

Washington State Bar Association

JUVENILE LAW SECTION

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 – GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 Section Name

The Juvenile Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association (the “Section”) was established pursuant to Article IX, Section 1, of the Bylaws of the Washington State Bar Association (the “Bar”).

1.2 Purpose

The Juvenile Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association will provide a forum to discuss issues of concern and act as an agent of change to improve the law and practice related to civil and criminal matters involving children and youth in Washington State. This Section will welcome advocates from all interested disciplines and a variety of fields of law, including juvenile justice, child welfare and those who represent youth in civil legal practice.

1.3 Jurisdiction

The Juvenile Law Section shall be concerned with all aspects of juvenile law and policy: dependency, offender, civil legal needs of youth and status offenses (children in need of services, youth at risk, and truants).

1.4 Principal Office

The Principal Office of the Section shall be maintained in the offices of the Bar.

1.5 Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Section shall coincide with that of the Bar, October 1, through September 30.

ARTICLE 2 – MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Enrollment and Membership

Any active member in good standing with the Bar may be enrolled as a member of the Section upon request and payment of annual section dues. In addition, non-attorney juvenile advocates may also request membership in the Section as non-voting members. Members enrolled as provided in this article shall constitute the membership of the Section. Law students are eligible to join the Section.

2.2 Dues

Dues shall be paid annually in advance. Any person who fails to pay the annual dues shall cease to be a member of the Section.

ARTICLE 3 – MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Section shall be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Bar unless the Executive Committee otherwise designates.

3.2 Quorum

The members of the Section present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

3.3 Controlling Vote

Action of the Section shall be by a majority vote of the members present.

3.4 Agenda

Among the business to be transacted at the annual meeting by the membership shall be the election of the Officers and Executive Committee.

3.5 Special Meetings

Special meetings of the membership of the Section may be called by a majority of the officers of the Section.

ARTICLE 4 – THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4.1 Duties

The Executive Committee shall undertake all duties necessary for the administration of the affairs of the Section including, without limitation, the power and duty to act on behalf of the Section in connection with sponsoring, supporting or opposing legislation; sponsoring and cosponsoring continuing legal education; approving the content of and publishing the Section newsletter; approving the content and maintenance of the Section website; the adoption of budgets and approval of expenditures; and shall perform duties assigned to it by the Board of Governors. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to establish and discontinue committees and subcommittees of the Section.

4.2 Composition

The members of the Executive Committee and the length of their terms shall be:

- a. Co-Chairpersons (two year, staggered terms)
- b. Secretary-Treasurer (two years);
- c. Co-Directors of Juvenile Offender Committee (two years);
- d. Co-Directors of Dependency and Child Welfare Committee (two years);
- e. Co-Directors of the Civil Legal Needs Committee (two years);
- f. One or Two Directors of the Legislative Committee (two years) (Directors of the Legislative Committee shall refrain from voting on legislative issues but shall be voting member of the Executive Committee for the other Section business).
- g. CLE Coordinator/Publication Editor (one year);
- h. Two at large members (staggered two year terms);
- i. At least one law student representative from a Washington law school (ex officio, term expires upon graduation from law school.)

4.3 Term

The term of each position on the Executive Committee shall begin with the adjournment of the annual meeting following the election or appointment of members and shall end following the next succeeding annual meeting at which the position's term expires and upon the election or appointment of a successor. After the fall 2010 election, the Juvenile Law Section immediate past chair position on the Executive Committee will be eliminated to allow for the two year staggered terms for co-chairs.

4.4 Quorum and Controlling Vote

A majority of the Executive Committee present in person, by telephone or by Internet conferencing shall constitute a quorum. Actions of the Executive Committee shall be determined by a quorum, based on a majority vote of the members present in person, by telephone or by Internet conferencing.

4.5 Meetings

The annual meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Section. Special meetings may be held at the time and place designated by a Chairperson or a majority of the Executive Committee.

4.6 Absences

Three consecutive unexcused absences will subject a member or officer to removal from the Executive Committee by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

4.7 Law Student Participation

The Executive Committee shall appoint at least one ex-officio law student member to the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 5 – OFFICERS

5.1 Officers

The officers of the Section shall be the Co-Chairpersons, Secretary-Treasurer, the CLE Coordinator/ Publication Editor, the Directors of the Committees, and the at large members.

5.2 Removal

Any officer or other member of the Executive Committee may be removed by majority vote of the Executive Committee whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Section would be served thereby.

5.3 Chairpersons

The Co-Chairpersons shall be the principal executive officers of the Section and subject to the Executive Committee's control, shall supervise and control all the affairs of the Section. The Chairpersons shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee. The qualifications for Co-Chairpersons shall be a minimum of two years service on the Executive Committee. If there are not sufficient qualified candidates for the Co-Chairperson positions, then any attorney member of the Section may be nominated for the position of Co-Chairperson.

5.4 Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the custodian of all books, papers, documents, and other property of the Section. S/he shall keep a true record of all accounts and of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee whether assembled or acting under submission. In conjunction with the Co-Chairpersons and as authorized by the Executive Committee, s/he shall attend generally to the business of the Section.

5.5 At Large Members

There shall be 2 at Large Members who will be members of the executive committee. An At Large Member may also serve as a committee chair.

ARTICLE 6 – COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES

6.1 Juvenile Offender Committee

There shall be a Juvenile Offender Committee comprised of co- directors and at least two members.

6.2 Child Welfare Committee

There shall be a Child Welfare Committee composed of co- directors and at least two members.

6.3 Civil Legal Needs Committee

There shall be a Civil Legal Needs Committee composed of co- directors and at least two members.

6.4 Legislative Committee

There shall be a Legislative Committee composed of one or two directors and at least two members.

6.5 Purpose

The purpose of the Committees shall be to further the interests of the Section within their particular areas of expertise in coordination with the Chairpersons and subject to control of the Executive Committee. Subcommittees and task forces, as constituted from time to time by the Executive Committee, shall be filled by appointment of a Chairperson with the consent of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 7 – ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

7.1 Elections

At the annual meeting, Section members eligible to vote shall elect persons to fill positions on the Executive Committee whose terms are expiring and for whom appointments are not otherwise provided for herein.

7.2 Nominations

The Co-Chairpersons shall solicit nominations from the Section membership and appoint a Nominating Committee of not less than three members of the Section. The Nominating Committee shall verify qualifications of nominees and make additional nominations when appropriate. In selecting its nominees, it shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to bear in mind the need for broad representation on the Executive Committee, based on geography, diversity of practice, and special expertise. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to contact each member nominated and verify her or his willingness to accept the nomination, and to generally describe the commitment involved in the position to the nominee. No person shall be nominated to succeed oneself to serve more than two full terms consecutively for Co-chairperson or Secretary-Treasurer. Nothing prevents a Section member from self-nominating.

7.3 Vacancy

Vacancy of any position on the Executive Committee shall be filled by appointment by the Chairpersons with the consent of the Executive Committee for the unexpired portion of the term.

7.4 Term of Office

The term of office shall begin with the adjournment of the annual meeting following election and shall end following the annual meeting at which a successor has been duly elected and qualified.

ARTICLE 8 – PUBLICATIONS AND WEBSITE

8.1 Newsletter

There shall be published and furnished to members of the Section, and to such other persons or organizations as the Executive Committee may determine, an electronic newsletter published at such intervals as the Executive Committee shall determine.

8.2 Other Publications

The Section may publish a series of programs or other written material to further the objectives of the Section.

8.3 CLE Coordinator/Publication Editor

The Chairpersons shall appoint a CLE coordinator/editor of the newsletter and website who shall be a member of the Executive Committee during his or her tenure.

8.4 Website

The Executive Committee may create, maintain and furnish one or more websites for the members of the Section.

ARTICLE 9 – AMENDMENTS

9.1 Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting of the Section by a majority vote of the members of the Section present and voting, provided that no amendment so adopted shall become effective until approved by the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association.

Approved by the WSBA Board of Governors on June 9, 2006, and as first amended and approved by the WSBA Board of Governors on March 7, 2008 and further amended and approved by the WSBA Board of Governors on March 5, 2010 and further amended and approved by the WSBA Board of Governors on October 28, 2011.

