

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

INDIAN LAW SECTION

Bylaws

As last amended and approved by the WSBA Board of Governors on November 16, 2017.

ARTICLE 1. Identification

- 1.1 **Creation.** The Indian Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association (the "Section") is established pursuant to the Bylaws of the Washington State Bar Association (the "Bar").
- 1.2 **Jurisdiction.** The jurisdiction of the Section shall be all aspects of Indian Law.
- 1.2 **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:
- (a) By providing the opportunity for exchange of ideas in the area of Indian law; to further the development of this area of the law; to communicate useful information pertaining to Indian law to members of the Bar; and to improve the application of justice in this field, all in conformity with the Bylaws of the Bar.
 - (b) By initiating and implementing common projects.
 - (c) By review of pending legislation and development of proposed statutory enactments to improve and to facilitate the administration of justice within the Section's area of interest.
 - (d) By undertaking such other service as may be of benefit to the members, 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 **Principal Office.** The principal office of the Section shall be maintained in 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 member in good standing of the Bar may be enrolled as a 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 may not hold a section office.

2.2 **The Membership.** Members enrolled as provided in Section 2.1 shall constitute the membership of the Section.

2.3 **Dues.** Dues shall be in the amount determined by the executive committee and approved by the Bar’s Board of Governors and shall be paid annually in advance. Dues for law students shall be a standard annual amount set by the Bar’s Board of Governors. Any person who shall have failed to pay the annual dues shall cease to be a member of the Section.

ARTICLE 3. Meetings of the Membership

3.1 **Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting, of the Section shall be held in conjunction with the WSBA Indian Law Section CLE.

3.2 **Quorum.** The members of the Section present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

3.3 **Controlling Vote.** Action of the Section shall be by majority vote of the members present.

3.4 **Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the membership of the Section may be called by any officer at such time and place as the officers may determine.

ARTICLE 4. The Executive Committee

4.1 **Powers and Duties.** The executive committee shall be vested with the powers and duties necessary for the administration of the affairs of the Section and perform duties assigned to it by the Board of Governors.

4.2 **Composition.** The executive committee shall be composed of the following person:

- (a) The officers;
- (b) The Immediate Past Chair; and
- (c) Nine members elected as At-Large members to the executive committee.

4.3 **Controlling Vote.** A majority of the executive committee constitutes a quorum needed for action. Action of the executive committee shall be by majority vote 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. Special meetings shall be held at the time and place as may be designated by the Chair or a majority of the executive committee. The executive committee shall be expected to conduct a minimum of four 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. He/she shall formulate and present at each annual meeting of the Bar an annual report of the work of the Section for the then past year. He/she shall perform such other duties as usually pertain to his/her office or as may be delegated by the executive committee.

5.3 **Chair-elect.** Upon the death, resignation, or during the disability of the Chair, or upon his/her 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 disability, and then only during so much of the term as the disability continues.

5.4 **Secretary/Treasurer.** The Secretary/Treasurer will take minutes at each meeting of the Section and executive committee and provide them to the Bar for publication and record retention. The Secretary-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. In conjunction with the Chair and as authorized by the executive committee, he or she shall attend generally to the business of the Section.

ARTICLE 6. Elections

6.1 **Elective Offices.**

- (a) **Officers.** The membership shall elect a Chair-elect and a Secretary/Treasurer to serve a one-year term.
- (b) **At-Large Members of executive committee.** There shall be nine (9) At-Large members of the executive committee. Three (3) At-Large members are to be elected each year. Of the At-Large members, one third (1/3) of should be from Eastern Washington and two thirds (2/3) should be from Western Washington. The length of terms for At-large members shall be three (3) years.

6.2 **Chair.** The Chair-elect shall automatically succeed to the office of the Chair. If the office of Chair-elect becomes vacant, 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 (3) members of the Section not members 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. The executive committee will approve a list of nominees for each open position.

6.4 **Voting.** Nominations and elections for open executive committee positions will be held between March and May each year. The Bar will 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 will implement a random tie-breaker of its choice, such as a coin toss, to determine the winner.

6.5 **Term of Office.** All executive committee positions will begin October 1 each year.

6.6 **Interim Appointments.** In the event of a vacancy during the interim between annual meetings, the executive committee shall appoint, by a majority vote, a successor to serve until the next annual election when an individual will be elected to serve the remainder of the vacated term.

ARTICLE 7. Substantive Responsibilities

7.1 **Committees.** The Chair may appoint committees to perform such duties and exercise such powers as the executive committee may direct.

7.2 **Budget Committee.** The duties of the budget committee are to prepare a proposed budget in consonance with the objectives of the Section for the expenditure of the Section funds.

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.

- Adopted 1988, as amended.

- Approved as amended by the WSBA Board of Governors on July 23, 2010. In accordance with the WSBA Bylaws, the approved amendments are specific to Article 2.1, Membership, stating that law students may join the Section as non-voting members.

- Approved as amended by the WSBA Board of Governors on November 16, 2017 in accordance with WSBA Bylaws, in particular with regard to the timing of election, publication of meeting minutes, and tie-breaker.