committees, proposals, impeachment procedures, interactions and negotiations with student organization and law school administration officials, and financial decisions. The President should act in lieu of the general membership in carrying out the actions and charges. In cases where the President must act without a specific action or charge due to a time constraint or other extenuating circumstance, the President should act tentatively on behalf of the general membership and seek final approval of his or her action(s) at a specially called meeting or the next scheduled general meeting.

Section 2 Vice-President

- 2.1 The Vice-President shall preside at meetings when the President is unable to attend, assuming the same duties, responsibilities and restrictions.
- 2.2 The Vice-President has the right to vote when acting in the Vice-Presidential capacity.
- 2.3 The Vice-President assumes the office of President should that position become vacant before the expiration of the current term.
- 2.4 The Vice-President shall be active in at least one Standing Committee.

Section 3 Treasurer

- 3.1 The Treasurer shall preside at meetings as prescribed in Article IV, Section 1.2 C.
- 3.2 The Treasurer shall maintain all organizational funds.
- 3.3 The Treasurer shall prepare and announce statements of funds at each meeting.

- 3.4 The Treasurer shall keep all records of financial transactions.
- 3.5 The Treasurer shall receive all funds immediately after any social function or payment belonging to the organization.
- 3.6 The Treasurer shall keep accounts, deposit the organization's funds, and make expenditures in a manner approved by the organization and other concerned parties.

Section 4 Secretary

- 4.1 The Secretary shall take the minutes of each meeting and prepare them for reading at the following meeting.
- 4.2 The Secretary shall establish and maintain all records of the organization.
- 4.3 The Secretary shall maintain official correspondence with the membership and other involved parties.

Section 5 Standing Committees, chairpersons, and committee members may be appointed by the President, and may include the following:

- 5.1 Faculty and Administration Committee shall encourage and investigate the hiring of qualified Hispanics for faculty and administrative positions within the law school.
- 5.2 Conference Committee shall plan and coordinate the annual attendance of the organization representatives at the Midwest Regional La Raza Legal Alliance Conference, The National La Raza Legal Alliance Conference, and other conferences the organization feels are important. Representatives for these conferences shall be selected by the organization.
- 5.3 Recruitment and Retention of First Year Law Students Committee shall develop goals and participate to insure recruitment and retention of Hispanics for this law school.
- 5.4 Hispanic Issues and Concerns Committee shall inform the organization of Hispanic issues and concerns.
- 5.5 All standing committees shall meet periodically and provide written reports for the organization.

Section 6 Special Committees may be initiated by the President or the organization.

- 6.1 Each committee shall consist only of volunteers.
- 6.2 Active membership must approve of the necessity of each committee.

ARTICLE V

- Section 1 The organization shall convene at least once a month at a time and place determined by the membership.
- Section 2 The President shall have the power to call special meetings.
- Section 3 The membership shall be notified not less than seven days before any meeting by the Secretary.
- Section 4 A quorum of 2/3 active membership must be in attendance for any meeting to be official.

ARTICLE VI

- Section 1 Amendments to the Constitution may be brought by any active member.
- Section 2 Amendments shall require a two-thirds vote by the general membership to become part of the Constitution.
- Section 3 An amendment that is seconded will be voted on at the next monthly meeting to allow sufficient notice to the membership, or at a special meeting not less than two weeks from the motion to amend.

ARTICLE VII

- Section 1 Ratification of the Constitution shall be made by a two-thirds vote of approval by the general membership at a special meeting.
- Section 2 The special meeting to ratify shall take place after proper notice has been given to all members.