

## **PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Jus Vitae Association of Notre Dame Law School, do hereby set forth the following constitution.

## **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this organization is the Jus Vitae Association of Notre Dame Law School.

## **ARTICLE II. MISSION**

The members of the Jus Vitae Association of Notre Dame Law School are committed to the principle that the right to life is inherent and inalienable in every human being and cannot be abridged by any action of the government, any individual citizen, or any group of citizens. Its members are united in promoting, upholding, and defending the sanctity of all human life from the moment of conception to the point of natural death. Its members pursue this by means of public education and community service.

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

Any person of the Notre Dame community committed to promoting, upholding, and defending the sanctity of all human life from the moment of conception to the point of natural death is welcomed to become a member of this association.

## **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP FEES**

Any contributions to this association are voluntary. From time to time, reasonable fees may be collected in order to defray the cost of activities. All fees collected will be on a voluntary basis.

## **ARTICLE V. OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Jus Vitae Association of Notre Dame Law School shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

### **Section 1. Duties**

#### **A. The President shall:**

1. be the chief executive officer of Jus Vitae;
2. preside over meetings of the association;
3. establish special committees deemed necessary, and appoint their members;
4. serve ex officio as a member of all committees; and
5. perform other duties for the promotion and development of the Jus Vitae Association.

**B. The Vice-President shall:**

1. assist the President in the promotion and development of the Jus Vitae Association;
2. assume the duties of the President in the event the President is absent or incapable of filling those duties;
3. implement and oversee an ongoing service project for Jus Vitae members;
4. arrange a Notre Dame Law School contingent to attend the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.; and
5. serve as officer in charge of the administration of elections.

**C. The Secretary shall:**

1. keep a permanent record of all meetings and activities of the association, and, upon request, make such records available to members;
2. post notice of the time and place of all meetings and activities of the association in a timely manner;
3. bind, at the end of the school year, all formal records of the Jus Vitae Association's meetings and activities to those of the previous years, and shall submit these records to the incoming Secretary and a copy of such to the advisor for future reference;
4. maintain the Jus Vitae web page;
5. distribute copies of this Constitution to the newly elected officers and, upon request, to the Jus Vitae Association members; and
6. maintain a current roster of all Jus Vitae Association members and their email addresses.

**D. The Treasurer shall:**

1. be responsible for the administration of all monies of the Jus Vitae Association;
2. keep an accurate record of all financial transactions;
3. make periodical reports of the financial status of the Jus Vitae Association at meetings;
4. serve as Secretary in the event the Secretary is absent;
5. serve as the officer in charge of all fundraising activities, of which there shall be at least one per academic year; and
6. submit, at the end of the school year, an annual financial report to the Secretary to be included in the bound formal records.

## **Section 2. Elections**

- A. Elections shall be held at a meeting prior to Spring Break. Notice of elections and procedures shall be announced and posted at least two weeks prior to the elections.
- B. Candidate for office nominations will be submitted in writing or via email.
- C. Proxy votes are not permitted.
- D. The first election shall be for the office of the President. The candidate with the most votes shall be President. In the event of a tie, the vote of the current President will serve as the tiebreaker.
- E. The second election shall be for the office of Vice President. The candidate with the most votes shall be the Vice President. In the event of a tie, the vote of the current President will serve as the tiebreaker.
- F. The third election shall be for the office of Secretary. The candidate with the most votes shall be the Secretary. In the event of a tie, the vote of the current President will serve as the tiebreaker.
- G. The fourth election shall be for the office of the Treasurer. The candidate with the most votes shall be the Treasurer. In the event of a tie, the vote of the current President will serve as the tiebreaker.
- H. Notwithstanding paragraphs (D)-(G), the current President shall not serve as a tiebreaker in any election in which the current President is seeking office. In case of a tie vote in an election in which the current President is seeking office, the current Vice President's vote shall be the tiebreaker. If the current Vice President is seeking the same office as the current President and the vote results in a tie, the current Secretary's vote shall be the tiebreaker. If the current President, Vice President, and Secretary all run for the same office, and the vote results in a tie, the current Treasurer's vote shall be the tiebreaker.
- I. All members of the Jus Vitae Association enrolled in Notre Dame Law School shall be eligible to run for office.

## **Section 3. Vacancy of Office**

- A. In the event the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President.
- B. All other vacancies shall be filled by presidential appointment at the following meeting.

**Section 4. Impeachment**

- A. Any officer may be impeached by a two-thirds majority vote of the whole membership of the Jus Vitae Association. This vote shall be taken upon a proper written motion to impeach.
- B. A motion to impeach an officer must be raised in writing and signed by a quorum (half the membership plus one) of members.

**Section 5. Club Advisor**

- A. The President, in consultation with the Vice-President, shall select a club advisor from the faculty members of Notre Dame Law School.
- B. The club advisor shall assist the President by providing planning guidance and by acting as a liaison with the administration and the faculty of the Notre Dame School of Law.

**ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS**

**Section 1. Calling of Meetings**

- A. Regular meetings shall be called by the President as deemed necessary.
- B. Special meetings may be called in writing signed by a quorum (half the membership plus one).

**Section 2. Frequency of Meetings**

- A. Regular meetings should be held four times a semester.
- B. Special meetings will be held as needed. The procedures for calling a special meeting are described in Art. VI, sec. 1(B).

**ARTICLE VII. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS**

All disbursement of funds must be approved by an appropriate Notre Dame Law School administrator. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the proper records.

## **ARTICLE VIII. OFFICIAL POSITIONS**

### **Section 1. That which Jus Vitae Officially Opposes**

- A. The list contained in Art. VIII, sec. 1(B) is intended to be merely illustrative of the official positions of Jus Vitae rather than exhaustive.
- B. Jus Vitae officially opposes the following:
  - a. Abortion.
  - b. Early-term abortifacients that are referred to as contraceptives in the popular parlance.
  - c. Embryonic stem cell research.
  - d. Human cloning.
  - e. Euthanasia.
  - f. Genocide.

### **Section 2. That which Jus Vitae Officially Supports and Endorses**

- A. The list contained in Art. VIII, sec. 2(B) is intended to be merely illustrative of the official positions of Jus Vitae rather than exhaustive.
- B. Jus Vitae officially supports and endorses the following:
  - a. Adoption
  - b. Advocacy of the rights of the unborn
  - c. Adult stem cell research
  - d. Building a “culture of life”
  - e. Conscience protections for healthcare providers
  - f. The dignity of all human beings

### **Section 3. Unenumerated Official Positions**

- A. In General.
  - a. The Officers of Jus Vitae shall determine whether to take an official position on pertinent issues not enumerated in Art. VIII, secs. 1 & 2, when such issues merit attention.
    - i. The President shall give each of the Officers at least 24 hours notice of a meeting to discuss the emerging, relevant issue(s).
    - ii. After discussion, the Officers shall vote on the issue.
      - 1. The Officers will first vote on whether the issue merits an official position from Jus Vitae.
      - 2. If the issue merits an official position and public statement, the Officers shall vote on what the official position of Jus Vitae shall be.

3. The President shall publicize any newly adopted official positions to the membership of Jus Vitae.
- b. If immediate action is necessary to combat an imminent issue, the President, in the exercise of his or her discretion, may issue an official position on behalf of Jus Vitae.
  - i. Such statements should only be issued in the most extraordinary of circumstances and when time is of the essence.
  - ii. Even in such an emergency situation, the President should make a good faith effort to consult with the other Officers before issuing an official position on behalf of Jus Vitae.
- B. In the ordinary case, disagreements over the official positions of Jus Vitae will be resolved by a vote of the officers.
  - a. The majority vote of the officers will determine the official position of Jus Vitae.
  - b. In the event of a tie, the position taken by the Jus Vitae President will be the official position of Jus Vitae.

## **ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended upon motion of any member of the Jus Vitae Association with approval by a majority of the membership. The President reserves the right to veto any proposed amendment at which time the Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer may override the veto upon unanimous decision by the same.

*Constitution last amended on March 1, 2010*

Presiding Officers:

Lee Metzger, President

Mariangela Sullivan, Vice President

Rachel Williams, Secretary

Trevor Jack, Treasurer