

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS  
BYLAWS OF THE SECTION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

This Section of the Association of American Law Schools, created by the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools, and therein designated as the Section of Local Government, consistently with the object and the purpose of the Association and its Sections as declared in the Association of American Law Schools Section Policy Statement as approved by the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools on August 2, 1973, shall carry forward the work of the Association, through providing a common meeting ground as a means of effecting communication and collaborative action among law teachers interested in the legal aspects of Local Government and also through formulating and submitting to the members of the Section and the Association, such reports and recommendations as may be deemed useful to its membership. The term "local government" as used in this article shall be understood to mean the law pertaining to units of local government, whether counties, cities, towns, villages, districts, authorities or other local public bodies, whether of general function or special function in character. It shall also include federal and state law insofar as statutory or administrative procedures affect local government action. Specific subject areas include but are not limited to: airport law, condemnation, general obligation bonds, special revenue, housing and urban renewal, intergovernmental relations, local and state government personnel, municipal home rule, municipal tort liability, ordinances and regulations, planning and zoning, state and local taxation, law and poverty, rights of individuals, school districts, special assessment and taxing districts, taxes and revenues, urban environment, urban transportation, metropolitan and regional affairs, decentralization and neighborhood government, federal and state grant programs and funding.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section 1. Regular membership in the Section includes the right to participate in its activities, vote, and hold office. Regular membership is automatically open to the following:

- (a) Members of faculties of AALS law schools;

- (b) Canadian Associates (as defined in the resolution adopted at the 1969 AALS Annual Meeting).

Section 2. Associate membership in the Section includes the right to participate in all of its activities except voting or holding office. Associate membership is automatically open to the following:

- (a) Members of law faculties of non-member AALS schools;
- (b) Lawyers and other persons whose general professional skills, knowledge, and abilities make appropriate their participation in the affairs of the Section;
- (c) Law students with exceptional qualifications.

Section 3. Dues may be assessed from members of the Section when so determined by the Council, and by appropriate amendment of these By-Laws.

### ARTICLE III

#### Officers and Council

Section 1. The officers of this Section shall be a Chairperson and four Vice-Chairpersons.

Section 2. At the annual meeting of the Section the following officers shall be nominated and elected as the offices become vacant:

- (1) A Chairperson.
- (2) The first Vice-Chairperson shall be Secretary-Treasurer.
- (3) The second Vice-Chairperson shall be Director of Regional Meetings & Conferences.
- (4) The third Vice-Chairperson shall be Director of Programs for the Annual Meeting.
- (5) The fourth Vice-Chairperson shall be Director of Membership.

The Chairperson shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of two years beginning with the adjournment of the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools during which the chairperson is elected and ending with the adjournment of such annual meeting two years thereafter. Each Vice-Chairperson shall be elected for a term of two years beginning with the adjournment of the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools during which that Vice-Chairperson is elected and ending with the adjournment of such annual meeting two years thereafter; provided, however, that the first and second Vice-Chairpersons elected after the effective date

of these By-Laws shall serve for a term of two years and the third and fourth Vice-Chairpersons shall serve for a term of one year. Thereafter, all Vice-Chairpersons shall be elected for two year terms.

A year, within the meaning of this Article, shall be understood to be the period from the close of any annual meeting of the Section to the close of the next succeeding annual meeting.

Section 3. There shall be a Council which shall consist of all elected officers.

Section 4. At each annual meeting there shall be elected such officers, if any, as may be necessary to fill any vacancies which otherwise would exist after such meeting in any terms extending beyond the close of such meeting, whether or not such vacancy shall have been filled until the close of such meeting by act of the Council pursuant to Section 3 of Article VI of these By-Laws. Any person so elected to fill a vacancy shall serve until the expiration of the term with respect to which such vacancy existed.

Each officer shall serve either until the office becomes vacant by death, resignation or otherwise under these By-Laws or until a successor shall have been chosen and takes office.

Section 5. No person shall be eligible for election as an officer if that person is then an officer and has been such continuously for a period of four years or more; provided, however, that the foregoing requirement may be waived by majority vote of the members of the Section present at the time of the annual election, and by the consent of such waiver of a majority of the Council, stated orally at such time or communicated to the first Vice-Chairperson in writing.

Section 6. If any elected member of the Council shall fail to attend two successive meetings of the Council, the place held by such member shall be automatically vacated, and the Council shall fill such vacancy in the manner provided for in Article VI of these By-Laws. For the purpose of applying the foregoing provision the regular meetings of the Council held immediately preceding and immediately following the close of any annual meeting of the Section, pursuant to Section 5 of Article VII of these By-Laws, shall be deemed to be one meeting.

Section 7. Any officer may be removed for cause by vote of a majority of members of the Council at a special meeting which may be called by the Chairperson or any two members of the Council. Such vote shall be taken only after the person or persons to be so removed have been notified of the reason for such removal and given opportunity to be heard. No irregularity or omission in procedures with respect to any such removal shall affect the validity of removal and the determination of the Council in this matter shall be conclusive.

## ARTICLE IV

### Nomination and Election of Officers

At any time prior to the printing of the Section Report due September 30, the Chairperson after consultation with the Council, shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members of the Section, none of whom shall be an officer at the time of appointment and not more than two of whom shall be former officers of the Section, and shall designate one of the members as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The Chairperson shall promptly thereafter announce the names and addresses of the members of the Committee in the official Section publication, or by other publication to Section members. The Chairperson may appoint a member to fill any vacancy which may thereafter arise in the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall make and report at least one nomination for each position which is to be filled by election at the next annual meeting as provided elsewhere in the By-Laws. The report shall identify each nominee and shall include a brief statement of his activities in the Section and in the field of legal teaching generally. The Committee shall submit its report to the Chairperson of the Section who shall cause it to be published in the Section Report or otherwise published to Section members prior to the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee shall supplement its published report and action by making one nomination for each unanticipated vacancy, if any, that may arise prior to the beginning of the annual meeting of the Section. At the commencement of the first session of the annual meeting of the Section, the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee or, in his absence, the Section Chairperson, shall orally announce the report of the Nominating Committee. Additional nominations for any specified position may be made from the floor; the nominator shall briefly identify the nominee as above provided with respect to the report of the Nominating Committee. The election shall then be held. Elections for contested positions shall be by written ballot unless otherwise ordered by unanimous consent of the Section members present. Each position to be filled by contested election shall be voted upon separately. Election shall be by a majority of the votes cast for the position. If a majority vote is not initially obtained, a run-off election shall be held to choose between the two leading candidates.

## ARTICLE V

### Duties of Officers

Section 1. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Council. The Chairperson shall formulate and present at each annual meeting of the Section a report of the work of the Section for the past year and shall perform such other duties and acts as usually pertain to his office.

Section 2. The First Vice-Chairperson (the Secretary-Treasurer) shall be the custodian of all books, papers, documents, and other property of the Section, including money. The First Vice-Chairperson shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section, of all finances, and also of all action of the Council, whether in meetings or under consideration. With the Chairperson, the First Vice-Chairperson shall prepare a summary or digest of the proceedings of the Section at its Annual Meeting for publication to the members of the Section. The First Vice-Chairperson, in conjunction with the Chairperson, as authorized by the Council, shall attend generally to the business of the Section.

Section 3. The Second Vice-Chairperson (the Director of Regional Meetings & Conferences) shall organize and direct such area meetings and conferences as said Vice-Chairperson, with the approval of the Council, deems necessary or beneficial to members of the Section.

Section 4. The Third Vice-Chairperson (the Director of Programs for the Annual Meeting) shall develop and organize the program for the Annual Meeting of the Section, subject to the approval of the Council. The Third Vice-Chairperson shall, when questioned, submit a report to the Executive Director of the Association as to the scheduled program for the Annual Meeting and shall also submit such a report to the Council for inclusion in the Section Report published prior to the Annual Meeting.

Section 5. The Fourth Vice-Chairperson (the Director of Membership) shall keep true records of current members of the Section and shall be responsible for enlisting new members. The Fourth Vice-Chairperson shall publish a current membership list in the Annual Section Report.

## ARTICLE VI

### Duties and Powers of the Council

Section 1. The Council shall have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section, subject to the provisions of these By-Laws. It shall especially authorize all commitments or contracts which shall entail the payment of money, and no monies appropriated for the use or benefit of the Section shall be expended without such authorization. The Council 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.

Section 2. The Council may authorize the Chairperson 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 By-Laws and the By-Laws of the Association of American Law Schools.

Section 3. The Council, during the interim between annual meetings of the Section, may fill vacancies in its own membership.

Section 4. All binding action of the Council shall be by a majority vote of the whole Council.

Section 5. Members of the Council when personally present at a meeting of the Council shall vote in person, but when absent may communicate their vote, in writing, upon any proposition, to the First Vice-Chairperson and have it counted with the same effect as if cast personally at such meeting. Such communication may be before, during or after such meeting.

Section 6. The Chairperson of the Section may, and upon 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 so submitted by communicating their vote thereon in writing over their respective signatures, to the First Vice-Chairperson, who shall record upon the minutes each proposition so submitted, when, how, at whose request same was submitted, and the vote of each member of the Council voting, thereon, and keep on file such written and signed votes. If the votes of a majority of the members of the Council shall be in favor of such proposition, or if such majority shall be against such proposition, such majority vote shall constitute binding action of the Council. The term "majority vote of the whole Council," as used in Section 4 of this Article, and the term "votes of a majority of the members of the Council," as used in this Section, shall mean the votes of a majority of those then holding the position of voting member of the Council.

## ARTICLE VII

### Meetings

Section 1. The Section shall meet annually in connection with the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools and immediately preceding or during the period of such annual meeting, as the Executive Board of the Association of American Law Schools may direct. The program and order of business shall be such as are arranged by the Third Vice-Chairperson (Director of Programs for the Annual Meeting).

Section 2. Special meetings of the Section may be called by the Chairperson, upon approval of the Council, to be held at such time and place as the Council may determine. Notice of any such special meeting shall be mailed by the First Vice-Chairperson to each member of the Section at least thirty days prior to such meeting, with a statement of its objects.

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

Section 4. All binding action of the Section shall be by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

Section 5. A regular meeting of the Council shall be held immediately preceding each annual meeting of the Section. A regular meeting of the Council, as it shall be constituted as the result of the election held at such annual meeting, shall be held immediately following the close of each such annual meeting. Each such meeting shall be held at such hour and at such place in the city or locality where such annual meeting is held as may be designated by the Chairperson. No formal notice of any such regular meeting need be given, but it shall be the duty of the Chairperson to make available at or near the Convention registration desks information as to the hour and place of such Council meeting preceding the meeting of the Section and to announce in the Section meeting and immediately following the annual election of officers the hour and place of such Council meeting which is to follow the meeting of the Section.

Section 6. Special meetings of the Council may be called by a notice in writing, stating the time and place of the meeting, signed by the Chairperson, or by two members of the Council, at least two weeks prior to such meeting.

Section 7. A mid-year meeting of the Council may be called by the Chairperson who shall cause a notice thereof to be mailed at least thirty days prior to such meeting.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1. The Fiscal Year of the Section shall be the same as that of the Association of American Law Schools.

Section 2. Expenditures out of the funds of the Section, whether current or accumulated, shall be made only by authority of the Section or the Council, and the Treasurer of the Association of American Law Schools shall be requested to pay out of such funds amounts certified by the Chairperson to have been so authorized.

Section 3. No salary or compensation shall be paid to any officer or member of a committee. To such extent as may be authorized in advance by the Council and by the rules and regulations of the Executive Board of the Association of American Law Schools, any such officer or member of a committee may be reimbursed for reasonable and proper disbursements made in connection with the work of the Section, except for expenses in attending the annual meeting of the Section.

Section 4. Any action by this Section must be approved by the Association of American Law Schools before the same becomes effective as the action of the Association of American Law Schools. Any resolution adopted or action taken by this Section may on request of the Section be reported by the Chairperson of the Section to the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools for the Association's action thereon.

Section 5. These By-Laws shall become effective upon the adoption thereof by the Section, and the approval thereof by the members of the Association upon recommendation of the Executive Board of the Association of American Law Schools.

Section 6. All printing for the Section or for the Council or any committee of the Section shall be done under the supervision of the headquarters office of the Association of American Law Schools.

Section 7. The Council shall have authority to accept donations to be applied to special work within the purposes of the Section.

## ARTICLE IX

### Amendments

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended, or new By-Laws may be adopted, at any annual or special meeting of the Section by a majority vote of the members of the Section present and voting; provided, first, that such proposed amendment, or proposed new By-Laws, shall first have been approved by a majority of the Council; provided, second, that no amendment or new By-Laws so adopted shall become effective until approved by the members of the Association upon recommendation of the Executive Board of the Association of American Law Schools; and provided, third, that no such amendment or new By-Laws shall be adopted at any special meeting of the Section unless the notice of such meeting shall have stated that the object, or one of the objects, of such meeting will be the amendment of the By-Laws of the Section, or the adoption of new By-Laws for the Section, as the case may be.