

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

Bylaws of the Section on Poverty Law

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name. This section shall be known as the Section on Poverty Law.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to promote the communication of ideas, interests and activities among members of the section and to make recommendations to the Association on matters concerning laws affecting the poor, particularly public benefit programs and related health, welfare, social services, housing, food, family and consumer issues.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. Membership.

(a) Membership in the section is open to a faculty member or professional staff of a law school that is a member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS).

(b) Associate membership is open to any other person who is concerned with the teaching, administration and improvement of legal education relating to poverty law.

Section 2. Privileges of Members.

(a) Regular members may be officers of the section and may vote in a section election.

(b) Associate members may participate in the programs, meetings and activities of the section, but may not vote or hold office in the section.

Article III. Officers-Committee

Section 1. Officers. The officers of this section are the Chairperson and the Chairperson-elect. The Chairperson-elect shall be elected by written ballot distributed to the membership no later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. He/she shall qualify by acceptance and shall succeed to the office of chairperson at the close of the next annual meeting. An officer shall serve until his/her successor has been elected and qualified.

Section 2. The Executive Committee.

(a) The Executive Committee of the section consists of the chairperson of the section, chairperson-elect, and the immediate past chair and no less than three (3) nor more than eight (8) members elected annually by a written ballot of the members as provided in Section 1.

(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 chairperson becomes vacant, the chairperson-elect becomes the chairperson. If the position of chairperson-elect becomes vacant, the chairperson, with the advice and counsel of the other members of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a person to serve as chairperson-elect until the next annual meeting of AALS at which time both a chairperson and a chairperson-elect shall be elected. If the position of a member of the Executive Committee becomes vacant, the chairperson with the advice and consent of the other members of the Executive Committee, shall appoint the person to the position to serve until the next annual meeting of the AALS.

Section 4. Other Committees. The Executive Committee may create additional standing or special Committees as necessary to perform the work of the Section.

Article IV. Nomination and Elections

Section 1. Nominations. At or immediately following the annual meeting the chairperson shall appoint the Nominating Committee for the subsequent year. The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three members of the section. The Nominating 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 through written ballot before the next annual meeting of the AALS, as provided in these Articles.

Section 2. Elections. The officers and other members of the Executive Committee of the section shall be elected at the annual meeting by written ballot prior to the annual meeting. Any person who wishes to nominate someone other than the Nominating Committee slate shall send his/her name to the Nominating Committee Chair no later than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting. The results of the election shall be tabulated and announced at the annual meeting, when officers and Executive Committee shall assume their positions.

Article V. Duties of Officers

Section 1. Chairperson. The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the section and of its Executive Committee. At each annual meeting of the AALS, the chairperson shall report on the section activities during the prior year. He/she is responsible for the program of the section. The chairperson shall appoint the members of standing and special committees.

Section 2. Chairperson-Elect. The chairperson-elect of the section shall assist the chairperson, as the chairperson may request, and shall perform the duties of the chairperson during absence or disability of the chairperson.

Section 3. Authorized Expenditures of Section Dues and Other Section Income. In addition to the purposes described in Association Executive Committee Regulation 12.6 (d), section dues and other section income may be spent for a reception for section members at an Association annual meeting, workshop or teaching conference, any deficiency in an meal guarantee, section survey, section directory, and enhanced newsletter. Before the activity is undertaken, the section's Executive Committee must authorize the expenditure of dues or other income for the activity. In approving payment of an expenditure the section chairperson must determine that the particular expenditure was for the activity authorized by the Executive Committee of the section and is consistent with the section's bylaws and Association policies. The chairperson shall notify the Association's National Office one month before the activity of the Section's Executive Committee decision to authorize the expenditure.

Article VI. Policy Statements

Section 1. Policy Statements. Because sections are part of the AALS, statements of policy adopted by a section or similar positions may be made public only after they are approved by the Executive Committee of the AALS.

Article III. 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.