

## **Model Bylaws**

### **ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS Bylaws of the Section on Law in the Americas**

#### **Article I. Name and Purpose**

Section 1. Name. This Section shall be known as the Section on Law in the Americas.

Section 2. Purpose. The Section on Law in the Americas promotes the communication of ideas, interests and activities concerning matters of substantive, procedural, and comparative law and international instruments and legal education, and the administration of justice in and among all of the Americas and the Caribbean.

#### **Article II. Membership**

Section 1. Membership.

- (a) Membership in the Section is open to faculty members and professional staff of a law school that is a member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) and to faculty and professional staff at law schools that participate as AALS International Subscribers.
- (b) Associate membership is open to any other person who is concerned with the teaching, administration, and improvement of legal education in the subject of the Section.

Section 2. Privileges of Members.

- (a) Regular members may vote and hold a position in a Section.
- (b) Associate members may not vote or hold a position in the Section.

#### **Article III. Officers, Executive and Other Committees**

Section 1. Officers. The officers of this Section are the chair and the chair-elect. The chair-elect shall be elected at or before each annual meeting of the Association, shall qualify by acceptance and shall succeed to the office of chair at the close of the next annual meeting. An officer shall serve until a successor has been elected and qualified.

Section 2. The Executive Committee.

- (a) The Executive Committee of the Section consists of the chair of the Section, chair-elect and three other members elected annually.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the Section in the interval between annual meetings and may create standing and special committees.

Section 3. Filling Vacancies. If an officer or other member of the Executive Committee resigns, becomes ineligible to serve or dies, the position shall be promptly filled. If the position of chair becomes vacant, the chair-elect becomes the chair. If the position of chair-elect becomes vacant, the chair, with the advice and consent of the other members of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a person to serve as chair-elect until the next annual meeting of AALS at which time both a chair and a chair-elect shall be elected. If the position of a member of the Executive Committee becomes vacant, the chair, with the advice and consent of the other members of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a person to the position to serve until the next annual meeting of the AALS.

#### **Article IV. Nomination and Elections**

Section 1. Nominations. At or immediately following the annual meeting, the chair shall appoint a Nomination Committee for the subsequent year. The Nomination Committee shall consist of at least three members of the Section and shall include at least one past chair of the Section. The Nomination Committee shall receive and consider suggestions of persons to serve as officers and members of the Executive Committee of the Section and shall report a slate of nominees to the Section for election before the next annual meeting of the AALS. All nominees must be members in good standing of the Section.

Section 2. Elections. The officers and other members of the Executive Committee of the Section shall be elected at the annual meeting or by mail, including electronic mail, prior to the annual meeting. Nominations from the Nominating Committee shall be circulated to members of the Section at least one month before the election is held. Elections can be at the meeting or by mail, including electronic mail.

#### **Article V. Duties of Officers**

Section 1. Chair. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of its Executive Committee. At each annual meeting of the AALS, the chair shall report on the Section activities during the prior year and is responsible for delegating a Section member to organize the Annual Meeting program of the Section. The chair may appoint members of standing and special committees.

Section 2. 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.

## **Article VI. Income**

Section 1. Authorized Expenditures of Section Dues and Other Section Income. Section dues and other Section income may be spent in accordance with AALS Bylaws and Executive Committee Regulations.

## **Article VII. Policy Statements**

Section 1. Policy Statements. Sections are components of the AALS. Thus, any statements of policy adopted by a Section or similar positions may be made public only in accordance with the Bylaws and Executive Committee Regulations of the AALS.

## **Article VIII. Amendments**

Section 1. 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.