

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION INDIAN LAW SECTION BYLAWS

as amended and approved by
the WSBA Indian Law Section on August 19, 2025,
and the WSBA Board of Governors on September 26, 2025.

ARTICLE 1. Identification

- 1.1 **Creation.** The Indian Law Section ("Section") of the Washington State Bar Association ("Bar") is established pursuant to the Bar's Bylaws.
- 1.2 **Jurisdiction.** The jurisdiction of the Section shall be all aspects of Indian Law.
- 1.3 **Purpose.** The purpose of the Section shall be to seek the participation of all interested members of the Bar, and of county and local bar associations, in order to benefit such members, their clients, and the general public. In conformity with the Bar's Bylaws, the Section shall pursue this purpose by:
- (a) providing the opportunity for exchange of ideas in Indian law, to further the development of Indian law, to foster the development of potential practitioners thereof, to communicate useful information concerning Indian law to members of the Bar; and to improve the application of justice in Indian law;
 - (b) initiating and implementing common projects;
 - (c) reviewing pending legislation and development of proposed statutory enactments to improve and to facilitate the administration of justice in Indian law; and
 - (d) undertaking such other services as may benefit members of the Bar, the legal profession, and the public.
- 1.4 **Limitations.** These bylaws have been adopted subject to the applicable Washington Rules of Court and the Bylaws of the Bar.
- 1.5 **Office.** The principal office of the Section shall be the offices of the Bar.
- 1.6 **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the Section shall coincide with that of the Bar.

ARTICLE 2. Membership

- 2.1 **Enrollment.** Any active or inactive member in good standing of the Bar may be enrolled as a voting member of the Section upon request and payment of annual Section dues in the amount and for the purpose approved by the Board of Governors of the Bar. In accordance with the Bylaws of the Bar, law students may be enrolled as non-voting members (“subscribers”) of the Section. Subscribers and inactive members of the Bar may not hold a Section office or serve on the Section’s Executive Committee.
- 2.2 **The Membership.** Members enrolled as provided in Section 2.1 shall constitute the membership of the Section.
- 2.3 **Dues.** Annual dues for members and subscribers of the Section shall be in amounts determined by the Executive Committee and approved by the Bar’s Board of Governors and shall be paid annually in advance. Any person who fails to pay their annual dues for the Section shall cease to be a member or subscriber of the Section.

ARTICLE 3. Section Meetings

- 3.1 **Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of the Section shall be held in conjunction with the annual University of Washington Indian Law Symposium. If no University of Washington Indian Law Symposium is held in a given year, the Executive Committee may choose an alternate time and location for the annual meeting of the Section.
- 3.2 **Quorum and Voting.** The members of the Section present at any meeting of the Section shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Action of the Section shall be by majority vote of the members present once a quorum has been established.
- 3.3 **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the membership of the Section may be called by any officer of the Section at such time and place as the Section’s officers may determine.

ARTICLE 4. Executive Committee

- 4.1 **Establishment and Composition.** The Section shall have an Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the following persons:
- (a) the officers of the Section;
 - (b) the Immediate Past Chair of the Section; and
 - (c) nine members elected as At-Large members of the Executive Committee.
- 4.2 **Powers and Duties.** The Executive Committee shall be vested with the powers and duties necessary for administration of the affairs of the Section and shall perform duties assigned to it by the Board of Governors.
- 4.3 **Quorum and Voting.** A majority of the Executive Committee constitutes a quorum needed for action. Action of the Executive Committee shall be by majority vote of those present once a quorum has been established.

- 4.4 **Meetings.** The annual meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Section. Additional meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at times and places and in a manner as may be designated by the Chair or a majority of the Executive Committee. In addition to the annual meeting, the Executive Committee shall conduct a minimum of four additional meetings annually.

ARTICLE 5. Officers

- 5.1 **Officers.** The officers of the Section shall be the Chair, the Chair-Elect, and the Secretary-Treasurer.
- 5.2 **Chair.** The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee. The Chair shall formulate and present at each annual meeting of the Section an annual report of the work of the Section for the then past year. The Chair shall perform such other duties as usually pertain that office or as may be delegated by the Executive Committee.
- 5.3 **Chair-Elect.** Upon the death, resignation, or during the unavailability or disability of the Chair, or upon their refusal to act, the Chair-Elect shall perform the duties of the Chair for the remainder of the Chair's term, except in the case of the Chair's unavailability or disability, and then only during so much of the term as that situation continues.
- 5.4 **Secretary-Treasurer.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall take minutes at each meeting of the Section and of the Executive Committee and provide them to the Bar for publication and record retention. The Secretary-Treasurer shall work with the Bar to ensure that the Section complies with the Bar's 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 the Section's approved budget. In conjunction with the Chair and as authorized by the Executive Committee, the Secretary-Treasurer shall attend generally to the business of the Section.

ARTICLE 6. Elections

- 6.1 **Elective Offices.**
- (a) **Officers.** The membership of the Section annually shall elect a Chair-Elect and a Secretary-Treasurer to serve one-year terms.
- (b) **At-Large Members of Executive Committee.** There shall be nine At-Large members of the Executive Committee. Three At-Large members shall be elected each year. Of the At-Large members, one third should be from Eastern Washington and two thirds should be from Western Washington. The length of terms for At-Large members shall be three years.

- 6.2 **Chair.** The Chair shall serve a one-year term. The Chair-Elect shall automatically succeed to the office of the Chair upon the conclusion of the Chair's term. If the office of Chair-Elect becomes vacant such that no Chair-Elect is available to succeed to the Chair position, then a Chair shall be elected in the same manner as set forth in Section 6.1 above.
- 6.3 **Nominations.** The Chair shall annually appoint a nominating committee of not less than three members of the Section, of which at least one shall not be a member of the Executive Committee, which committee shall make and report nominations to the Executive Committee for the offices of Chair-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, and At-Large members of the Executive Committee to succeed those whose terms will expire that year, and to fill vacancies then existing for unexpired terms. In addition, any Section member may submit their own name and application materials, or the name of another Section member, via email to either the primary contact of the Nominating Committee, or the WSBA liaison. The Executive Committee shall approve a list of nominees for each open position.
- 6.4 **Voting.** Nominations and elections for open Executive Committee positions shall be held between the beginning of March and the end of June each year. The Bar shall administer the elections by electronic means and certify the results, unless the Section develops its own equivalent electronic election process. In the event of a tie, the Executive Committee shall implement a random tiebreaker of its choice, such as a coin toss, to determine the winner.
- 6.5 **Terms of Office.** All Executive Committee positions shall begin October 1 each year.
- 6.6 **Interim Appointments.** In the event of a vacancy of an Executive Committee position during the interim between annual elections, the Executive Committee shall appoint, by majority vote, a successor to serve until the next annual election when an individual shall be elected to serve the remainder of the vacated term.

ARTICLE 7. Committees

- 7.1 **Establishment and Appointment.** The Chair may appoint additional committees of the Section to perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Executive Committee may direct.
- 7.2 **Composition.** Such additional committees shall be limited to members or subscribers of the Section and may be limited to members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 8. 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, or at an Executive Committee meeting by a majority vote of the voting Executive Committee members once a quorum is established, provided that no amendment shall become effective until approved by the Board of Governors of the Bar.

