



## **NATIONAL BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**

### **BLSA CONSTITUTION**

#### **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Black Law Students Association at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law (hereinafter referred to as “BLSA”), located within the Midwest Black Law Students Association region (hereinafter referred to as “MWBLSA”), and a duly registered local organization under the National Black Law Students Association, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “NBLSA”).

#### **ARTICLE II – AFFILIATION CLAUSE**

The Multicultural Pre-Law Society of the National Black Law Students Association, Inc. at Indiana University – Bloomington shall operate as the Pre-Law Student Division (hereinafter referred to as “PSD”) of BLSA. Pursuant to Article VI, Section 9, Rights of Membership, Part D, of this Constitution, PSD Active Members may participate in all activities of BLSA, except those enumerated in that section, and may further participate as non-voting members in those activities.

#### **ARTICLE III – PURPOSE**

The purposes of BLSA shall be as follows:

1. To promote and articulate the educational, professional, political, and social needs and goals of Black and other Minority law students;
2. To promote increased Black and other Minority legal representation through the recruitment of students and faculty from high school, colleges and universities, and the PSD.
3. To foster and encourage the professional competence of Black and other Minority law students in the skills needed to successfully complete academic requirements for this Law School and the ensuing bar examination;
4. To participate on Law School faculty and Student Bar Association committees to influence policy decisions affecting the financial and academic futures of Black and other Minority law students.
5. Improve the relationship between Black and other Minority law students, Black and other Minority attorneys with Non-Minority students and attorneys in the American legal structure;
6. Instill in Black and Minority attorneys and law students a greater awareness and commitment to the needs of the Black and other Minority communities;
7. Influence the legal community by bringing about meaningful legal and political change that addresses the needs and concerns of the Black and other Minority communities;



8. To instill an awareness among Blacks and other Minorities in the local community of the law affecting their rights as citizens.
9. Adopt and implement policies of economic independence;
10. Encourage Black and other Minority law students to pursue careers in the judiciary;
11. Do all things necessary and appropriate to accomplish these purposes; and
12. To remain in good standing with NBLSA. In the absence of a national or regional provision, BLSA reserves the right to interpret its BLSA Constitution. In doing so, BLSA may use the national or regional constitution as a guidepost.

## ARTICLE IV – UNIVERSITY COMPLIANCE

### Section 1

**University Compliance:** BLSA shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state, and federal laws.

### Section 2

**Anti-Hazing Policy:** Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person’s consent or lack of consent.

### Section 3

**Personal Gain Clause:** BLSA shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to either the organization or to members who provide a service that directly benefits BLSA. Individual members may not receive compensation directly from for-profit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.

## ARTICLE V – ADVISOR

The Advisor shall be a faculty or staff member that supports and advocates for promoting the goals and purposes of this Constitution, as outlined in Article III. The Advisor should work to improve the effectiveness of BLSA and assist BLSA in reaching organizational goals. The Advisor should facilitate brainstorming techniques to help the Active Membership think through situations. The Advisor should support BLSA in their creation of a bigger picture for the organization.

## ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1

**Eligibility:** Membership in BLSA is open to all students currently enrolled at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law. Prospective members should be concerned with, and take



active steps toward, promoting the goals and purposes of this Constitution, as outlined in Article III.

## Section 2

**Active Membership:** Active Membership shall consist of all members that have fulfilled BLSA's financial obligations for that fiscal year (set forth in Article VII, Sections 1 - 3). Active Membership for any given year begins on October 15th, if dues are remitted by the deadline set. Active Membership lasts for one (1) year. Except as otherwise provided in Article VII, Sections 1 - 3, in order to maintain Active Membership, each member should submit dues to NBLSA annually via BLSA. Members choosing to pay NBLSA dues online are still responsible for paying Chapter dues to the Treasurer by the deadline.

## Section 3

**Interim Membership** - Interim Membership shall consist of incoming 1Ls who have formally requested affiliation with BLSA. They shall be entitled to receive all the benefits of Active Membership (except voting) until they pay dues or the dues payment deadline expires.

## Section 4

**Inactive Membership:** An Inactive Member shall consist of any person who does not meet any of the requirements for Active Membership as prescribed in Article VI, Section 2, of this Constitution. Inactive members may still be listed in the Graduation program of this Law School if they meet the requirements set forth in the Article II, Section 3, of the BLSA Bylaws.

## Section 5

**Associate Membership:** Associate Membership in BLSA is limited to law graduates and designated members of associate organizations. Associate organizations are those listed in Article 3, Section 6, Officers, Part (A)(11) of the Bylaws, or other organizations that promote the Black, or other Minority, lawyer and law student, as determined by the Executive Board.

## Section 6

**Honorary Membership:** Honorary Membership is open to any alumni of this Law School or a distinguished person who is nominated by the Active Membership and approved by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board. Honorary members, however, shall not vote nor hold office.

## Section 7

**Pre-Law Student Division Membership:** The composition of BLSA is to include a Pre-Law student division as a subsection entitled Pre-Law Student Division ("PSD"). The PSD is to serve solely as a liaison program between the prospective law students and the Active



Membership of BLSA. BLSA shall recognize PSD Active Members as non-voting members of this organization.

### Section 8

**Nondiscrimination Clause:** BLSA will not discriminate against an individual or group on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, religion, marital status, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, national origin, veteran status, or country of abode.

### Section 9

**Rights of Membership:** Only Active Members shall have the right to serve as a delegate, on the Executive Board, as a Committee Chair, on a Committee, as a Director, hold a national office, hold a regional office, and compete in MWBLSA or NBLSA sponsored competitions or conventions and shall generally be entitled to all the rights and privileges of BLSA, MWBLSA and NBLSA as defined herein.

- A. Associate Members may participate in all activities of BLSA, except those enumerated in this section, and may further participate as non-voting members in those activities.
- B. Interim Membership may enjoy the same rights as Associate Members.
- C. Honorary Members may enjoy the same rights as Associate and Interim Members.
- D. PSD Members shall enjoy the same rights as Associate Members, Interim Members, and Honorary Members. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution and/or the BLSA Bylaws, PSD Active Members shall serve on the PSD Committee.

### Section 10

**Duties of Membership:** Regular participation in the activities of PSD, BLSA, MWBLSA, and NBLSA is incumbent upon Active Members.

## ARTICLE VII – DUES

### Section 1

Active Member dues shall be determined by the Executive Board and shall be made known to the General Body by September 1st of each year. The dues amount shall be a lump sum payment encompassing NBLSA, MWBLSA, and BLSA dues. Dues shall be paid by October 15th of each year. Dues collection procedures shall be left to the discretion of the Treasurer. Each dues paying member shall receive a receipt of payment. Upon a showing of severe financial hardship or special circumstances, petitions can be made to the Executive Board to waive dues for the academic year. The waiving of dues requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Board. A member receiving this waiver shall be considered an Active Member for the year. Notwithstanding the aforementioned provisions in this Section, Active Membership terminates when they are no longer enrolled as students of this Law School.

## Section 2

Associate Membership dues shall be determined by the Executive Board and shall be no more than twenty-five (25) percent of the Active Member dues. Payment shall be accepted throughout the academic year. Dues collection procedures shall be left to the discretion of the Treasurer. Each dues paying member shall receive a receipt of payment.

## Section 3

Honorary Members and PSD Members shall not be required to pay dues. Only PSD Active Members shall be recognized by BLSA.

## ARTICLE VIII – ADMINISTRATION

### Section 1

Only Active Members shall have the right to serve on the Executive Board, as a Committee Chair, as a Director, or on a Committee.

### Section 2

**BLSA Executive Board:** There shall be an Executive Board that consists of the following elected officers:

- a) President
- b) Vice-President
- c) Treasurer
- d) Secretary
- e) Programming Manager
- f) 1L Representative
- g) Chief Justice

**BLSA Appointed Officers:** The President, with simple majority approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint the following positions:

- a) Rapheal M. Prevot, Jr. Barristers' Ball Chair
- b) Community Service Chair
- c) Special Events Chair
- d) Social Action Chair
- e) Director of Alumni Relations
- f) Director of Competitions
- g) Director of Communications
- h) Director of Marketing
- i) Director of Historical Records
- j) Director of Web Services

**BLSA Leadership:** The BLSA Leadership shall consist of the Executive Board and Appointed Officers.

**General Body:** Consists of the Active Members (excepting the Executive Board and non-voting members).

### **Section 3**

BLSA Leadership must perform duties prescribed by the BLSA Constitution and Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by BLSA. BLSA Leadership must also keep PSD informed of all BLSA activities so the efforts between the two organizations can be coordinated together. BLSA Appointed Officers have a duty to keep the Executive Board informed of their activities and before advertising to the public.

### **Section 4**

The Executive Board shall:

- a) Consist of all elected officers;
- b) Act in an advisory capacity and exercise general power to administer any and all programs, business projects, and matters pertaining to or concerning BLSA;
- c) Perform the duties of the Appointed Officers if a position is vacant or if the appointed person becomes incapacitated;
- d) Attend and support all events hosted by BLSA (if feasible);
- e) Determine all questions of policy and procedure and must administer the affairs of BLSA under this Constitution and BLSA Bylaws;
- f) Be subject to the orders of the General Body; none of its acts can conflict with decisions made by the vote of the General Body or the goals and objectives of BLSA, MWBLSA, or NBLSA;
- g) Make recommendations to the General Body;
- h) Create staff positions and committees as necessary to carry out the business of BLSA;
- i) Meet only by order of the President during the interim between General Body meetings or upon the request of a simple majority of the Board members;
- j) Make decisions at a duly called meeting at which there is quorum;
- k) Each have one vote in the Executive Board meetings in which the President only votes in case of a tie;
- l) Have the power to discipline any officer pursuant to Article XV of this Constitution;
- m) Set the date, location, and agenda of the BLSA programming;
- n) Coordinate all nationally or regionally mandated activities;
- o) Serve as a liaison between the General Body and MWBLSA and/or NBLSA; and
- p) Carry out the objectives of BLSA, MWBLSA and NBLSA.

### **Section 5**

**Board Approval:** Board approval is defined as an affirmative, simple majority vote by the Executive Board.



## Section 6

**Succession of Officers:** Should the office of the President become vacant or no one runs for the position during an election, BLSA will fill the position according to Article III, Section 9, of the BLSA Bylaws.

## Section 7

**Election of Officers:** All officers listed in the BLSA Constitution, Article VIII, Section 2, BLSA Executive Board, must be elected, unless otherwise dictated by Article VIII, Section 6 and Section 8. All elections are by a simple majority vote of Active Members and must be coordinated by the Chief Justice. Elections are held annually during the month March or April (excepting 1L Representative). Voting for the 1L Representative shall occur in September or October of each year. Only BLSA 1L Active Members are eligible to vote for the 1L Representative. The roster of newly elected officers (excepting the 1L Representative) shall be submitted to the PSD Vice-President and PSD Secretary no later than May 1st, and the 1L Representative shall be submitted to the PSD Vice-President and PSD Secretary as soon as he/she is elected.

## Section 8

**Vacancy of an Elected Position:** Except as otherwise provided in Article VIII, Section 6, in the event that no one runs for one of the elected positions, an elected officer is impeached, resigns, or other unforeseen circumstances leads to the vacancy of an elected position, the President shall have the power to appoint someone to the vacant position for the unexpired term pursuant to Article III, Section 3, Executive Board, of the BLSA Bylaws.

## Section 9

**Appointment of Officers:** All officers listed in the BLSA Constitution, Article VIII, Section 2, BLSA Committee Chairs & Directors, must be appointed. All appointments are made by the President, with simple majority approval by the Executive Board. Appointments should be made by June 1st, following an election.

## Section 10

**Fiduciary Duty:** BLSA Leadership retains a fiduciary duty to the Constitution and Bylaws of BLSA and then to the membership thereof.

## Section 11

**Terms of Office:** The BLSA Executive Board shall hold office for a term beginning the day after the Indiana University Maurer School of Law's Graduation Ceremony in the year the officers are elected. It shall terminate the day of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law's Graduation Ceremony in the following year. No person shall hold more than one (1) Executive Board office simultaneously. The BLSA Appointed Officers will hold office starting the day of





their appointment, and simple majority approval by the Executive Board, until the day of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law's Graduation Ceremony in the following year.

## ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS

### Executive Board Meetings:

- a) Shall meet only by order of the President during the interim between General Body meetings or upon the request of a simple majority of the Executive Board;
- b) Board members each have one vote;
- c) The President only votes in case of a tie;
- d) The Board shall make decisions at a duly called meeting at which there is quorum;
- e) The Executive Board must conduct a minimum of six (6) annual business meetings.
- f) Chairs are required to attend, or send a representative, to every Executive Board meeting. Executive Board members or Chairs that do not attend must show good cause for their absence. Good cause will be determined by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board (excepting the absent member). The absent member must submit a report to the President, or the President's designee, updating their activities at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Executive Board meeting.
- g) BLSA Leadership must submit a report to the President, or the President's designee, updating their activities at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Executive Board meeting.
- h) Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board must be made available, upon request, to the National Executive Board, Midwest Executive Board, and/or the General Body.
- i) Any member of the Executive Board may call special meetings.
- j) The President shall govern all meetings. In the President's absence, the Vice-President shall govern. In both their absences, the Treasurer shall govern. In all three of their absences, the Secretary shall govern.
- k) The Vice-President shall communicate notice of Executive Board or special meetings to the other Board members.
- l) Executive Board members shall have one vote with respect to any resolutions put forward during the meeting.

### General Body Meetings

- a) The Executive Board must conduct a minimum of six (6) annual General Body meetings for the purpose of administering policy, activities, programs, and other business.
- b) A simple majority of the Active Membership shall constitute a quorum.
- c) The President shall govern all meetings. In the President's absence, the Vice-President shall govern. In both their absences, the Treasurer shall govern. In all three of their absences, the Secretary will govern. In all four of their absences, the Programming Manager shall govern. In all five of their absences, the 1L Representative shall govern. In all six of their absences, the Chief Justice will govern.
- d) The Secretary shall communicate notice of General Body or special meetings to the BLSA and PSD Active Membership.





- e) BLSA Active Membership shall have one vote with respect to any resolutions put forward during the meeting.

## **ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1**

The Standing Committees of BLSA shall be the:

Rapheal M. Prevot, Jr. Barristers’ Ball Committee  
Community Service Committee  
Constitution and Bylaws Committee  
Elections Committee  
Finance Committee  
Grievance Committee  
Pre-Law Student Division Committee  
Programming Committee  
Special Events Committee  
Social Action Committee

### **Section 2**

The President shall have the power to create any other committee, standing or special, necessary for the execution of BLSA objectives and to carry on the work of the organization in common with the purposes listed in Article III.

### **Section 3**

The chairpersons of all standing and special committees shall be appointed by the President, subject to a simple majority approval by the Executive Board. The Board may delegate such appointive powers as are necessary to facilitate the organization and operation of a committee.

### **Section 4**

Chairperson assignments can be modified at the discretion of the Executive Board. Standing committee chairs report to the Vice-President. The Vice-President shall have the right to vote at standing committee meetings to break any ties.

## **ARTICLE XI – SUPREMACY DOCTRINE**

### **Section 1**

Any provision of the NBLSA Constitution and Bylaws, any action of the National Executive Board collectively or individually, and any measure adopted by the National Convention Assembly will supersede any governing document, rule, policy, practice, or procedure passed by BLSA.



## Section 2

Any provision of the MWBLSA Constitution and Bylaws, any action of the Regional Executive Board collectively and individually, and any measure adopted by the Regional Convention Assembly will supersede any governing document, rule, policy, practice, or procedure passed by BLSA.

## ARTICLE XII – FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

### Section 1

**Dues:** The assessment of BLSA membership dues shall be carried out in accordance with the National Executive Board's mandates pursuant to Articles III, VIII, and IX of the NBLSA Constitution. The amount of dues and the rules governing payment are to be determined by the Executive Board pursuant to Article VII, Section 1 and Section 2, and in accordance with the National Executive Board's mandates found in Article IX of the NBLSA Constitution.

### Section 2

**Final Report:** A final full disclosure of all funds received and disbursed within any given fiscal year must be disseminated by the Executive Board to the General Body by the day of the graduation commencement of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law, following an election.

## ARTICLE XIII – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of BLSA begins on May 1st of the present year to April 31st of the following year.

## ARTICLE XIV – VOTING

### Section 1

Active Membership shall have the right to vote. Inactive, Interim, Associate, Honorary, and PSD Membership shall not have the right to vote.

### Section 2

Each member giving a proxy must give it in writing or electronically to the Chief Justice at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the next General Body meeting in which voting occurs. Only Active Membership has a right to proxy voting. The Chief Justice must certify the proxy vote.



### **Section 3**

BLSA should be represented at the MWBLSA Regional Convention and the NBLSA National Convention in accordance with the number of Active Members in BLSA. Under no circumstances will BLSA's number of votes be less than one (1) or more than five (5).

BLSA votes for MWBLSA Regional Convention and the NBLSA National Convention are determined as follows:

- a) One (1) vote if BLSA has ten (10) members or less with Active Membership;
- b) Two (2) votes if BLSA has more than ten (10), but less than twenty-five (25) members with Active Membership;
- c) Three (3) votes if BLSA has twenty-five (25), but less than fifty (50) members with Active Membership;
- d) Four (4) votes if BLSA has fifty (50), but less than seventy-five (75) members with Active Membership; or
- e) Five (5) votes if BLSA has seventy-five (75) or more members with Active Membership.

## **ARTICLE XV – DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

### **Section 1**

BLSA is empowered to enforce its rules and to require that all members and BLSA Leadership refrain from conduct injurious to PSD, BLSA, MWBLSA, NBLSA and/or the purpose of these organizations. The Executive Board will have the power to sanction all members, staff persons, directors, chairs, and committee members pursuant to Article VIII, Section 4(j) of this Constitution. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Constitution, all Executive Board members shall vote in disciplinary proceedings (excepting the person(s) in which the disciplinary action is brought against).

- a) An Executive Board member may be impeached, suspended, or otherwise disciplined in office after due process and by an affirmative vote of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Board or General Body. A General Body member may be suspended, expelled, or otherwise disciplined after due process and by an affirmative vote of no less than two-thirds (2/3) of the General Body. The Presiding Officer at the meeting will require a secret ballot vote for any proposed adverse action.
- b) Notice of any adverse action will be given to the Board member or General Body member in writing. Any officer or General Body member initiating such an action or the object of such an action must make a presentation verbally, or in writing, on his or her behalf and/or to select an advocate and witnesses.
- c) The object of such adverse action has the right to appeal the decision to the MWBLSA Regional Executive Board. Either party may appeal the decision of the MWBLSA Regional Executive Board to the NBLSA National Executive Board. The decision of the NBLSA National Executive Board is final.

- d) Consideration of an appeal should include a review of the minutes from the initial action and an attempt to converse with the Board member and a representative from the Executive Board that brought the original action.
- e) The Executive Board shall report all disciplinary measures to the General Body at the next General Body meeting; disciplinary measures are subject to review by the General Body.
- f) Any officer in BLSA Leadership may resign at any time. Resignation must be in writing and given to the President. If the President resigns, notice must be given to the Faculty Advisor and Active Membership.

## **Section 2**

**Grounds for Disciplinary Action:** Failure of officers in BLSA Leadership or General Body members to perform the duties prescribed in this Constitution or Bylaws or conduct detrimental to the well-being of PSD, BLSA, MWBLSA, or NBLSA shall constitute grounds for disciplinary action by the Executive Board.

## **Section 3**

**Formal Charges of Misconduct:** The General Body has a right to charge any officer in BLSA Leadership or a General Body member. A petition brought by at least two (2) Active Members shall be made in writing and served to the Chief Justice. Reprimand of the President is in order upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Membership.

## **Section 4**

**Removal of BLSA Executive Board Officer:** If the Executive Board or General Body votes to impeach a Board member, the removal of the Board member shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Membership. The Board member(s) or the General Body initiating the impeachment action or the object of such an action must make a presentation verbally or in writing on his or her behalf and/or to select an advocate and witnesses before the Active Membership. The Presiding Officer will conduct the removal process by secret ballot. Notwithstanding any provision of this Constitution, Board members shall be automatically removed from office if Article V, Section 1, Part D, of the BLSA Bylaws applies.

**Removal of BLSA Appointed Officer:** If the Executive Board votes to impeach an Appointed Officer, the removal of the Appointed Officer shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board. The Board member(s) initiating the impeachment action or the object of such an action must make a presentation verbally or in writing on his or her behalf and/or to select an advocate and witnesses before the Executive Board. The Presiding Officer will conduct the removal process by secret ballot. Notwithstanding any provision of this Constitution, Chairs and Directors shall be automatically removed from office if Article V, Section 1, Part C or Part D, of the BLSA Bylaws applies.

## **Section 5**

**PSD Appeals:** The Executive Board is required to hear appeals of disciplinary actions rendered by the PSD. The Presiding officer will conduct the proceedings. The Board shall uphold or reverse the decision rendered by the PSD. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Constitution, the President shall have the right to vote in these proceedings.

## **Section 6**

**Presiding Officer:** The Chief Justice shall serve as the Presiding Officer in all matters regarding disciplinary action. The Chief Justice will designate a member of the Executive Board to take notes during any proceedings. If the Executive Board or General Body decides to discipline someone, it shall be the Chief Justice's duty to prepare findings of fact and conclusions of law on why the disciplinary action was administered. If the decision is appealed, pursuant to Article VV, Section 1, Part C, the Chief Justice shall provide the information to the MWBLSA Regional Executive Board or the NBLSA National Executive Board. In the event charges are brought against the Chief Justice, the Executive Board shall appoint a Presiding Officer by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board. The appointee shall then have all the powers and responsibilities bestowed to the Chief Justice during the disciplinary proceedings.

## **ARTICLE XVI – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

BLSA is empowered to establish its rules of order through the adoption of Roberts Rules of Order as parliamentary authority. The Chief Justice, elected by a simple majority of the Active Membership, will:

- a) Be responsible for carrying out the parliamentary authority; and
- b) Serve as a resource on parliamentary procedure.

## **ARTICLE XVII – MANDATORY PROJECTS**

### **Section 1**

The following projects are mandatory for the President to implement:

- a) Transitional Meeting in April attended by the Executive Board; and
- b) BLSA Leadership Event Calendar Planning Session in August attended by BLSA Leadership.

### **Section 2**

The following projects are mandatory for the Programming Manager to implement:

- a) At least one (1) International Relations Project that conforms with the goals of NBLSA;
- b) At least three (3) National Project initiatives;
- c) At least one (1) regional project initiative (if one exists);
- d) At least two (2) local project initiatives traditionally performed by BLSA; and



- e) A program that features Judge David F. Hamilton (if his chambers remains in the law school).

### **Section 3**

The following projects are mandatory for the Community Service Chair to implement:

- a) Community Service Week in October;
- b) Founder's Day of Service the last Saturday in October;
- c) At least one (1) Regional community service project; and
- d) At least two (2) local projects traditionally performed by BLSA.

### **Section 4**

The following projects are mandatory for the Special Events Chair to implement:

- a) Gong Show;
- b) Black History Month; and
- c) Banquet.

### **Section 5**

The following projects are mandatory for the Social Action Chair to implement:

- a) At least one (1) NBLSA Legislative Outreach Program; and
- b) At least one (1) NBLSA Election & Voting Program.

## **ARTICLE XVIII – BYLAWS**

### **Section 1**

The BLSA Bylaws must be amended by:

A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Membership at any General Body meeting, provided the proposed amendment(s) has been presented to each member in writing and posted in a conspicuous location at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting or with good faith intent.

### **Section 2**

The Executive Board has the authority to make grammatical and non-substantive changes to the BLSA Bylaws.

### **Section 3**

Only Active Membership has a right to propose an amendment to the BLSA Bylaws. The proposed amendment(s) must be in writing and given to the Chief Justice. The proposal must be clearly stated and justified. The Secretary must certify the status of the member. The Chief Justice will form a Constitution and Bylaws Committee who will then present the proposed amendment(s) to the Executive Board for review.



## **ARTICLE XIX – AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1**

The BLSA Constitution must be amended by:

A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Active Membership at any General Body meeting, provided the proposed amendment(s) has been presented to each member in writing and posted in a conspicuous location at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting or with good faith intent.

### **Section 2**

The Executive Board has the authority to make grammatical and non-substantive changes to the BLSA Constitution.

### **Section 3**

Only Active Membership has a right to propose an amendment to the BLSA Constitution. The proposed amendment(s) must be in writing and be given to the Chief Justice. The proposal must be clearly stated and justified. The Secretary must certify the status of the member. The Chief Justice will form a Constitution and Bylaws Committee who will then present the proposed amendment(s) to the Executive Board for review.

## **ARTICLE XX – RATIFICATION**

Unless an alternative date is specified therein, the Constitution, Bylaws, and any passed amendments of BLSA become effective immediately upon ratification.

Amended March 26, 2012  
Effective Date: April 3, 2012