

- 1. Call to Order at 11:04 AM** **President**
  - a. In attendance: Jordan Chisolm, Colinford Mattis, Manuel Antunes, Luis Maria Clouet, Chloe Hurley, Chris Porcelli, Dana Wellesly-Stein, Staci Cox, Alexandra Serre, Na'eem Crawford-Muhammad, Courtney Weisman, Taaj Reaves, Nonny Onykweli, Chris Hughes, Daryl Kleiman, Leah Calvo, Daniel Cheung
- 2. Welcome to New SBA Members** **President**
- 3. Students for Justice in Palestine Proposal** **Salmah Rizvi**
  - a. After a summer abroad, realized that friends and family have lots of misinformation about the situation in Palestine. Want this group to serve as ambassadors to NYU Law.
  - b. Would like to cultivate relationships between PILC, administration, and organizations in Israel and Palestine.
  - c. *What is your relationship now or moving forward with the national organization? We noticed that there is a national organization and a chapter on campus.* Not a subchapter, but because law school is fairly separate, they have not been able to have many events on campus. Need a safe space in the law school community to talk about these things in a collaborative, diverse environment.
  - d. *Is it accurate that the only event that has been booked is the one in October?* Yes, will be joining with LSHR. NLG has also reached out for a film screening.
  - e. *How are you planning on dealing with the sensitive nature of the topic that the group is proposing?* Trying to get faculty sponsors to make sure that events do not infringe on anyone's personal beliefs.
  - f. Dana: Please elaborate on the relationship between the national organization and the campus one. We do not have an official relationship with the national chapter, we also have spoken with the on-campus chapter.
- 4. Dean's Cup Incentive Funding Request** **Edward Rooker**
  - a. Trying to add an additional team for the NYC Law School league. 39 people who tried out – only take 6. Other schools have up to 4 teams in this league. Goal is to get other people involved. Took 14 people last year intending to stagger, but want more people involved.
  - b. *How many people will be on the additional team?* At least 10. Could also have tryouts. \$1500 fee to enter the tournament.
  - c. *Are there any other costs? No. Do you know how other schools fund their teams? Cardozo's school funds the teams, but not sure of others. Have you considered other sources of funding?* Looking at how to split up funding and to make two teams. Looking for other funding sources. *How will team be chosen?* Second top 10 in tryouts.
  - d. *Is it correct the NYU-run lawyers' league is not affiliated with SLAP? Is working with SLAP something you would consider? Made sense to have a team and would consider it but have not approached SLAP yet. Is the team co-ed? Yes.*
- 5. Students for Justice in Palestine Discussion & Vote** **All**
  - a. Motion to recognize student group by Jordan Chisolm. Seconded by Colinford Mattis. Approved (14 Y – 3 N – 1 A).
- 6. Dean's Cup Incentive Funding Discussion & Vote** **All**
  - a. Motion to approve incentive funding request for Dean's Cup by Jordan Chisolm. Seconded by Ben Mejia. Denied (0 Y – 15 N – 1 A).
- 7. Adjourn at 12:09 PM**

TO: NYU School of Law Student Body Association  
FROM: Interested Students at the NYU School of Law  
DATE: September 10, 2014  
RE: Establishing a “Law Students for Justice in Palestine” Group on Campus

---

This past summer, a number of NYU Law students worked on groundbreaking issues in Palestine and Israel. Based on their critical legal experiences, these students – along with numerous other students at NYU Law – would like to start a Law Students for Justice in Palestine (LSJP) student group.

While obtaining signatures for the creation of this group, we realize that there has been a long standing desire at NYU Law to create an LSJP, but until now, there has not been enough student body courage to create the group, because of the controversial nature of the issue.

Now, due to greater transparency in the media and greater connections between NYU Law School and Palestinian human rights organizations, students feel that this organization must be created as soon as possible. LSJP would be uniquely positioned at America’s best law school for international legal studies to serve as a vehicle for progressive debate and dialogue on the issues facing the Palestinian people.

In the past, students interested in Palestine have tried to raise awareness through events hosted by NYU’s Law Students for Human Rights group (LSHR), but LSHR has been unable to host more than one or two events a year on the topic. As such, LSJP would be different from LSHR, because LSJP would not be a survey human rights organization covering broad array of human rights issues around the world, but rather a student group that focuses specifically on issues related to achieving justice in Palestine.

Furthermore, as opposed to LSHR, we would not focus just on human rights law as it relates to Palestine and Israel, but also on business law, intellectual property law, global antitrust law, environmental law, international humanitarian law, comparative foreign law and much more; all forms of law touch and concern the issues that face Palestinians today. We believe that the legal issues in Palestine are unique and critical to the advancement and development of both private and public international law.

Additionally, LSJP would be a culturally diverse group and would be quite different from other affinity groups on campus such as the (defunct) Middle East Law Students’ organization. We would not be providing a platform for people of similar cultural identities to unify, but we would rather be providing a platform for students of diverse backgrounds to become engaged with the issues of justice in Palestine. We will also provide our members with career-advancement opportunities to do legal work related to Palestine in New York and the Middle East.

We believe that LSJP will be a student organization that activates and enriches the student body. We hope that you too will understand the uniqueness and necessity of an LSJP on campus and approve the establishment of a LSJP at NYU Law School as soon as possible. Thank you for your consideration.

## **NYU LAW STUDENTS FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE**

### **Article I. Name of the Organization**

The name of this organization shall be Law Students for Justice in Palestine (LSJP).

### **Article II. Purpose of the Organization**

Through guest speaker events, teach-ins, panels, film-screenings, volunteer projects, social events and campaigns, LSJP will work to 1) raise awareness and further the legal discourse of both public and private international law issues impacting Palestinians and 2) promote a just and lasting peace in Palestine/Israel. While LSJP does not take a position on the political form that should ultimately be adopted in Palestine/Israel, it does believe that certain key principles of international law will be fundamental to any genuine and just resolution. At minimum, such a resolution would include:

- an end to the Israeli occupation and colonization of all Palestinian lands, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions;
- the dismantling of the Apartheid Wall, in accordance with the 2004 opinion of the International Court of Justice;
- a guarantee of the fundamental rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality, as articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and
- a guarantee of Palestinian refugees' right of return to their homes and property, as stipulated in UN Resolution 194.

### **Article III. Definition of Membership**

*Clause 1.* Any New York University law student pursuing a J.D. or L.L.M. who affirmatively demonstrates a genuine interest in furthering the purpose of the organization or actively participates in its activities shall be considered a member of LSJP. Such an interest may manifest itself in meeting attendance, outreach events, or other efforts intended to aid the mission of LSJP.

*Clause 2.* LSJP shall not exclude any individual from its membership or its functions on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, marital status or disability.

*Clause 3.* In the event there is a dispute regarding membership status, such dispute shall be resolved by a majority vote of the LSJP Executive Board.

### **Article IV. General Membership**

#### **Section 1. Purpose of General Membership Meetings**

*Clause 1.* General Membership Meetings shall be for the purpose of planning LSJP's upcoming events and discussing a relevant, pre-determined issue.

*Clause 2.* Members may recommend discussion topics or propose ideas for future events, activities, or speakers.

*Clause 3.* General announcements may also be made during the general membership meetings.

## **Section 2.** General Membership Voting Procedures

*Clause 1.* Only LSJP members as defined by Article III are entitled to vote.

*Clause 2.* "Referendum" - In order to be considered for a vote by the general membership, a motion/referendum on any subject matter requires either 1) a request by at least 10% of all LSJP members for a general membership vote, or 2) a majority vote of the Executive Board requesting a general membership vote. Proof of a valid request by the membership shall be in the form of a written petition to the Executive Board, formatted to include the printed name, signature, phone number, and NYU email address of each signing member.

*Clause 3.* The Executive Board will decide by a majority vote as to whether a motion/referendum will be governed by Clause 6 or Clause 7 of this Section 2.

*Clause 4.* In order to be considered for a vote by the general membership, notice of the issue to be decided shall be provided to the general membership for no less than three academic days prior to the vote.

*Clause 5.* A quorum shall be required in order for a general membership vote to determine official action by LSJP. A quorum shall be 25% of all LSJP members. If a definite number of total members cannot be determined, the Executive Board will make a good faith effort in determining whether a quorum is present.

*Clause 6.* All official statements or positions adopted in the name of LSJP shall receive a 2/3 majority vote of the quorum for approval.

*Clause 7.* All other issues to be decided by the general membership under this section shall receive a majority vote of the quorum for approval.

*Clause 8.* The procedure for all general membership votes shall be by secret ballot conducted at a general meeting.

## **Article V. Executive Board**

**Section 1.** The purpose of the Executive Board shall be to serve as the administrative body for the association.

**Section 2.** The Executive Board is responsible for the administrative details required for the running of the association. Its powers shall include the ability to create ad hoc committees and the ability to appoint official representatives to law school committees, through a majority vote of the Executive Board.

**Section 3.** In the event a dispute arises between the Executive Board and any Committee, the Executive Board may overrule the Committee's action only by a majority vote of the Executive Board, subject to a referendum by the General Membership as defined in Clause 2 of Section II of Article IV.

**Section 4.** The Executive Board shall consist of the following seven positions:

*Clause 1. Co-Chairs.* The responsibilities of the two co-chairs shall include, but are not limited to, overseeing the activities of the Executive Board officers; facilitating communications among the various bodies of the association; leading Executive Board and general membership meetings; and serving as the official representatives of the association. The Co-Chairs may appoint ad-hoc positions to general body members.

*Clause 2. Vice Chair.* The Vice Chair shall assist and advise the Co-Chairs on important matters related to the sustainability of the group and development of the group. The Vice Chair will interact with faculty, staff, and administration at NYU Law in addition to or in the absence of the Co-Chairs. The Vice Chair will draft official internal and external communications with the Executive Board.

*Clause 3. Social Coordinator.* The responsibilities of the Social Coordinator shall include, but are not limited to, planning special events; publicizing said club events to current and prospective members; and disseminating information about outreach events through the official email list of LSJP as the need arises.

*Clause 3. Project Coordinator.* The responsibilities of the Project Coordinator shall include, but are not limited to, planning volunteer projects; publicizing opportunities to get involved to current and prospective LSJP members; and disseminating information about these projects through the official email list of LSJP as the need arises.

*Clause 4. Logistics Director.* The responsibilities of the Logistics Director shall include, but are not limited to, maintaining the finances of LSJP, fulfilling treasurer duties, submitting, defending, and appealing the LSJP budget through the procedures prescribed by the Student Bar Association, recording notes at meetings, booking rooms and technical equipment for events and facilitating reimbursements for members.

*Clause 5. Academic Coordinator.* The responsibilities of the Academic Coordinator, include, but are not limited to, finding opportunities for LSJP members to develop academically through international moot court competitions, legal publications, and conferences. The Academic Coordinator will serve as a mentor and peer-reviewer of scholarly work conducted by LSJP members.

*Clause 6. Community Liaison.* The responsibilities of the Community Liaison, include, but are not limited to, providing LSJP members with information about upcoming events in New York City which relate to justice in Palestine. The Community Liaison will attend meetings of external bodies to avoid overlap in the planning and execution of LSJP events. The Community Liaison will confer with the Executive Board before making any public or official statements on behalf of the group's mission or agenda.

## **Section 5.**

*Clause 1.* Each Executive Board member is entitled to one vote only.

*Clause 2.* In order to be considered for action by the Executive Board, a motion shall be raised and seconded by another Executive Board member.

*Clause 3.* Voting by a show of hands or verbal assent shall be the method of issue resolution upon a motion of the Executive Board seconded from the floor. A simple majority shall be sufficient for approval of a motion unless otherwise specified in this Constitution.

*Clause 4.* No action may be taken by the Executive Board unless quorum is met. A quorum shall be three members of the Executive Board.

*Clause 5.* For the purposes of any voting by the executive board that requires a simple majority, the Director shall have a tie-breaking vote.

## **Article VI. Election of Executive Board Members.**

**Section 1.** Any individual who wishes to run for an Executive Board position shall be a member of the association as defined by Article III at the time of nominations.

**Section 2.** Nominations shall take place through a secret ballot and the period of nominating candidates shall be no less than five academic days.

**Section 3.** All persons receiving at least one nomination shall be placed on the general election ballot pending the candidate's approval.

**Section 4.** Voting shall be by a secret ballot conducted at a regular meeting. Instant-runoff ranked voting will be used when there are more than two candidates for a particular position. General Members must be notified at least five academic days prior to the meeting where voting occurs that Executive Board Member voting will occur at that meeting. Absentee voting will be made available to those who cannot attend, in a manner consistent with the spirit of this article.

**Section 5.** In order to be elected as a member of the Executive Board, a quorum shall be reached for the particular position, and a candidate shall receive a majority of the votes cast for that position. In the event that no person receives a majority of the first rank votes, instant-runoff voting will occur. In instant-runoff voting, all ballots not cast

for the first or second place finisher will be reassigned to the highest ranked remaining candidate.

**Section 6.** Elections for Executive Board positions shall be held in the month of April with new officers assuming their positions after the election results are complete.

**Section 7.** Unfilled Executive Board positions may be filled through a special election or may be appointed by a unanimous vote of the acting members of the Executive Board. Appointments can be vetoed through a 2/3 vote of the general membership, to be initiated under referendum rules laid out in Article II. Vetoing of an appointment is not subject to Article VII.

### **Article VII. Recall**

**Section 1.** All elected officers are subject to recall by the General Membership. Any elected officer who is recalled shall be removed from office.

**Section 2.** To bring any recall proposal to a vote of the General Membership by secret ballot, a recall proposal shall be signed by 20% of the membership, formatted to include the printed name, signature, phone number, and NYU email address of each signing member.

**Section 3.** The co-chairs, acting in capacity as voting officials, shall be responsible for confirming any recall proposal, scheduling a hearing and administering the voting procedure. An exception shall be made if one of the co-chairs is the elected officer named in a recall proposal. In such a case, the Finance Director will act in the voting official capacity.

**Section 4.** An official notification of a confirmed recall proposal shall be made to the elected officer and the General Membership no less than five academic days prior to the hearing. A hearing shall be held no less than three academic days before voting.

**Section 5.** Voting shall be by secret ballot conducted at a general meeting, consistent with voting procedures in Article VI.

**Section 6.** Recall will only be implemented by a two-thirds vote of quorum of the General Membership.

### **Article VIII. Amendment Process**

**Section 1.** Amendment proposals to this Constitution shall be submitted to the Communications Coordinator, and shall be signed by 20% of all LSJP members, formatted to include the printed name, signature, phone number, and NYU email address of each signing member.

**Section 2.** An official notification of a proposed Amendment shall be made to the General membership no less than five academic days prior to a hearing.

**Section 3.** A hearing on any properly submitted proposed Amendment shall be held no less than three academic days before voting.

**Section 4.** Voting shall be by a secret ballot at a general meeting, consistent with the Executive Board voting procedure in Article VI.

**Section 5.** Amendments to this Constitution shall pass by a two-thirds vote of quorum of the General Membership.

#### **Article IX. Misc.**

**Section 1.** Nothing in this Constitution should be interpreted in a manner that would be inconsistent with the policies of the New York University School of Law Student Bar Association as pertains to the conduct of student organizations.

**Section 2.** Where interpretation of this Constitution is found to be ambiguous or contradictory, a reasonable person standard should be applied.