ARTICLE I – NAME AND PURPOSE

§1. NAME:
This organization shall be known as the **Black American Law Student Association, Inc. (BALSA)**, Whittier Chapter (hereinafter referred to as “the Chapter”).

§2. PURPOSE:
The purpose of this Chapter shall be to utilize the collective resources of the members to:
A. Encourage the continuing admission of Black students to Whittier College School of Law.
B. Aid and foster academic and financial support for Black students at Whittier.
C. Promote a sense of unity and togetherness among Black students at Whittier.
D. Enhance the student body of Whittier by fostering participation and cooperation between the Chapter and other organization at Whittier.
E. Do all things necessary and lawful to remain in good standing with the national and regional divisions of the **Black American Law Student Association, Inc.**

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP: RIGHTS AND DUTIES

**BALSA** is an equal opportunity organization. It shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, national, religion or ethnic origin or handicap.

§1. Classification of Membership:
A. Active membership shall consist of all members who have fulfilled the payment of dues for the semester, entitling them to all rights and privileges of this Chapter defined herein.
B. Inactive membership shall consist of any members who do not fulfill the requirements of Article II, Section 2a.
C. Honorary membership shall extend to any person approved by a quorum of the general membership.

§2. Rights of the Membership:
A. Honorary members may participate in all activities except those specifically enumerated to active members by this section. Honorary members may serve as non-voting members of Committees.
§3. **Duties of the Membership:**
A. Participation: Regular participation in the activities of the Chapter is incumbent upon each member.
B. Payment of Dues: In order to constitute active membership as stated in Article II, Section 2a, each member must pay semesterly dues as prescribed in Article IV, Section 2.

**ARTICLE III – OFFICERS**

§1. **Eligibility of Officers:**
All active members of the Chapter are eligible to hold office if available for the entire term of office.

§2. **Term of Office:**
A term of office shall commence May 1\textsuperscript{st} and terminate April 31\textsuperscript{st} of the following year.

§3. **Election of Officers:**
All officers shall be elected by a majority of the voting members at the last monthly meeting prior to commencement of the term of office.

§4. **Succession of Officers:**
In the event that the President is unable to complete a term of office, the Vice-President shall automatically become President for the remainder of the term. If the Vice-President is unable to fulfill this duty, an acting President shall be elected by a majority of the membership. In the event that any other officer is unable to complete a term of office, a majority of the membership shall elect a replacement to serve the remainder of the term.

§5. **President:**
The President of the Chapter shall have general supervisory power over the business and activities of the Chapter. He or she shall preside over all Chapter meetings.

§6. **Vice-President:**
The Vice-President shall assume the duties and powers of the President in the absence of the President.

§7. **Secretary:**
The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the records and correspondence of this Chapter. He or she shall be responsible for the maintenance and distribution of minutes and agenda for all meetings. He or she shall also be responsible for the internal and external communication of information.

§8. **Treasurer:**
The Treasurer shall have custody of the funds and securities of this Chapter and shall see to it that they are deposited in the appropriate bank as designated by the membership. The Treasurer shall assure that entries are regularly made in the financial records, accounting for
all monies received and disbursed by this Chapter. In addition, he or she shall make regular financial reports to the Chapter. The signatures of both the President and the Treasurer shall be necessary to validate all checks issued by this Chapter.

§9.  
**Liaison Officer:**
The liaison officer shall have the responsibility for maintaining contact between this Chapter and other BALSA associations in order to keep the membership appraised of BALSA activities at the local, regional, and national levels. He or she shall also see to it that the Chapter maintains current information on Whittier alumni.

**ARTICLE IV – FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

§1.  
**Finances:**
This Chapter shall be financed primarily by dues, fundraising activities, and donations.

§2.  
**Dues:**
All members shall pay dues pursuant to Article II, Section 4(b). The amount shall be $5.00 per semester.

**ARTICLE V – VOTING**

§1.  
**General:**
Each active member shall have one vote in all chapter business to be determined by the membership.

§2.  
**Quorum:**
A quorum shall consist of a majority of the active membership.

§3.  
**Absentee Voting:**
Any member who is unable to attend a meeting where Chapter business will be voted on may have his vote counted by enclosing a written designation of his or her choice in a sealed envelope. The sealed envelope shall be given to the President prior to the meeting and shall include the name of the absentee voter, the nature of the business being voted, and the date of the meeting.

**ARTICLE VI – DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

§1.  
Failure to perform the duties of office as prescribed in the by-laws or conduct detrimental to the well-being of the Chapter shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action.

§2.  
Impeachment is in order upon a two-thirds vote of the membership.
ARTICLE VII – ADOPTION TO AND AMENDMENTS OF THE BY-LAWS

§1.  Adoption:
The By-laws of this Chapter shall be adopted by a majority vote of the membership.

§2.  Amendments:
Additions and repeals to these By-laws may be made by a majority vote of the membership.

EFFECTIVE DATE

§1.  General:
The By-laws of this Chapter shall become effective immediately upon the ratification by a
majority vote of the membership.

BALSA’s faculty advisor is Professor Diamond.