

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

BYLAWS OF THE SECTION ON EMPIRICAL STUDY OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1. *Name.* This Section will be known as the *Section on Empirical Study of Legal Education and the Legal Profession.*

Section 2. *Purpose.* The Section

- (a) promotes the communication of ideas, activities, research questions, research findings, and other matters relating to the empirical study of the full panoply of questions raised by legal education, the legal profession, related institutions, professional formation, career goals, associated issues of access to justice, ethical issues, and other associated matters as broadly understood;
- (b) encourages professional development and fostering of relevant skills and expertise for those interested in engaging in the empirical study of legal education and the legal profession, including skills in quantitative and qualitative research, use of databases, and understanding of institutional research protocols;
- (c) fosters exploration of and exchange of research developments between distinct communities within legal education (such as podium faculty, clinicians, legal writing faculty, academic support, admissions, student affairs, and others);
- (d) reports on and disseminates relevant research findings;
- (e) offers recommendations for consideration by faculty and professional staff, law schools, others with related interests, and the Association of American Law Schools within the constraints set forth in Article VII of these Bylaws; and
- (f) engages in other related activities and initiatives.

Article II. Membership.

Section 1. *Regular Members.* Membership is open to all faculty and professional staff of a law school that is a member of the Association of American Schools (AALS). “Regular members” includes retired faculty and professional staff of member schools who have previously served in a full-time capacity.

Section 2. *Associate Members.* Associate membership is open to others who are concerned with the teaching, administration, and improvement of legal education. Associate members may participate in the programs, meetings, and activities of the Section, but may not vote or hold office in the Section. The number of Associate Members may not exceed 25 percent of the regular membership.

Section 3. *Privileges of Members.* Regular members may vote in person at all Section meetings, may hold office, and may participate in all activities of the Section.

Article III. Officers

Section 1. *Offices Established.* The Section shall include the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary/Newsletter Editor.

Section 2. *Duties.* The Section officers shall have the duties specified in this section.

- a. *Chair.* The Chair of the Section shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee. The Chair shall present at each annual meeting of the AALS a report of the Section for the prior year and shall be responsible for the program of the Section. The Chair shall appoint the members of special committees.
- b. *Chair-Elect.* The Chair-elect of the Section shall assist the Chair as the Chair may request and shall perform the duties of the Chair during absence or disability of the Chair.
- c. *Secretary/Newsletter Editor.* The Secretary/Newsletter Editor of the Section shall assist the Chair, as the Chair may request and is responsible for composing at least one Section Newsletter each year and distributing it to all members of the Section. The Secretary/Newsletter Editor shall be primarily responsible for updating and monitoring any Section websites, listservs, or other electronic media.
- d. *Eligibility.* Officers of the Section shall be current or retired full-time faculty or professional staff of law schools that are members of the Association of American Law Schools.

Article IV. Executive Committee.

Section 1. *Membership.* The Executive Committee of the Section shall consist of the Officers of the Section, the immediate past Chair, and an odd number of such other persons (not to exceed five) who may be elected by the Section membership.

Section 2. *Eligibility.* Members of the Executive Committee of the Section shall be full-time faculty members, or professional staff of law schools that are members of the Association of American Law Schools, or retired members of such law school faculties who previously served in a full-time capacity.

Section 3. *Terms of Office.* Executive Committee members shall serve for a term of one year, commencing at the conclusion of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

Section 4. *Special Committees.* Special committees may be created by majority vote of the Executive Committee. The Chair shall appoint the membership of any such special committee, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. The special committees shall have such duties as are assigned to them by the Executive Committee.

Article V. Filling of Vacancies.

If an Officer or Executive Committee member resigns, becomes ineligible to serve, or dies, the position shall be filled promptly. If the position of Chair becomes vacant, the Chair-elect shall become the Chair. If the position of Chair-elect becomes vacant, the Chair, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, shall appoint the Secretary/Newsletter Editor to serve as Chair-elect until the next annual meeting of the AALS. If the position of Secretary/Newsletter Editor or the position of an Executive Committee member becomes vacant, the Chair, with the advice and consent of the other Executive Committee members, shall appoint a person to the position to serve until the next annual meeting of the AALS.

Article VI. Authorized Expenditures of Income

Section 1. *Expenditures authorized by AALS regulation.* As authorized by AALS Executive Committee Regulations, Section income may be spent for the following purposes:

- (a) to compensate law students and others for performing research and similar tasks for a Section project; or
- (b) to reimburse a person who participates as a speaker or panelist in a Section program, and who is not a faculty member or professional staff of any law school, for the person's travel and other expenses in accordance with the Association's travel reimbursement policies.

Section 2. *Other expenditures.*

(a) Authorized purposes. Section income may be spent for the following:

- (1) workshop or teaching conference;
- (2) deficiency in a meal guarantee made to a hotel;
- (3) Section survey;
- (4) Section directory; or
- (5) Enhanced newsletter and/or on-line scholarly repository.

(b) Authorization procedure. Before an activity under Article VI, Section 2(a) is undertaken that requires an expenditure, the following must occur:

- (1) the Executive Committee must authorize the expenditure at least six weeks prior to the activity;
- (2) the Chair must determine that the expenditure is consistent with the Section's bylaws and policies of the AALS; and

(3) the Chair must notify the national office of the AALS no later than one month prior to the activity.

Article VII. Policy Statements

Because Sections are part of the AALS structure, statements of policy or similar positions adopted by the Section shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the AALS for approval prior to publication.

Article VIII. Amendments.

These bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of the Section by a majority of the regular members of the Section present and voting. The amendment takes effect when it is approved by the AALS under applicable procedures.

Article IX. Section Award

Section 1. *Judith Welch Wegner Award.*

The Judith Welch Wegner Award honors the memory of Section co-founder and former AALS President Judith Welch Wegner by recognizing outstanding contributions to the empirical study of legal education or the legal profession.

Section 2. *Frequency.* The Judith Welch Wegner Award shall be given from time to time as the Officers and Executive Committee of the Section determine. If appropriate, multiple recipients may be selected in the same year. The award need not be given each year.

Section 3. *Nominations and Eligibility.* The Section Chair-Elect shall seek nominations through the Section mailing list and (if they so choose) any other appropriate fora, using any nomination format and time period deemed appropriate by the Selection Committee. Any individual eligible for Section membership may nominate an individual for the award. Law schools and other organizations are ineligible for the award. Prior year or current year Section Officers and Executive Committee members may not be selected as an award recipient.

Section 4. *Selection Committee.* The Selection Committee shall consist of the Section Officers and Executive Committee. They shall consider all timely nominees and determine who shall receive the award.

Section 5. *Notification to AALS and Award Announcement.* Once selected by the Selection Committee, the Chair-Elect shall inform appropriate AALS officials of the award winner(s) and the selection process used. The Chair-Elect shall announce the recipient(s) of the award at the AALS Annual Meeting and (if they so choose) in any other appropriate fora. The Selection Committee may also commission a plaque or other physical award, when consistent with AALS policies regarding Section awards, Section expenditures, and reimbursements.