

By-Laws of the  
**SECTION OF LEGAL EDUCATION &  
ADMISSIONS TO THE BAR**  
of the Maryland State Bar Association, Inc.

*November 1968*  
*Revised February 1978*  
*Revised February 1979*

**ARTICLE I**  
*Name, Purposes and Powers*

SECTION 1. NAME. This Section shall be known as the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the Maryland State Bar Association.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. In construing these By-Laws, where the context permits, the word, phrase or term:

(a) "Section" means the Section of Legal Educations and Admissions to the Bar of the Maryland State Bar Association.

(b) "Council" means the Council of the aforesaid Section.

(c) "Officers" means the officers of the aforesaid Section.

(d) "Association" means The Maryland State Bar Association.

(e) "Board of Governors" means the Board of Governors of the Association.

SECTION 3. PURPOSES. The purposes of the Section shall be to consider, discuss, recommend to the Association, and implement measures for the improvement of, the systems of pre-legal and legal education and admission to the bar in the State of Maryland, methods for inculcating in law students the sincere regard for the ethics and morals of the profession necessary to its high calling and means for the establishment and maintenance of adequate and proper standards of general education, legal training, and moral character of applicants for admission to the Bar, including the manner of testing their academic qualifications and determining their moral character.

SECTION 4. POWERS. The Section, through its council, shall have responsibility and power:

(a) To implement policies and resolutions referred to it by the Board of Governors.

(b) To take all steps necessary or advisable to improve, upgrade and maintain adherence to the Rules Governing the Registration of Law Students and Admission to the Bar of Maryland.

(c) To take all steps necessary or advisable to improve, upgrade and maintain pre-legal and legal education in this State.

(d) To recommend to the Board of Governors and the Court of Appeals those academic, professional and other pre-requisites which candidates must possess in order to qualify for admission to the Bar.

(e) To observe and determine the continued adherence of approved law schools to the Standards for Legal Education of the American Bar Association or any other accrediting agency whose approval is required under the Rules of the Court of Appeals for admission to the Bar, and to report and recommend remedial action.

(f) To coordinate with the appropriate committees of the American Bar Association for the purpose of maintaining and improving uniform standards for accreditation of law schools throughout the United States.

(g) To recommend to the Board of Governors and the Court of Appeals standards for bar examiners and for bar examinations and to recommend revisions thereof from time to time.

(h) To provide, improve and maintain uniform systems for the operation of the Character Committees of the Court of Appeals.

(i) To present to the Maryland Legislature or to any other governmental or public agency or body the views of the Section, so designated as distinguished from the views of the Association, upon any matter within the foregoing responsibilities and powers of the Section.

## **ARTICLE II**

### *Committees*

The Council shall be authorized to establish other committees as shall be necessary from time to time.

## **ARTICLE III**

### *Membership*

**SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP.** Any member of the Association may, upon request to the Secretary of the Section or Secretary of the Association be enrolled as a member of this Section. Any member of the Association attending any annual meeting of the Section may enroll as a member of this Section. Only those whose names are contained in the current roster or files of the Association Membership Department as a member of the

Section shall be deemed members in good standing, and by virtue thereof entitled to vote upon any matters presented at any meeting of the Section.

SECTION 2. DUTIES. Upon recommendation of the Council, a majority of the members present at an annual meeting of the Section may enact a requirement, subject to approval by the Board of Governors, for the payment of annual dues for continued membership in the Section.

#### **ARTICLE IV** *Officers and Council*

SECTION 1. OFFICERS. The officers of this Section shall be a Chairman, a Chairman-Elect, a Secretary and the last retiring Chairman of the Section, who shall be retained as an officer so that the Council and the Section may have the value and benefit of his advice and experience.

SECTION 2. COUNCIL. There shall be a Council, which shall consist of the officers provided in this Article, the Dean of the University of Baltimore Law School, the Dean of the University of Maryland Law School or a faculty member appointed by either Dean and nine other members-at-large to be elected by the Section as hereinafter provided. Each of the foregoing shall be entitled to vote upon any matter to be determined by the Council.

SECTION 3. ELECTION. The last retiring Chairman shall assume such office, without vote, upon the election of his successor as Chairman. The Chairman shall be eligible for re-election, but the Chairman-Elect shall automatically succeed to the office of Chairman when the Chairman is not re-elected. The Chairman, Chairman-Elect, and Secretary shall be nominated and elected in the manner hereinafter provided, at each annual meeting of this Section, to hold office for a term beginning at the close of the annual meeting at which they shall have been elected, and ending at the close of the next succeeding annual meeting of the Section. The Council shall have authority to fill any vacancy among the officers.

SECTION 4. TERMS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS-AT-LARGE. At the annual meeting of the Section in January 1970 and at each annual meeting thereafter, three members-at-large of the Council shall be elected to serve for terms of three years, beginning at the close of the annual meeting at which they shall have been elected. The Council shall have authority to fill any vacancy among the members-at-large for the interim period ending with the next annual meeting of the Section.

SECTION 5. ELIGIBILITY. No person shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms as a member of the Council; provided, however, that such ineligibility shall not prevent the election of such person as an officer of the Section and the holding of such office.

SECTION 6. ATTENDANCE. Unless excused therefrom by the Chairman, if any officer or elected member of the Council shall fail to attend two successive regular meetings of the Council, the office held by such officer or Council member may be declared by the Council to be vacated automatically, and the Council shall thereupon fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

## **ARTICLE V**

### *Nomination and Election of Officers*

SECTION 1. NOMINATIONS. At least two months prior to the opening of the first session of each annual meeting of the Section, the Chairman shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members of the Section, who shall not be members of the Council. Such Committee shall make and report to the Secretary, at least twenty days prior to the annual meeting, its nominations for the office of Chairman, Chairman-Elect, Secretary and three new members-at-large of the Council to succeed those whose terms will expire at the close of the annual meeting, and to fill any vacancies then existing for the unexpired terms thereof. A list of such nominations together with any additional nominations as hereinafter provided shall be given each member of the Section at least five days prior to the annual meeting of the Section. Other nominations for the same offices may be made by petition signed by at least ten members of the section delivered to the Secretary at least ten days prior to the annual meeting of the Section.

SECTION 2. ELECTIONS. All elections by the Section shall be by written ballot, unless otherwise ordered by resolution duly adopted by the Section at the annual meeting at which the election is held. The presiding officer may take necessary steps to determine that only members in good standing as provided in Art. III, Sec. 1, of these By-Laws shall vote at such elections.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### *Duties of Officers*

SECTION 1. CHAIRMAN. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Council. He shall formulate and present at each Annual Meeting of the Association a report of the work of the Section for the then past year. He shall appoint the Chairman of each of the Standing Committees and all members of any other Committee. He shall perform such duties and acts as usually pertain to his office.

SECTION 2. CHAIRMAN-ELECT. The Chairman Elect shall perform duties as prescribed by the Chairman of the Council and upon the death, resignation or during the disability of the Chairman, or upon his refusal to act, the Chairman-Elect shall perform the duties of the Chairman for the remainder of the Chairman's term, except in case of the absence or disability of the Chairman, and then only so long as such absence or disability continues.

SECTION 3. LAST RETIRING CHAIRMAN. The purpose of retaining the last retiring Chairman as an officer and member of the Council is to have the benefit of his advice and

experience, and consultation. During any absence or disability of both the Chairman and the Chairman-Elect, the Last Retiring Chairman shall perform the duties of the Chairman.

SECTION 4. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all books, papers, documents and other property of the Section. The Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and of the Council, whether assembled or acting under submission. With the Chairman, he shall prepare a summary or digest of the proceedings of the Section at its annual meeting. In conjunction with the Chairman, as authorized by the Council, he shall attend generally to the business of the Section and of the Council.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### *Duties and Powers of the Council*

SECTION 1. COMMITMENTS AND CONTRACTS. The Council shall have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association, and the By-Laws of this Section. It shall especially authorize all commitments and contracts which shall entail the payment of money, and shall authorize the expenditure of all moneys appropriated for the use and benefit of, or received by, the Section. It shall not, however, authorize commitments or contracts which shall entail the payment of more money during any fiscal year than the amount which shall have been previously appropriated to the Section for such fiscal year, and from accumulated reserves, unless such commitments or contracts shall first have been approved by the Board of Governors.

SECTION 2. COMMITTEES. The Council may authorize the chairman to appoint such other standing Committees or special Committees from Section members to perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Council may direct, subject to the limitations of these By-Laws, and the By-Laws of the Association.

SECTION 3. VACANCIES. The Council, during the interim between annual meeting of the Section, may fill vacancies in its own membership or in the offices of Chairman, Chairman-Elect and Secretary. Members of the Council and officers so selected shall serve until the close of the next annual meeting of the Section.

SECTION 4. MAJORITY VOTE. At any duly called meeting of the Council at which a quorum (as defined in Article III, Section 4) is present, any action taken by a majority of those voting shall be binding as the action of the Council.

SECTION 5. VOTING. Members of the Council shall vote in person at meeting of the Council.

SECTION 6. INTERIM SUBMISSIONS. The chairman of the Section may, and upon the request of any member of the Council shall, submit or cause to be submitted in writing to each of the members of the Council any proposition upon which the Council may be authorized to act, and the members of the Council may vote upon such

proposition or propositions so submitted by communicating their vote thereon, in writing over their respective signatures, to the Secretary. The Secretary shall record upon his minutes each proposition so submitted, when, how, and at whose request the same was submitted, and the vote of each member of the Council thereon; and shall keep on file such written and signed votes. If the votes of a majority of members of the Council so recorded shall be in favor of such proposition, or shall be opposed to the same, such majority vote shall constitute the binding action of the Council, without the necessity of a meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### *Meetings*

SECTION 1. ANNUAL. The annual meeting of the Section shall be held during the Annual Meeting of the Association, in the same city or place as such Annual Meeting of the Association is held with such agenda, program and order of business as the Council may arrange.

SECTION 2. COUNCIL MEETINGS. The Council of the Section shall hold regular meetings of its members each year at such time and place as the Mid-Year Meetings and Annual Meetings of the Association are conducted. The presence of the Chairman, the Chairman-Elect, the Secretary, or any two of them, and of three members-at-large of the Council shall constitute a quorum of the Council for the transaction of all business at such meeting.

SECTION 3. SPECIAL. Special meetings of the Council or of the Section may be called by the Chairman, and shall be called upon request of six members of the Council, at such times and places as the Chairman selects from among those places approved by the Council. Written notice, specifying the time, place and business to be transacted, shall be given to each member of the Council at least five days in advance of all special meetings of the Council. Notice of special meetings of the Section may be given in the Maryland Bar Journal or in a written notice to each member at least ten days in advance of such meeting.

SECTION 4. QUORUM. The members of the Section present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business of the Section. Five members of the Council present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business of the Council.

SECTION 5. MAJORITY VOTE. All binding action of the Section shall be by majority vote of the members present.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### *Miscellaneous Provisions*

SECTION 1. FISCAL YEAR. The fiscal year of the Section shall be the same as that of the Association.

SECTION 2. PAYMENT OF OBLIGATIONS. All bills incurred by the Section, before being forwarded, to the Treasurer of the Association for payment, shall be approved by the Chairman, the Chairman-Elect, or the Secretary; or, if the Council shall so direct, by any two or more of them.

SECTION 3. CERTAIN SALARIES PROHIBITED. No salary or compensation shall be paid to any officer, or member of the Council, or member of a Committee of the Section or of the Council, for acting as such.

SECTION 4. ASSOCIATION APPROVAL REQUIRED. Any action by this Section, or by its Council, under the provisions of these By-Laws, must be approved by the Association before the same becomes effective as the action of the Association. Any resolution adopted, or action taken by this Section may, on request of the Section, be reported by the Chairman to an Annual Meeting or to a Mid-Winter Meeting of the Association for action by the latter.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE OF BY-LAWS. These By-Laws shall become effective when approved by the Board of Governors.

**ARTICLE X**  
*Amendments*

These By-laws may be amended at any meeting of the Section by a majority vote of the members of the Section present and voting; provided that such proposed amendment shall first have been submitted to and approved by a majority of the Council.