

By-Laws of the
SECTION OF CORRECTIONAL REFORM
of the Maryland State Bar Association, Inc.

Amended June 8, 2010

Revised June 2002

Amended June 1981

Revised July 1977

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

SECTION 1. This Section shall be known as the Section of Correctional Reform.

SECTION 2. The purposes of this Section are to stimulate interest of the members of the Maryland Bar in the administration of the correctional system, to seek improvements and reforms wherever needed in correctional facilities and services, and to coordinate the activities in the field of correctional reform with other organizations and associations working in the field.

ARTICLE II

Membership and Dues

SECTION 1. Any member of the Maryland State Bar Association, Inc., (“the Association”), in good standing who shall signify a desire to become a member of this Section, and who shall pay annual Section dues as may from time to time be determined by the Section Council, shall be a regular member of the Section. Any regular member who ceases to be a member of the Maryland Bar in good standing shall no longer be a member of the Section of Correctional Reform.

SECTION 2. Any person not a member of the Association, who through professional, business, civic or personal interest is concerned with correctional reform in the State of Maryland, may, upon request, and subject to such limitations as may be imposed by the Council of the Section, including any dues that may be prescribed by the Council of the Section for such members, become an associate member of the Section. Associate members shall have all the privileges of regular members, except the right to hold office in the Section Council.

SECTION 3. The administrative and fiscal year of the Section shall run concurrently with the administrative and fiscal year of the Association.

SECTION 4. Procedures and policies governing the collection, deposit, and expenditure of Section dues, if any, including termination of Section membership for non-payment, shall be as prescribed by the Section Council with the approval of the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE III

Officers and Section Council

SECTION 1. The officers of this Section shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary. The officers shall be elected in a manner as hereinafter set forth and shall hold office for a term beginning at the close of the annual meeting of the Section at which they shall have been elected and continue thereafter until the close of the following year's annual meeting or until their successors have been elected.

SECTION 2. There shall be a Section Council composed of 17 members of this Section including the current Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and the immediate past Section Chair.

SECTION 3. No officer of this Section may serve more than 2 successive terms in the same elective office.

SECTION 4. If any member of the Section Council shall fail to attend two successive meetings of the Council, without excuse, the office or position held by such member may be declared vacant by the Council.

SECTION 5. Members of the Council shall be elected to serve for three years.

ARTICLE IV

Nominations and Election of Officers

SECTION 1. A Nominating Committee of not fewer than three (3) nor more than five (5) persons shall be appointed by the Chair at least two months prior to the annual meeting.

SECTION 2. Not later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the Section the Nominating Committee shall make and report to the Section nominations for the positions of officers and Section Council members at large. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

SECTION 3. In appointing the nominating Committee, the Chair shall select, to the extent practicable, persons from different geographic locations who are familiar with the affairs of the Section and with the capability and availability of possible nominees.

SECTION 4. Voting for each office shall be by written ballot unless otherwise provided by resolution duly adopted by the Section at the annual meeting at which the election is held or unless no more than one nomination is made for any office.

SECTION 5. All elections shall be at a time and place to be fixed by resolution of the Section at the opening of the annual meeting of the Section unless otherwise ordered by resolution duly adopted by the Section.

SECTION 6. Election of officers shall be by a majority of those members of the Section present and qualified to vote. Members at large of the Council shall be chosen by a plurality of those members of the Section present and qualified to vote.

SECTION 7. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE V
Duties of Officers

SECTION 1. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and at all meetings of the Section Council, shall appoint all committees and committee Chairs with the approval or concurrence of the Section Council, shall be responsible for all reports to be submitted to the Association, to the Board of Governors of the Association, and to the Section, and shall perform such other duties as customarily pertain to the office of Chair. The Chair shall be an ex officio member of each committee of the Section. In addition, the Chair shall plan and superintend the program of the Section at its annual meeting, subject to the directions and approval of the Section Council.

SECTION 2. Upon the death, resignation or disability of the Chair, or upon the Chair's refusal to act or removal from office, the Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair, for the remainder of the term or disability, as the case may be.

SECTION 3. The Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and the Section Council, whether assembled or acting under submission and shall perform such other duties as may be requested by the Chair of the Section. The Secretary shall also be the custodian of and responsible for all permanent files, books, records, papers, documents, and other property of the Section, including all Committee reports. The Secretary shall also be the custodian of all finances of the Section.

ARTICLE VI
Duties and Powers of the Section Council

SECTION 1. The Section Council shall have general supervision and control of the business of the Section subject to the provisions of the Charter and by-Laws of the Association, and the By-Laws of this Section. During the interval between the meetings of the Section, the Section Council shall have full authority to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself would be authorized to act. Any such action taken by the Section Council pursuant to this provision shall be reported to the members of the Section at the next annual meeting of the Section. The Section Council shall authorize all commitments or contracts which require the payment of money and/or benefit the Section. It shall not, however, authorize commitments or contracts or expenditures which would require the payment of more money during any fiscal year than the funds currently available to the Section in its budget.

SECTION 2. The Section Council may authorize the Chair to make commitments or expend budgeted funds and to appoint committees of Section members to perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Section Council may direct, subject to the limitations of these By-Laws and the By-Laws of the Association.

SECTION 3. Except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws, all binding action of the Section Council shall be by a majority vote. The quorum to conduct business shall be a simple majority of the members of the Section Council.

SECTION 4. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE VII

Vacancies

SECTION 1. In the event of a vacancy on the Section Council, or in any office other than Chair, the vacancy shall be filled for the balance of the term by action of the Section Council.

ARTICLE VIII

Meetings

SECTION 1. The meetings of the Section shall be held in one or more sessions at or about the time of the semi-annual meetings of the Association in some convenient location, with such program and order of business as may be arranged by the Chair with the concurrence of the Section Council.

SECTION 2. Section Council Meetings. The Section Council shall meet regularly at or about the time as the semi-annual meetings of the Association, at some convenient location, and may meet specially at any other time on the call of the Chair, the Section Council or five members of the Section Council.

SECTION 3. Special meetings of the Section may be called by the Chair upon approval of the Section Council at such time and place as the Section Council may determine, provided that notice of such meeting, indicating the purpose therefore, shall be given at least ten (10) days in advance thereof to the membership.

SECTION 4. Eleven members of the Section shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE IX

Effective Date

SECTION 1. These By-Laws shall become effective immediately upon their approval by the Board of Governors of the Association.