

## XI. SECTIONS

### A. DESIGNATION AND CONTINUATION

Sections are entities of the Bar created and tasked to carry on the work of the Bar and further their purposes as defined in individual section bylaws. A list of all current sections will be maintained by the Executive Director. Once established, a section will continue until discontinued as provided in these Bylaws or in the section bylaws.

### B. ESTABLISHING SECTIONS

1. The BOG will consider the establishment of a new section on a petition and report endorsed by at least 150 Active members of the Bar. Any such petition must be filed with the Executive Director at least one BOG meeting prior to the meeting at which action on the proposal is contemplated and must substantially set forth:
  - a. The contemplated purpose of the section, which will be within the purposes of the Bar and not in substantial conflict with the purpose of any existing section or committee, the continuance of which is contemplated after the section is established;
  - b. Proposed bylaws of the section, which must contain a definition of its purpose;
  - c. The names of any proposed committees of the section;
  - d. A proposed budget of the section for the first two years of its operation;
  - e. A list of members of the Bar who have signed statements that they intend to apply for membership in the section;
  - f. A statement of the need for the proposed section.
2. The BOG may create a new section by combining sections as set forth in these Bylaws.

### C. MEMBERSHIP

1. Any Active member of the Bar may be a voting member of a section and eligible for election to office in the section upon paying the annual dues established by the section. Inactive members may ~~not~~ be voting members of sections, if permitted by a section's bylaws.
2. If provided for in the section bylaws, any Pro Bono member pursuant to APR 3(g), Judicial member, House Counsel under APR 8(f), professor at a Washington law school (whether licensed in Washington or not), or any lawyer who is a full time lawyer in a branch of the military who is stationed in Washington but not licensed in Washington, may be a voting member of the section and eligible for election to office in the section.
3. Law students will be allowed to be nonvoting members of any section at a standard annual dues amount set by the BOG.
4. Sections may adopt bylaw provisions authorizing inactive members to be voting members. Sections may adopt bylaw provisions authorizing inactive members, ~~and-or~~ others not eligible for section membership as voting members, to be nonvoting members or "subscribers" of the section.

## **D. DUES**

Dues will be paid annually in the amount determined by the section executive committee and approved by the BOG. Any person who fails to pay the annual dues will cease to be a member of the section.

## **E. BYLAWS AND POLICIES**

Sections are subject to all Bar Bylaws, policies, and procedures. Each section must have bylaws consistent with the Bar Bylaws. Amendments to section bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the voting executive committee members or by a majority vote of section members present at a section meeting. Section bylaws or amendments thereof will become effective when approved by the BOG.

## **F. SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. Each section will have a section executive committee consisting of, at minimum, the following Officer positions: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer (or Secretary/Treasurer); and may have At-Large members. Unless otherwise permitted by a section's bylaws, voting members of a section executive committee must be Active members of the Bar and a member of the section for their entire term of office on the executive committee. Additionally, a section executive committee may have non-voting members. The section executive committee is empowered to act on behalf of the section unless it chooses to take a vote of the section membership.
2. Due to the section executive committee's unique need to be able to act quickly to address issues that arise during a regular or special legislative session, between executive committee meetings during a legislative session, upon notice to all section executive committee members, the section executive committee may discuss and vote on issues relating to the section's position on pending or proposed legislation by email. However, if any section executive committee member objects to using an email process for any particular issues, the section executive committee instead will take up that issue at its next section executive committee meeting.
3. Officers. Unless otherwise permitted by a section's bylaws, officers of a section executive committee must be Active members of the Bar and elected by the section membership to complete the one-year term of office.
  - a. Chair. The chair of the section presides at all meetings of the section and section executive committee, and will have such other executive powers and perform such other duties as are consistent with the Bar and section bylaws.
  - b. Secretary. The Secretary will take minutes at each meeting of the section and section executive committee, and provide approved minutes to the Bar for publication and record retention.
  - c. Treasurer. The Treasurer will work with the Bar to ensure that the section complies with Bar fiscal policies and procedures, work with the Bar to prepare the section's annual budget, and review the section's monthly financial statements for accuracy and comparison to budget.
  - d. A section may have additional officer positions as defined in its sections bylaws.
4. At-Large Members. At-large members of the section executive committee will be voting members. At-large members will be elected by the section membership for terms of up to

three-years. A section executive committee may appoint its Young Lawyer Liaison (if any) as a voting member of the section's executive committee.

5. Non-voting Members. Voting members of the section executive committee may appoint non-voting members from among the current members of the section to further the work of the Bar and section. Non-voting members serve at the discretion of the section executive committee.
6. Executive committee members are not subject to a limit on the number of the consecutive terms they may serve unless stated in a section's bylaws.
7. All section executive committee positions will begin October 1 each year.

## **G. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

### **1. Nominations**

- a. Nominating Committee. Each section will have a nominating committee consisting of no less than three section members appointed annually by the Chair or executive committee. At least one member of the nominating committee should not be a current member of the section executive committee.
- b. The executive committee should reflect diverse perspectives. To assist this, all applicants will apply through an electronic application process administered by the Bar. The application form will, on a voluntary basis, solicit information including, but not limited to, the person's ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, area of practice, years of practice, employer, number of lawyers in law firm, previous involvement in section activities, and skills or knowledge relevant to the position. The nominating committee should actively take factors of diversity into account when making recommendations.
- c. Alternate Nomination Process. The executive committee will also have an alternative process to allow for nominations to occur outside of the nominating committee process.
- d. Executive Committee Approval. The executive committee will approve a list of nominees for each open position. Persons nominated through an alternative nomination process will be included on the final list of approved nominees.

### **2. Elections**

- a. Only voting members of the section may participate in section elections.
- b. The Bar will administer the elections by electronic means and certify results, unless the section develops its own equivalent electronic election process. For sections that administer elections through an alternate equivalent electronic election process, the section must provide the Bar with the total number of votes cast and the number of votes received for each candidate immediately following the close of the election.
- c. In the event of a tie, the section executive committee will implement a random tie-breaker of its choice, such as a coin toss or a drawing of lots, to determine the winner.
- d. All election processes must comply with the Bar record retention policies.

3. Timing. Nominations and elections for open section executive committee positions will be held no later than June 30th of each year.

## **H. VACANCIES AND REMOVAL**

1. The section executive committee will appoint, by a majority vote, members to fill vacancies on the section executive committee. When a member is appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term, the member will do so until the next annual election when an individual will be elected to serve the remainder of the vacated term.
2. Any member of the executive committee may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the section executive committee. Grounds for removal include, but are not limited to, regular absence from section executive committee meetings and events, failure to perform duties, unprofessional or discourteous conduct or whenever, in the executive committee's judgment, the executive committee member is not acting in the best interest of the section membership.

## **I. OTHER COMMITTEES**

The section executive committee may create other committees as necessary to further the purposes of the section. Section committees, section committee chairs, and section committee members serve at the discretion of the section executive committee.

## **J. BUDGET**

Each section executive committee must submit an annual budget request for each fiscal year to the BOG for review. The BOG will approve final section budgets as part of the Bar's annual budget. The section executive committee expenditures must be consistent with the approved section budget and consistent with the Bar fiscal policies and procedures.

## **K. SECTION REPORTS**

Each section must submit an annual report to the Executive Director and such other reports as requested by the BOG.

## **L. TERMINATING SECTIONS**

1. The BOG may consider terminating a section when it appears the section is no longer carrying on the work of the Bar as defined in these Bylaws. The issue will be raised (a) on motion, (b) on petition, or (c) at a "viability review" as defined in these Bylaws.
2. A section that has less than 75 voting members for two consecutive years will be automatically placed on the BOG agenda for a "viability review." The BOG has the discretion to retain a section despite what might otherwise be considered to be a lack of viability when in the BOG's opinion the section is carrying on the work of the Bar as defined in these Bylaws, and the work is of value to the legal profession.
3. Any section subject to a motion, petition, or viability review pursuant to paragraph (1) above will be given notice and an opportunity to be heard by the BOG. Notice must be sent by the Bar to the current section officers and/or executive committee and posted on the Bar website at least one BOG meeting prior to the meeting at which the Board plans to vote on the proposal.

4. A section subject to potential termination may petition the BOG to be combined with another section, with that section's written approval, and will be given reasonable opportunity to present that petition to the BOG before the BOG votes on the section's termination.
5. If a section is terminated pursuant to these Bylaws, section members will be allowed to transfer to another section of their choosing, without payment of additional fees, for that remainder of the section dues year.
6. A section terminated pursuant to these Bylaws may apply for reactivation if they meet qualifications for establishing a new section.
7. Any funds remaining in the treasury of a section at the time of termination will be transferred to the Bar's general operating fund unless otherwise designated by the BOG. Funds in the treasury of combined sections will be combined.

Proposed