WHITTIER LAW SCHOOL CHAPTER
OF
THE VIETNAMESE AMERICAN STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION
BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1.1 - The official name of the organization shall be the Whittier Law School Chapter of the Vietnamese American Student Bar Association, hereinafter referred to as the “Whittier Chapter.” The Whittier Chapter acts independently of the Vietnamese American Student Bar Association, herein referred to as “VASBA.” VASBA oversees and organizes each of the established VASBA Chapters; one of which is the Whittier Chapter. Accordingly, the Whittier Chapter must follow the national By-Laws to be recognized by VASBA as a Chapter.

Section 1.2 - The Purpose of the Whittier Chapter is to:

1. Gain recognition for the growing number of Vietnamese American Legal scholars;
2. Establish an ethical legal foundation for current Vietnamese American Whittier Law School students and future lawyers;
3. Offer a transitional outreach to the Vietnamese American communities residing in the United States of America, in Vietnam, and worldwide;
4. Offer assistance and support amongst all Asian American legal scholars, to share ideas by working with community leaders within the Vietnamese American community to benefit as a whole;
5. Educate and inform the Vietnamese American community of the legal system.
6.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 2.1 - A member of the Whittier Chapter shall be defined as any registered law student having paid the established fee payable to VASBA, where a “registered student” is a full-time day, or part-time student as defined by the Registrar of the law school.

Section 2.2 - No Whittier Chapter member shall act in the name of or represent him/herself as acting in the name of VASBA, with regard to either official or unofficial affairs, unless that individual has the written authorization from the Board with notice to the VASBA Chair.
Section 2.3 - All members of the Whittier Chapter shall be entitled to any privileges of that membership, which include but are not limited to seeking a VASBA or a Whittier Chapter appointed office, participating in all VASBA and Whittier Chapter activities, and benefiting from all services and programs.

Section 2.4 - Any Whittier Chapter member who is suspended or expelled from Whittier Law School shall automatically have his/her membership privileges suspended from both VASBA and the Whittier Chapter. The duration of the suspension is to be directly proportional to the actions taken by the administration. Suspension of privileges does not apply to students on academic probation.

ARTICLE III

DUES

Section 3.1 - An assessment to be known as “dues,” shall be levied on all Whittier Chapter members at the commencement of each semester. Dues shall not be refundable in whole or in part for any reason. The dues at the time of the promulgation of these By-Laws are $20 and are subject to change by a majority vote of the VASBA Executive Board.

Section 3.2 - The amount of dues levied per member each semester, in the absence of an express and duly adopted resolution calling for an increased amount, shall be that amount levied for the previous semester.

Section 3.3 - An increase in dues shall be established by a three-fourths (3/4) vote from the voting members of the Executive Board present.

Section 3.4 - No more than one increase in dues per semester shall be levied.

Section 3.5 - It shall be the responsibility of the Whittier Chapter Board to collect dues from their respective school at the start of each semester. It shall be the responsibility of the Whittier Chapter Treasurer to collect said sums from the Board.

ARTICLE IV

VASBA EXECUTIVE BOARD
AND WHITTIER LAW SCHOOL CHAPTER BOARD

Section 4.1 - All executive authority shall be vested in the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall be comprised of the two (2) Co-Chairs, one (1) Vice Chair from each law school with an established Chapter or in the process of establishing a Chapter, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, and each shall have equal voting power.
Section 4.2 - The actions of the Executive Board shall be enacted upon a majority vote of the Officers. The authority of the Executive Board shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Preparing, administering, and expending the annual VASBA budget;
2. Initiating and regulating activities of VASBA and to authorize and ratify expenditures from the Treasury;
3. Voting on all resolutions brought forth by the Executive Officers;
4. Allocating funds to various events, or activities in the name of VASBA with a majority vote of the voting members of the Executive Board present;
5. Appointing all Executive Officers for the next academic year;
6. Forming ad hoc committees as needed.

Section 4.3 - The duties of the Executive Board shall include, but is not limited to:

1. Meeting as needed to further the goals set forth here, but not less than once a semester during the academic year;
2. In the event that a vacancy should occur in an appointed office of VASBA, such a vacancy shall be subject to the requirements of Article VI.

Section 4.4 - No Board member shall receive monetary compensation for services. Reimbursements for expenditures must be authorized by the Board and all receipts must be provided to the Treasurer.

Section 4.5 - The qualifications and conditions for membership in the Executive Board shall be as follows starting after the first Administration:

1. Incoming Executive Officers shall be appointed independently by the current Executive Board. They shall be appointed in the spring quarter and shall assume position at noon on June 1. Their term of office shall be one year;
2. Executive Officers shall have been members of VASBA;
3. Co-Chairs shall have assumed a prior position on the Executive Board;
4. Co-Chairs shall be returning students the following year;
5. An Executive Officer must be present at all meetings in order to cast votes. Voting by proxy will not be permitted;
6. No Executive Officer may hold another VASBA appointed position during his/her appointed term.

Section 4.6 - The authority of the Executive Board shall be distributed as follows:

1. Co-Chairs (2)
   a. Serves as Chief Executive Officer of VASBA, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Chair of the Executive Board;
   b. Chairs the VASBA Executive Board meetings;
   c. Each Co-Chair shall exercise one vote on the Executive Board;
   d. Has co-signature authorization over all budgetary expenditures;
   e. Appoints, in the event of vacancy in any Executive position, a replacement
with a two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Executive Board;

f. Organizes and oversees all VASBA annual appointed position of the Executive Board;

g. Oversees the development and any updates to the VASBA website.

2. **Vice Chairs** (dependent on the number of Chapters)
   a. Serves as the senior representative for their respective law school’s VASBA Chapter and will dutifully report to the Executive Board;
   b. Vice Chairs will also serve as an Executive Board member;
   c. Each Vice Chair shall exercise one vote as an Executive Board member.

3. **Secretary** (1)
   a. Takes minutes of all VASBA Executive Board meeting;
   b. Exercise one vote on the Executive Board.

4. **Treasurer** (1)
   a. Keeps a suitable system of accounts, records, and books for VASBA and its various activities;
   b. Supervise the collection and expenditures of all VASBA funds;
   c. Exercise one vote on the Executive Board.

5. **Public Relations** (1)
   a. Serves as the VASBA liaison to the media and the community;
   b. Administers “Press Releases” on behalf of VASBA.

**Section 4.7 - Resolutions**

1. Resolutions may be presented by any VASBA member by submitting a written resolution to any Board member. The co-chairs will submit said resolution before a Board meeting;
2. Resolutions must be brought by a motion and be seconded by voting Executive Board members;
3. A simple majority-voting member is required for passage of a resolution, except as otherwise specified herein.

**ARTICLE V**

**VASBA ADVISORY BOARD**

**Section 5.1 -** The VASBA Advisory Board shall comprise of prominent figures who have a divested interest in the Vietnamese American community. They may but are not required to have a law degree, be a member of the State Bar, be a practicing attorney or be part of the legal community. Advisory Board members shall have no voting powers and may be recalled without notice by a three-fourths (3/4) vote from the Executive Board.
ARTICLE VI

VACANCY

Section 6.1 - The Vice Chair, in accordance with these By-Laws, shall serve as one of the acting Co-Chairs, for the duration of one of the original Co-Chair’s permanent or temporary absence. At the next General Board meeting, the Board by a majority vote, elect a new Vice Chair, to replace the previous.

Section 6.2 - Whenever possible, vacancies on the Board will be filled with pre-existing Board members who were duly voted to office. In the event the pre-existing Board cannot fill a new vacancy on the Board, the general members of VASBA will be eligible for nominations, which will require a majority vote by the Board.

ARTICLE VII

RECALL

Section 7.1 - An initiative should only be used for a problem that does not affect the By-Laws.

Section 7.2 - After having a resolution rejected by the board pursuant Section 4.7, any VASBA member may produce a petition bearing validated signature of 50% of the VASBA members and submit said petition to the Board. A majority of the Board may then vote to pass such a petition or choose to affirm the prior rejection.

Section 7.3 - Each resolution is limited to one recall and one petition to the Board for re-vote.

Section 7.4 - A Board member may be recalled for neglect of duty, misconduct, or malfeasance of office.

Section 7.5 - A petition signed by 50% of the affected body shall be presented to the 2 Co-Chairs, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Thereupon, the two Co-Chairs, or in the case that one of the Co-Chairs is recalled, the remaining Board members shall take a special recall vote. A majority of the board must be passed in order for removal of a Board Member. Such a recall vote is to be called within 10 days of the petition for removal. The recall vote by the majority of the Board shall be open to the general members of VASBA.
ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section 8.1 - An amendment to the By-Laws shall be proposed only as described by the following:

1. A written submission, given to an elected Board member for publication to the general members of VASBA;
2. The written proposal shall be voted on and signed by a majority vote of the Board;
3. An amendment to the By-laws may only be submitted by a current, good standing VASBA member or Board member.
4. A rejected amendment will not be allowed to be petitioned for review.
5. Each V.A.S.B.A. general member is limited to one amendment per semester; Each Board member is not limited to the number of amendments proposed;
6. Each proposed amendment shall be signed by the individual who is submitting the proposal, verifying that the amendment proposal is not frivolous and is in good faith, an attempt to either clarify the original bylaws, and/or improve upon the original bylaws.


Whittier Law School Chapter of The Vietnamese American Student Bar Association By-Laws co-drafted by: Lisa Trinh, Co-Chair of VASBA, Whittier Law School and John D. Tran, Vice Chair of Whittier Law School Chapter of The Vietnamese American Student Bar Association.