

ALIANZA  
(LATINO LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION)

THE ALIANZA  
CONSTITUTION

We, Alianza, the Latino Law Students Association of Rutgers School of Law- Camden, in order to form a unity among law students, establish academic excellence, insure co-operation, provide for the common achievement, promote the general concern, and secure legal knowledge for ourselves and our community do ordain and establish this constitution.

OFFICES

The principle office of the organization shall be situated at Rutgers School of Law, Camden, New Jersey. The organization may maintain other offices within or outside the state of New Jersey as the organization shall decide.

ARTICLE I: NAME

To foster and enlarge the opportunities for training and education of the Latino community in the field of Law. The concern of the organization is two-fold: Academic and Community.

Academic:

1. To secure adequate participation and representation of Latinos in law;
2. To encourage undergraduates to pursue law as a career through recruitment efforts;
3. To provide guidance to the entering freshmen;
4. To develop unity within the Hispanic Law Students by supporting the students socially as well as academically;
5. To establish tutor programs.

Community:

1. To participate in community activities to enhance the legal service offered;
2. To act as liaison between the Spanish-speaking community and the legal community.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

- I. Eligibility for Membership: law students of Rutgers School of Law who will assist in furthering the purposes of the organization.
- II. Membership: there shall be three (3) classes of membership:
  - i. Active Membership
  - ii. Alumni Membership
  - iii. Honorary Membership

A. Definitions:

1. Active Membership shall be defined as an individual who is a Rutgers School of Law student, whose dues are paid and have attended at least two (2) meetings per semester of those who are active members in good standing in the previous semesters.
2. Alumni Membership shall be defined as an individual who has previously graduated from the Rutgers School of Law and has, in addition, a) paid the required memberships dues and b) has attended at least one meeting or Alianza sponsored event per semester. This provision shall apply retroactively.
3. Honorary Membership shall be defined and established by the officers, said membership shall be extended as a privilege and honor to non-student, subject to ratification by the membership.

B. Rights:

1. Active members and Alumni members shall have the right to vote in person on all matters affecting the operation of the organization at any duly constituted meeting and shall have all other benefits derived from membership. This provision will not preclude the use of proxies.
2. Only active members shall be eligible to become officers of the organization.
  - a) A J.D. candidate shall not be, at the time of election, beyond his/her fifth semester in school.
3. Honorary members shall have rights of Active and Alumni members, except the right to vote and hold office.

III. Membership Dues: Any charges will be assessed by the needs of the organization as determined by the membership.

**ARTICLE III: OFFICERS**

I. Principal Officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer.

II. Election of Officers: Each officer shall be elected by a majority of the organization. Such election of officers shall take place on the second Wednesday of April. The new officers shall take office upon the conclusion of the Spring semester.

III. Removal of Officers: Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership.

IV. Vacancies: Any vacancy arising may be filled by a majority vote of the membership. Any person elected to fill a vacated office shall serve for the unexpired term of office.

V. Resignation: Any officer may resign his or her office at any time by giving two (2) weeks written notice thereof to the President or Vice-President. The resignation shall become effective upon the date specified, therein of, if no date is specified, upon receipt thereof by the President or Vice-President. Acceptance shall not be necessary to render the resignation effective.

## ARTICLE IV: EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- I. Grant of Authority: the executive powers of Alianza shall be vested in the President, except those powers expressly vested in other officers by this Constitution.
  
- II. Duties and Powers of the Officers:
  - A. The President shall:
    1. Serve as chief executive officers of the organization and shall represent it in all matters affecting its welfare.
    2. Preside at all regular and special meetings of the organization.
    3. Preside at all regular meetings of the Executive Board.
    4. Have powers, with the consent of the membership, to create such agencies or committees as are deemed necessary to carry out the executive function of the organization and to appoint the chairpersons of these agencies or committees.
    5. Have power to require reports of a general or specific nature of any agency, committee or executive officers of the organization.
    6. Shall be required to attend all regular meetings of the Student Bar Association of the Rutgers School of Law, and report to the organization.
    7. Shall make regular progress reports to the Alumni Standing Committee.
    8. Have all other powers, which are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Constitution.
  
  - B. The Vice-President shall:
    1. In the case of illness or temporary inability of the President, fulfill the duties of the President.
    2. Be an ex-officio member of all executive agencies and committees.
    3. Aid and assist the President in fulfilling the executive functions of the organizations.
    4. Perform all other duties incident to such office.
  
  - C. The Secretary shall:
    1. Keep minutes for all regular and special meetings of the organization.
    2. Keep minutes for all regular and special meetings of the Executive Boards.
    3. Give notice to membership of any Executive Board, general or special meetings.
    4. Have custody of the records of the organization.
    5. Perform all other duties and functions incident to such office.
  
  - D. The Treasurer shall:
    1. Be responsible for collection of all membership dues.
    2. Prepare and submit to the Executive Board and the general membership periodic reports on the financial condition of the organization.
    3. Determine and effect ways and means of raising funds for the organization.
    4. Serve on any committee concerned with the appropriation of finance.
    5. Prepare the proper budget request for its submission to the student Bar Association.
    6. Perform all other duties incident to such office.

- E. The Executive Board shall:
1. Consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
  2. Make recommendations of all matters submitted to it by the President.
  3. Recommend legislative matters to the legislative body.

#### **ARTICLE V: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

- I. Grant of Authority: All powers of Alianza shall be vested in the membership, except as delegated to the officers and Executive Board.
- II. Power: The membership shall have the power, such as:
- A. To establish qualifications of its own members.
  - B. To establish its own rules of proceedings.
  - C. To establish all funds for the organization.
  - D. To approve ways and means of raising funds and to determine membership dues.
  - E. To investigate and recommend actions on membership problems.
  - F. To legislate on any matter in accordance with this Constitution.

#### **ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES**

- I. The standing committees shall be as follows:
- Election Committee
  - Alumni Standing Committee

- II. Duties of the Committee:

Election Committee: The Election Committee shall accept nominations for office from the members; conduct the election, insuring secrecy of ballot; and report the result of the election to the members of the organization. The committee shall consist of at least two (2) members of the organization. The Election Committee shall promulgate such rules as will ease the election process and assure a well-informed organization and a fair election.

(This section becomes effective August, 2002.)

Alumni Standing Committee: This committee shall serve to counsel and guide the undergraduate members in their pursuit of a legal career. (Resume and job interview counseling are examples of the type of cooperation and involvement needed.) The committee shall represent the Rutgers School of Law and Alianza in the legal community. It shall also serve as a liaison between the Rutgers School of Law and the Latino community as a representative of Alianza

#### **ARTICLE VII: QUORUM**

Three officers and three voting members shall constitute a quorum of this organization. (This section becomes effective August, 2002)

### **ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS**

1. This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the organization or any special meeting called for that purpose, by the affirmative vote of 2/3 of the voting membership present.
2. Provided, that the text of the proposed amendment be published at least one month prior to the meeting at which the proposed amendment is to be considered.