

BYLAWS OF THE MILITARY AND VETERANS' LAW SECTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA BAR

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1. This Section is known as the Military and Veterans' Law Section of the South Carolina Bar.

Section 2. The purpose of this Section shall be to promote the goals and objectives of the South Carolina Bar in the fields of law controlling or affecting the military community. Objectives include improving liaison between and professional education of the military and civilian communities, stimulating research and development, seeking uniformity in legislation and administration, and improving the application of justice in these fields of law.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section 1. Each member of the Section shall pay to the South Carolina Bar annual Section dues of \$25.00. The Council, at any regular meeting, may change the annual Section dues to the extent determined necessary. Any such change in Section dues must be approved by the House of Delegates of the South Carolina Bar. Any member of the South Carolina Bar may upon request and payment of dues for the current year be enrolled as a member of this Section. Thereafter, said dues shall be paid in advance each year, beginning on the January 1st next succeeding each enrollment. Any member of this Section whose annual dues shall be more than seven months past due shall thereupon cease to be a member of this Section. Members so enrolled and whose dues are so paid shall constitute the membership of this Section. Anyone becoming a new member after November 1st of any year shall, upon payment of one full year's dues, be credited as paid through December 31st of the following year.

Section 2. Voting and privileges of the floor at any meeting of the Section shall be limited by the Bylaws of the South Carolina Bar to members as determined by the membership list, certified to the Section Secretary by the Executive Director, such list to be open for inspection at any meeting for which it is certified.

Section 3. Any military judge advocate not otherwise eligible to be an Active Member or a Military Member of the South Carolina Bar may, while serving on active duty and stationed in South Carolina, become a Section Affiliate upon payment of the same Section dues established for Section membership. A Section Affiliate shall not be entitled to vote or hold elective office within the Section but shall have the same floor privileges at any Section meeting as are accorded to Section members. Additionally, a

Section Affiliate shall be entitled to receive all Section and Bar mailings, including the South Carolina Bar News; to participate in all Section activities and events; and, upon payment of the usual registration fee and charges established for Bar members, to attend the Annual Meetings and continuing legal education programs of the Bar.

ARTICLE III

Section Meetings

Section 1. An annual meeting of the Section may be held at a date and time determined by the Chair, with such program and order of business as may be arranged by the Council not inconsistent, or in conflict, with any program or directive of the South Carolina Bar.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Section may be called by the Chair upon approval by the Council, at such time and place as the Council may determine.

Section 3. The members of the Section present at a Section meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 4. All binding actions of the Section shall be by a majority vote of the members present.

ARTICLE IV

Governing Body

Section 1. There shall be a Council, the voting membership of which shall consist of the Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, Immediate Past Chair/Section Delegate, up to five ex-officio members, and a representative from the USC School of Law and a representative from the Charleston School of Law, together with six "general members" to be elected as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. The officers of this Section shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect, and a Secretary.

Section 3. The Chair-Elect and Secretary shall be nominated and elected, in manner hereinafter provided to hold office for one year beginning July 1st and ending June 30th and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

Section 4. At the first annual meeting six Council members will be elected, two for a three-year term, two for two-year terms and two for a one-year term by express designation upon nomination. Thereafter two general members of the Council will be elected in a manner hereafter provided for terms of office to begin the following July 1st. General members may not serve successive terms as general members.

Section 5. If any elected member of the Council shall fail to attend three successive meetings of the Council, and such failure has not been excused for cause by the Chair or the majority vote of the Council, the Chair may by letter to all Council members declare such member to have automatically resigned and he or she shall be replaced for his or her unexpired term.

ARTICLE V

Duties and Power of the Council

Section 1. Authority. The Council shall have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the South Carolina Bar and the Bylaws of the Section. It shall authorize commitments or contracts which shall entail the payment of money and shall authorize the expenditure of all monies appropriated for the or benefit of the Section. It shall not, however, authorize commitments or contracts which shall exceed the estimated receipts from dues, sales of Section publications, and appropriations of the Section for such fiscal year; provided, however, that the balance of the reserve fund credited to the Section shall be available for use by Council. The Council shall have complete authority to act on behalf of and to bind the Section on any and all matters arising between meetings of the Section.

Section 2. Committees. The Council may authorize the Chair to appoint committees from Section members. To perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Council may direct, subject to the limitations of these Bylaws and the Constitution and Bylaws of the South Carolina Bar. The Council may also authorize such committees as it deems necessary or desirable to carry out the activities and work of the Section, may terminate any of such committees as circumstances warrant, and may appoint such special committees as herein provided.

Section 3. Quorum. The members of the Council present at a Council meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 4. Meetings. The Council may also transact business and vote by telephone, teleconferencing, mail, etc., provided a majority of the Council files its consent with the Secretary. Any business so conducted will be announced at the next Council meeting. The Council shall meet as called by the Chair with at least fourteen days' notice, unless notice is waived by all members of the Council.

Section 5. Vacancies. Any vacancy existing in membership on the Council shall be filled by the Council. Such replacement member shall serve only to the end of the term to which his or her predecessor was elected.

Section 6. Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Council may be taken without a meeting if, prior to such action, a written consent or

consents thereto have been filed with the Chair and signed by a majority of all members of the Council and such consents or consents are filed by the Secretary with the proceedings of the Council.

ARTICLE VI

Duties of Officers

Section 1. Chair. The Chair shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Section during his or her term of office and, in the carrying out of his or her administrative duties, shall make all such appointments to the general committees and be possessed of such authority as is customarily associated with such office. The Chair or successively the Chair-Elect, or Secretary in the absence of the Chair, shall, preside at all meetings of the Council.

Section 2. Chair-Elect. Upon the death, resignation, or during the disability of the Chair, or upon his or her refusal to act, the Chair-Elect shall perform the duties of the Chair for the remainder of the Chair's term, except in case of the Chair's disability and only during so much of the term as the disability continues.

Section 3. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and the Council. He or she, in conjunction with the Chair, as authorized by the Council, shall attend generally to the business of the Section, and he or she shall review the record of all monies appropriated to and expended for the use of the Section.

ARTICLE VII

Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Not later than January 15th of each year, the Council shall meet and nominate such Officers, Council Members, and Section Delegate as are scheduled to be elected by the members. The nominations proposed shall be by the concurring vote of not less than a majority of the members of the Council and shall be published not later than the February issue of the South Carolina Bar News, or otherwise mailed or communicated to the membership through U.S. mail, email, posting to the Website generally accessible to the membership, or any other method permissible under the South Carolina Bar rules and policies.

Section 2. Not later than April 15th not less than ten members of the Section in good standing may file by mail with the Chair of the Section a petition, containing signatures and printed names and addresses-nominating a candidate for one or more of the offices to be filled. Such petitions must be accompanied by the written consent of any person nominated. Nominations will be closed on April 16th.

Section 3. At the completion of a term, the Immediate Past Chair continuing as a member of the Section in good standing, shall serve as Section Delegate to the House of Delegates for a one-year term. If for any reason an Immediate Past Chair cannot serve, a nominee for Section Delegate to the House of Delegates may be nominated and elected in the same manner as Council members.

Section 4. If there is only one nominee for any office or position, such nominee shall be considered automatically elected at the time the nominations are closed. Should there be two or more nominations for any office, ballots containing the names of all nominees for each contested office shall be distributed no later than April 30th to all members of the Section in good standing. All ballots must be returned to the Bar, postmarked no later than May 15th. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. If two candidates receive an equal number of votes cast, the Council in office at the time of the election shall, by majority vote, declare the winner.

Section 5. The Secretary may hold office for not more than four successive one-year terms.

Section 7. Each fiscal year, the Council shall select ~~three~~ up to five ex-officio members to be appointed from the Reserve Forces, the National Guard, and an active duty/service. Each representative must be a member of the South Carolina Bar.

Section 8. At the end of his or her term, the Chair-Elect shall automatically assume the office of Chair.

ARTICLE VIII

Miscellaneous

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Section shall be the same as that of the South Carolina Bar.

Section 2. All bills incurred by the Section before being forwarded to the Executive Director of the South Carolina Bar for payment shall be approved by the Council or its designated representative.

Section 3. Any action by this Section pertaining to legislation, or South Carolina Bar policy, or public policy, must be approved by the Board of Governors or the House of Delegates of the South Carolina Bar before the same becomes effective as the action of the South Carolina Bar.

Section 4. The Chair shall have the right and responsibility to keep good order and run the meeting of the Section in such a manner as to allow all persons eligible to speak equal opportunity to do so.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Section. No amendment may be inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the South Carolina Bar. Amendments become effective only upon approval and ratification by the House of Delegates of the South Carolina Bar.

Amended March 2010
Amended January 2013
Amended May 2024