Whittier School Law By-Laws of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund

Article I - Name
§ 1. The name of this organization shall be Whittier Law School Student Animal Legal Defense Fund. (Whittier Law School SALDF).

Article II - Purpose
§ 1. ALDF Mission Statement: To provide a forum for education, advocacy, and scholarship aimed at protecting the lives and advancing the interests of animals through the legal system, and raising the profile of the field of animal law.

§ 2. Whittier Law School SALDF Mission Statement: The Student Animal Legal Defense Fund's Whittier Law School Chapter advocates the humane treatment of animals and shares the mission of the national ALDF to bring awareness of the atrocities of animal cruelty. Our chapter encourages involvement through discussions, screenings, volunteering opportunities at local animal shelters, and building a strong and effective networking community who share a compassion for all living creatures. SALDF engages the community in our joint purpose of protecting animal rights and bringing awareness that we, as law students and future attorneys, can bring justice through the legal system to those that cannot defend their rights. "The question is not, 'Can they reason?' nor, 'Can they talk?' but rather, 'Can they suffer?'" ~Jeremy Bentham, Philosopher and Animal Rights Advocate.

Article III - Membership
§ 1. Membership in Whittier Law School SALDF shall be open to all students currently enrolled in Whittier Law School, regardless of sex, race, creed, age, color, national origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation. Individual membership in the Animal Legal Defense Fund is not required for Whittier Law School SALDF members.

§ 2. The amount of the dues shall be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Board. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect and deposit dues into the Whittier Law School SALDF student organization account.

§ 3. No Whittier Law School SALDF member shall act in the name of the Whittier Law School SALDF in any matter or by any means, unless he or she has given notice to the President(s) and received authorization from the Executive Board.

§ 4. All recognized Whittier Law School SALDF publications and organizations shall be subject to the laws and regulations of the Whittier Law School SALDF.

§ 5. The Class Representatives shall be elected and shall have the responsibility of promoting Whittier Law School SALDF sponsored activities and projects to his or her class, including the time and location of such events. The Class Representative should solicit from his or her class any ideas, suggestions, comments, and criticisms. The Class Representative shall bring these to the attention of the Whittier Law School SALDF Executive Board even if the Class Representative does not agree with them.
Article IV – Executive Board of the Whittier Law School SALDF

§ 1. The Executive Board of the Whittier Law School SALDF shall be at minimum one President and one Treasurer.

§ 2. Qualification for persons who are eligible to serve as officers of Whittier Law School SALDF are as follows:
   (A) Registration as a student at Whittier Law School
   (B) Membership in Whittier Law School SALDF
   (C) An agreement to uphold the goals and purposes of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and compliance with all bylaws, rules regulations and duly adopted policies of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

§ 3. The President or Co-Presidents (hereinafter “President(s)”) shall exercise general supervision over the programs of Whittier Law School SALDF, and shall serve as the liaison with the Dean of Students Office.

§ 4. The Vice President shall act in conjunction with the President(s) to fulfill all goals of the Whittier Law School SALDF and Whittier Law School. The Vice President shall assist the President(s) in the management and operation of the Whittier Law School SALDF. If the President(s) is/are unable to fulfill all of the duties of the office of the President(s), the Vice President shall step in and assume the duties of the President(s).

§ 5. The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping all Whittier Law School SALDF financial records and handling other financial matters as they occur.

§ 6. The Secretary shall prepare and maintain current Whittier Law School SALDF records, including, but not limited to: 1) the minutes of all Whittier Law School SALDF meetings, 2) a current directory of all Whittier Law School SALDF Executive Board members and general members; and 3) copies of all Whittier Law School SALDF correspondence.

§ 7. The Public Relations Representative shall prepare all reminders of meetings, events, and announcements.

§ 8. The Social Chair shall oversee any committee involved in the preparation and planning of any of the Whittier Law School SALDF activities.

Article V - Elections

§ 1. Officers shall be elected annually by the membership of Whittier Law School SALDF, and shall serve a term of office beginning one week after the date of the election.

§ 2. Elections shall be held at the last Whittier Law School SALDF meeting of the spring semester.

§ 3. Students interested in serving as officers shall so inform the President(s) prior to the day of the elections. In electing officers, each member shall have one vote. Candidates must obtain a majority of all votes in order to be elected to office. In the event that no candidate attracts the
requisite number of votes for election, a run-off shall be held between the two candidates with the highest number of votes.

§ 4. All students who have paid their dues to the Whittier Law School SALDF have the right to vote in Whittier Law School SALDF elections. Students graduating shall be entitled to vote in all Whittier Law School SALDF elections held before their graduation.

Article VI – Vacancy and Impeachment

§ 1. In the event of a vacancy in any Whittier Law School SALDF office, the Whittier Law School SALDF Executive Board, shall, at its discretion, hold a special election to fill the vacancy. The Whittier Law School SALDF Secretary or Treasurer shall prepare a general notice to the Whittier Law School SALDF membership informing them of the vacancy and calling all interested members to attend a special session of the Whittier Law School SALDF to be called by the Whittier Law School SALDF President(s). Vacancies shall be filled by qualified students upon a majority vote of the Whittier Law School SALDF Executive Board.

§ 1.1. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the President, the Whittier Law School SALDF Vice President shall fill the vacancy.

§ 2. All Executive Board members of the Whittier Law School SALDF shall be subject to impeachment and removal from office for gross dereliction of their duties, reckless disregard for the rules and regulations of Whittier Law School, the Bylaws of the Whittier Law School SALDF, or other serious conduct unbecoming a member of the Whittier Law School SALDF or a student of Whittier Law School. Impeachment proceedings shall be initiated by any Executive Board member upon presentation of a resolution.

§ 2.1. Any member of the Whittier Law School SALDF Executive Board, including the President(s), shall bring a resolution for impeachment of a Whittier Law School SALDF Executive Board member.

§ 2.2. The Whittier Law School SALDF Executive Board shall then schedule an Executive Board meeting in which the Executive Board member who brought the resolution shall present his or her case to the Whittier Law School SALDF Executive Board followed by a rebuttal for the member who is subject to impeachment.

§ 2.3. The Whittier Law School SALDF Executive Board shall deliberate in closed session and the resolution to impeachment shall need to be passed by two-thirds vote.

Article VI - Meetings

§ 1. Regular meetings of Whittier Law School SALDF shall be held at least two times each semester.

§ 2. Decisions at meetings shall be made by consensus, with every present party agreeing to, assenting to, or abstaining from every action there decided.
Article VII - Association with the Animal Legal Defense Fund
§ 1. Activities of Whittier Law School SALDF shall at all times be consistent with the purpose of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (“ALDF”). No legal action will be initiated in the name of Whittier Law School SALDF, or endorsed or supported by Whittier Law School SALDF, without prior approval of ALDF. Whittier Law School SALDF shall keep the President of ALDF informed of all public policy positions taken in the name of Whittier Law School SALDF. Whittier Law School SALDF will not purport to speak for ALDF or commit it to any position on any matter of public policy or law without ALDF’s prior written consent.

Article VIII – Incorporation of Animal Legal Defense Fund Bylaws
§ 1. The ALDF mission statement is incorporated into these Whittier Law School SALDF bylaws in accordance to SALDF chapter requirements. In all matters not specified in these bylaws, the ALDF Bylaws then in effect shall govern.

Article IX – Amendments
§ 1. Any current Whittier Law School SALDF Executive Board member shall be entitled to propose amendments to these Bylaws. These amendments shall be communicated to the President(s), who shall hold an election for the purpose of deciding on these amendments. A majority of the Whittier Law School SALDF Executive Board member votes shall be required for any changes to these Bylaws.

Article X: Funding Procedures and Policies
§1. For reimbursement totaling $100 or more, signatures from the President or if there are Co-Presidents, both Co-Presidents, the Treasurer, and one Faculty Advisor are required in addition to any other signatures required from the Business Office of Whittier Law School. For reimbursements under $100, the signature of one President, the Treasurer, and one Faculty Advisor, and any other signatures required by the Business Office will be required.

§2. A funds meeting is not required to receive reimbursement for routine expenditures under $100, such as food for meetings, advertising, and copying.

§3. All funding decisions, except as provided in §2 of this Article, shall be made after all members of the Executive Board have been notified that there will be a funds meeting to discuss and decide on the amount and allocation of funds withdrawn from the organization’s account. The meeting will be held at a reasonable and agreed upon time for all E-board members. For members who cannot attend based on scheduling conflicts, but wish to attend, the member will be reasonably accommodated via conference call or through any other appropriate method. In the event that an E-board member does not attend the meeting for reasons other than scheduling conflicts, the E-board will conduct the meeting nonetheless. A majority vote during the meeting shall be required to withdraw the funds in discussion.

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