Whittier Law School

JEWSH LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

CHARTER, CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Article I: Description and Purpose

The Whittier Law School Jewish Law Students Association (J.L.S.A.) is an organization of Whittier Law School students and faculty advisors who share an interest in Jewish legal issues, socio-political concerns and in meeting the needs and interests of Jewish law students at Whittier Law School. The Jewish Law Students Association strives to enhance the law school experience of its Members by providing programs of social, professional, and Jewish dimensions. The J.L.S.A. shall achieve its mission by means including, but not limited to:

A. Presentations, including lectures, on Jewish legal issues, by distinguished Individuals from Whittier Law School, or other relevant academic, government, or professional institutions;

B. Sponsorship of social gatherings with Members and other relevant groups and/or individuals;

C. Sponsorship of community service programs for the benefit of Whittier Law School, the Orange County community, and Jewish organizations;

D. Coordination of traditional Jewish activities;

E. Communication and participation with relevant University and non-University organizations, including but not limited to the National Jewish Law Students Association, the Jewish law reviews, the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, and every Whittier Law School Law student group and student government association; and

F. Disseminating information to, and, to the extent deemed possible, sponsoring attendance for, Members regarding conferences and educational opportunities relevant to Jewish legal issues.

Article II: Membership

Membership in the J.L.S.A. is open to all students who embrace the purposes of the association and who pay the yearly dues, if required. Whether dues are required for a given academic year or not will be determined by a majority of J.L.S.A. Officers at the
start of an academic year. The Jewish Law Students Association is open to all interested Whittier Law School students, regardless of religious or political affiliation.

**Article III: Officers and Elections**

A. There will be between one and eight J.L.S.A. Officers. The number of Officers for a given academic year will be determined by a majority vote of voting Members in the final General Meeting of the preceding academic year. The time and place of the final General Meeting shall be diligently published to all students. Members unable to attend the final General Meeting may participate via electronic mail or any other reasonable means. The voting procedures, as follows, shall be made known to all participating Members.

B. Voting shall be by secret ballot, or by any other reasonable means, including oral or electronic means. Reasonable means of voting will be decided upon by a majority of Officers who are also not candidates.

C. Candidates for all Officer positions must be J.L.S.A. Members in good standing as per Article II. Candidates are encouraged to campaign in any manner they wish prior to the election. However, no personal attacks will be tolerated against any opponents and such conduct will strike the candidate's name from the election roster.

D. Participating Members shall first vote on the number of Officers to be elected for the following academic year. A majority of Member votes will determine the number of officers. This number may be changed by an additional majority vote by participating Members prior to the close of the final General Meeting.

E. Participating Members shall then vote for candidates for Officers, with each Member able to cast one vote for each Officer position. The candidate with the most votes will become President. Remaining Officer positions will be filled in accordance with the subsequent highest vote counts, until the number of positions previously decided upon is filled. In the event that the position of President or the last position to be filled contains two or more equal vote counts for given candidates, run-off elections may be held.

F. The President and Officers will decide on the titles, duties, and responsibilities of the Officers. In the absence of agreement, the candidate with the second-highest vote count will be entitled Vice-President, the candidate with the third-highest vote count will be entitled Treasurer, the candidate with the fourth-highest vote count will be entitled Secretary, and other remaining Officers will be entitled Executive Board Members.

G. Under all circumstances, the President will be responsible for:

1) Maintaining all official communication with Whittier Law School and Student Bar Association officials;
2) Ensuring proper organizational chartering, financing, and provision of programming in accordance with Whittier Law School and Student Bar Association procedures;
3) Provide no less than two viable programs of any kind to benefit the students of Whittier Law School, and one viable program to benefit the orange county community; and
3) Securing at least one faculty advisor and maintaining communication with any and all advisors.

H. The President and Officers, upon agreement, may choose to entitle Officers in accordance with their agreement. Duties including, but not limited to, those listed below under Article III (I) through Article III (M) MUST be delegated to various Officers upon agreement.

I. In the absence of Officer agreement on Officer titles and responsibilities, the President, in addition to those non-delegable duties listed under Article III (G), shall:

1) Set the time, date, and agenda of both General and Officer meetings and preside over them;
2) Distribute information to Whittier Law students about the J.L.S.A. by way of electronic mail, brochures, flyers, attendance at Whittier Law School sponsored events including new student Orientation, and all other reasonable means; and
3) Correspond with all other relevant student and professional groups, including but not limited to, Hillel, the Israeli Consulate, the Jewish Federation, the National Jewish Law Students Association, other local or regional Jewish Law Student Associations, and other law student groups.

J. In the absence of Officer agreement on Officer titles and responsibilities, the Vice-President shall:
1) Perform all duties of the President upon absence of the President;
2) Assist the President on all matters and undertake any and all additional Responsibilities delegated to him or her by the President; and
3) Establish and coordinate committees for events and programming. Committee Membership will be open to all Officers and Members, provided that at least one Officer serves as Chair of each committee, as determined by a majority vote of Committee Members.

K. In the absence of Officer agreement on Officer titles and responsibilities, the Treasurer shall:
1) Handle all J.L.S.A. financial matters, including budgeting, funding, reimbursements, and auditing;
2) Prepare budget requests as per Student Bar Association requirements; and
3) Maintain a detailed record of all J.L.S.A. expenditures and income.

L. In the absence of Officer agreement on Officer titles and responsibilities, the Secretary shall:
1) Take minutes at all Association meetings and make them available to all Members by the use of all reasonable means;
2) Create and disseminate information on upcoming J.L.S.A. programs by use of all reasonable means;
3) Maintain the J.L.S.A. Web site and e-mail account;
4) Maintain a complete record of J.L.S.A. programming in a duly-labeled annually, to be stored with other historical J.L.S.A. materials; and
4) Prepare and update membership lists and records.

M. In the absence of Officer agreement on Officer titles and responsibilities, Executive Board Members shall:

1) Work within at least one event and/or programming committee;
2) Assist other Officers with any duties as able and necessary.

Article IV: Removal of Officers

A. Officers may be removed for good cause, including but not limited to neglect of their responsibilities and duties as spelled out in this charter, by two-thirds vote of Association members present at a general meeting.

B. If an Association officer is removed or vacates his or her office for any reason, an election shall be held at the next general meeting of the Association to replace the officer with the exception of the President who is replaced by the Vice-President, and a new Vice-President is elected.

Article V: Amendments

This document may be amended at any General Meeting of the J.L.S.A. by a two-thirds majority vote of Members present. No amendment will be made when the previously-listed standards for publication of the relevant General Meeting have not been met. All efforts must be made to include all Members, by any reasonable means, in the General Meeting wherein amendments to this document are sought.