

**ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS**

Bylaws of the Section on  
Clinical Legal Education

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name.

This section shall be known as the Section on Clinical Legal Education (hereinafter referred to as the Section).

Section 2. Purpose.

The purpose of this Section is to promote and facilitate the communication of ideas, interests, and activities relating to clinical legal education among its members. The Section’s work includes supporting scholarship and mentoring and building on deep-rooted pedagogical and community values that include a focus on social injustice and on the promotion of the status of clinics and externships within the broader legal academy.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. Membership.

(a) Regular membership in the Section is open to any faculty member, administrator, or non-faculty staff who direct or support a clinical or externship program at a law school that is a member of the Association of American Law Schools (hereinafter referred to as AALS).

Section 2. Privileges of Members.

(a) Regular members shall be eligible to vote, hold office in the Section and serve on the Section’s Executive Committee, and to participate in the programs, meetings, and activities of the Section.

Article III. Officers and Committees

Section 1. Officers.

The officers of this Section are the chair, the chair-elect, the secretary and the treasurer. All officers must be regular members of the Section. At the Section's business meeting during each AALS annual meeting, the membership of the Section shall elect a regular member of the Section to serve a two-year term, the first year as chair-elect and the second year as chair. The Section may elect two members to serve as co-chairs-elect and then co-chairs. The secretary shall be appointed and the treasurer shall be elected in accordance with Article V of these bylaws.

Section 2. Executive Committee.

(a) The Executive Committee of the Section (hereinafter referred to as the "Executive Committee") shall normally consist of nine elected voting members: the Section chair(s), chair(s)-elect, treasurer, secretary, and other elected members. All members of the Executive Committee must be regular members of the Section. In the event the Section elects two members to serve as co-chairs-elect, the size of the Executive Committee shall be increased accordingly. The immediate past chair(s) shall serve as *ex officio*, non-voting member(s) of the Executive Committee.

(b) The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the regular members of the Section at the Section's business meeting during the AALS annual meeting. Members of the Executive Committee shall serve the following terms: Any chair-elect shall be elected to a two-year term, serving in the first year as chair-elect and in the second year as chair. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected to a three-year term and may be elected to one successive three-year term. The remaining members of the Executive Committee shall be elected to three-year terms and shall be ineligible to serve successive three-year terms. The terms of those remaining members shall be staggered to provide for the election of at least two members each year. In the event of a vacancy, the chair shall appoint a regular member of the Section to serve until the next AALS annual meeting, at which time a regular member shall be elected to serve any remaining portion of the term.

(c) The Executive Committee's duties include: (1) discussing issues relating to Section governance and clinical legal education; (2) making recommendations when appropriate on policies affecting clinical legal education to the AALS Standing Committee on Clinical Legal Education and to the AALS Executive

1 Committee; (3) soliciting and receiving reports from standing and special  
2 committees of the Section and supporting the work of these committees; (4)  
3 reviewing and approving the proposed expenditure of Section income in  
4 accordance with Article VI; (5) designating a member of the Executive  
5 Committee to serve as liaison between the Section and the AALS Standing  
6 Committee on Clinical Legal Education; (6) designating a member to serve on  
7 the Section's annual conference committee; (7) hosting an annual awards  
8 celebration; (8) considering the approval of statements of Section position or  
9 policy in accordance with Article VII; and (9) taking any other appropriate action  
10 in furtherance of the Section's purpose. With the approval of the AALS  
11 Executive Committee, the Section's Executive Committee may also designate  
12 members of its Executive Committee to serve as liaisons between the Section and  
13 sections of the American Bar Association and other organizations whose  
14 activities bear on clinical legal education.  
15

16 (d) The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually during the AALS  
17 annual meeting and at such other times as designated by the chair of the Section.  
18

19 Section 3. Standing Committees.  
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21 (a) The standing committees of the Section shall be the Nominating Committee,  
22 the Annual Meeting Program Committee, the Membership, Outreach and  
23 Training Committee, the Communications Committee, the Awards Committee,  
24 the Clinicians of Color Committee, the Externships Committee, and the Bellow  
25 Scholars Committee. The Executive Committee shall appoint the chair of each  
26 standing committee. The membership of standing committees should reflect  
27 different geographic regions and different clinical program types, and be  
28 inclusive in accordance with AALS diversity requirements.  
29

30 (b) Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall: (1) nominate  
31 persons who are regular members of the Section to fill open positions on the  
32 Executive Committee; and (2) perform such other tasks and make such other  
33 nominations as charged by the chair after consultation with the Executive  
34 Committee. In order to create a slate of nominees for open positions on the  
35 Executive Committee, the Nominating Committee shall solicit from Section  
36 members the names of potential nominees who are regular members of the  
37 Section; shall select nominees; and shall report the names of the nominees to the  
38 Section chair not less 60 days before the AALS annual meeting. When selecting  
39 nominees for open positions on the Executive Committee, the Nominating  
40 Committee shall consider the suitability of the potential candidates for office and  
41 shall strive to have the composition of the Executive Committee reflect different  
42 geographical regions and different clinical program types, and be inclusive in

1 accordance with AALS diversity requirements.  
2

3 (c) Annual Meeting Program Committee. The Annual Meeting Program  
4 Committee: (1) shall determine the nature, format, and content of the Section  
5 program for the AALS annual meeting; (2) shall arrange for speakers, participants  
6 and materials for the AALS annual meeting; and (3) shall notify Section members  
7 regarding the AALS annual meeting.  
8

9 (d) Membership, Outreach and Training Committee. The Membership,  
10 Outreach and Training Committee shall: (1) design and implement programs and  
11 plans to increase and retain membership in the Section; (2) establish and maintain  
12 a mentoring program through which experienced clinicians support newer  
13 clinicians in their professional development and through which any clinician at a  
14 professional transition point might seek guidance and expertise from colleagues;  
15 (3) encourage, assist, and provide support for the development and  
16 implementation of conference and training programs for clinical educators on a  
17 national and/or regional basis; and (4) as requested by the chair, engage in other  
18 projects or activities consistent with the Section's membership, outreach and  
19 training goals.  
20

21 (e) Communications Committee. The Communications Committee shall design  
22 and implement effective methods for the Executive Committee to communicate  
23 with Section members and for Section members to communicate with one  
24 another.  
25

26 (f) Clinicians of Color Committee. The Clinicians of Color Committee shall meet  
27 regularly to support its membership through programming, community  
28 gatherings, and broader initiatives as determined by its members, to advance  
29 principles of equity and inclusion both within and outside of the Academy.  
30

31 (g) Externships. The Externships Committee shall support and provide  
32 information for teachers of externship courses about program implementation and  
33 design, teaching, scholarship, and other issues related to law school externship  
34 programs and courses.  
35

36 (h) Awards Committee. The Awards Committee shall proceed as follows:  
37

38 (1) The Committee shall solicit nominations for the William Pincus  
39 Award, the M. Shanara Gilbert "emerging clinician" award, the Steve  
40 Ellman Memorial Clinical Scholarship award, and any other award that  
41 the Section may create..  
42

1 (2) The purpose of each of the awards is to honor Section members and  
2 other individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the cause  
3 of clinical legal education. The Section's officers – chair, chair-elect,  
4 secretary and treasurer – shall be ineligible to receive an award in the year  
5 of and the year following their service. The Committee may choose to  
6 give any or all of the awards in a given year. The awards may be  
7 announced formally at the annual AALS Clinical Conference or at the  
8 AALS Annual Meeting..  
9

10 (3) The Executive Committee will provide to the Awards Committee the  
11 criteria for each award, as designated by each award's founders and the  
12 Executive Committee.  
13

14 (4) The Awards Committee recommendations shall be forwarded to the  
15 Executive Committee for consideration and approval, and then forwarded  
16 to the AALS for approval in accordance with AALS requirements.  
17 Awards made by the Section shall also comply with any other applicable  
18 AALS requirements.  
19

20 (i) The Bellow Scholars Committee. This Committee shall select and encourage  
21 the work of the Bellow Scholars.  
22

23 (1) The Committee shall select as Bellow Scholars clinical legal educators  
24 who propose projects which exemplify the personal and professional  
25 qualities, particularly innovation and critical analysis, exhibited by Gary  
26 Bellow. The Committee may select one or more Bellow Scholars in any  
27 given year.  
28

29 (2) The Committee shall select Bellow Scholars based on proposals from  
30 interested applicants. Interested applicants shall submit proposals that  
31 involve law students and faculty in anti-poverty initiatives or access to  
32 justice projects. Projects that involve collaboration between lawyers and  
33 other professionals or empirical analysis are encouraged. Applications  
34 shall include:  
35

36 (A) a detailed description of the project;

37 (B) the projected goals of the project;

38 (C) a timeline for completion of the project; and

39 (D) a description of how the project will be evaluated.  
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1  
2 (3) The Bellow Scholars shall be announced formally at an AALS event.  
3 The Scholars will present their conclusions for debate, reflection and  
4 critical analysis.  
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6 Section 4. Special Committees.  
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8 With the approval of the Executive Committee, the chair may establish or  
9 terminate special committees as deemed necessary and appropriate to carry out  
10 special projects or functions on behalf of the Section. The chair, in consultation  
11 with the Executive Committee, shall determine the size, appoint the membership,  
12 and appoint the chair of each special committee. The membership of special  
13 committees should reflect different geographic regions and different clinical  
14 program types, and be inclusive in accordance with AALS diversity  
15 requirements.  
16

17 Article IV. Nominations and Elections  
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19 Section 1. Nominations.  
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21 Nominations to fill open positions on the Executive Committee shall be made by  
22 the Nominating Committee in accordance with Article III, Section 3(b) of these  
23 bylaws, and may also be made from the floor of the Section’s business meeting  
24 during the AALS Annual Meeting.  
25

26 Upon receipt of the list of names of the nominees from the Nominating  
27 Committee, the chair shall submit the nominees to the Executive Committee for  
28 consideration and approval. Not less than 45 days before the AALS annual  
29 meeting, the chair shall submit the names of nominees approved by the Executive  
30 Committee to the AALS national office. The Section membership shall receive  
31 notification of the identity of the nominees submitted by the Nominating  
32 Committee and approved by the Executive Committee not less than 30 days  
33 before the AALS annual meeting.  
34

35 Section 2. Elections.  
36

37 Open positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled by majority vote of  
38 the regular members present at the Section’s business meeting during the AALS  
39 annual meeting, with each member present having one vote for each open position  
40 on the Executive Committee. Elections at that meeting may be by voice or secret  
41 ballot, as determined by the chair. In the event that an AALS annual business  
42 meeting does not take place, or if it takes place virtually, the Executive

1 Committee may conduct the elections to fill open positions on the Executive  
2 Committee via mail or e-mail ballot to be voted on by the regular members of the  
3 Section, so long as the procedure is not inconsistent with any AALS Executive  
4 Committee policy promulgated to address the non-occurrence of an in-person  
5 AALS annual business meeting.

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7 Article V. Duties of Officers

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9 Section 1. Chair.

10  
11 The chair shall: (1) preside at all meetings of the Section and the Executive  
12 Committee; (2) oversee the expenditure of Section funds as provided in Article  
13 VI; (3) appoint a voting member of the Executive Committee to serve as  
14 secretary, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee; (4) present at the  
15 AALS annual meeting the report of the Section for the prior year including a  
16 detailed accounting of Section funds and of all expenditures; (5) in consultation  
17 with the Executive Committee, appoint members of the standing and special  
18 committees, including the chairs of those committees; and (6) take any other  
19 appropriate action in furtherance of the Section's purpose. With the approval of  
20 the Executive Committee, the chair may designate Section members with special  
21 expertise to be available as resource persons to Section members.

22  
23 Section 2. Chair-Elect.

24  
25 The chair-elect of the Section shall assist the chair as the chair may request and  
26 shall perform the duties of the chair during the absence or disability of the chair.  
27 The chair-elect shall prepare a program proposal for the annual clinical  
28 conference and shall submit this proposal for approval to the AALS. If the office  
29 of the chair becomes vacant, the chair-elect shall succeed to the office of chair  
30 and shall serve as chair for the remainder of the two-year term for which she or  
31 he was elected.

32  
33 Section 3. Vacancies in the Office of Chair.

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35 Should both the chair and the chair-elect be unable to serve in the office of chair,  
36 a temporary chair shall be elected from the voting members of the Executive  
37 Committee and shall serve until elections are held at the next Section business  
38 meeting at the AALS annual meeting. This election shall be by majority vote of  
39 the Executive Committee. The secretary of the Executive Committee shall, as  
40 soon as practicable after learning of the vacancy, call and conduct a meeting of  
41 the Executive Committee in person, by conference call, by e-mail or by regular  
42 mail for the purpose of this election.

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2 Section 4. Secretary.

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4 The secretary of the Section shall be appointed by the chair, with the approval of  
5 the Executive Committee, from among the elected members of the Executive  
6 Committee. The secretary shall serve for a one-year term, and may be reappointed  
7 for successive terms. The secretary shall: (1) keep written minutes of Executive  
8 Committee meetings; (2) maintain a written record of all formal actions taken by  
9 the Executive Committee; (3) solicit and maintain written records, if any, of the  
10 activities of Executive Committee sub-committees; (4) maintain a record of the  
11 terms of the Executive Committee members; (5) maintain copies of formal  
12 communications between the Section and the AALS or other organizations whose  
13 activities bear on clinical legal education; (6) ensure the transmission of minutes  
14 and copies of formal actions and records received by the secretary to his or her  
15 successor in office; and (7) perform relevant duties as assigned from time to time  
16 by the chair or the Executive Committee.

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18 Section 5. Treasurer.

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20 The treasurer of the Section shall be elected from among the regular members of  
21 the Section for a three-year term and may be re-elected for one successive three-  
22 year term. The treasurer shall: (1) assist the chair in the preparation of the annual  
23 budget; (2) arrange for receipt of any funds that are to be paid directly to the  
24 Section, and for the transmission of those funds to the AALS; (3) arrange for  
25 payment of expenses on behalf of the Section in accordance with Article VI; (4)  
26 keep an account of all Section receipts and expenditures; (5) make regular  
27 periodic reports of all Section receipts and expenditures to the Executive  
28 Committee; (6) advise the chair in preparing and presenting an annual budget to  
29 the Executive Committee; (7) arrange for the solicitation and payment of dues;  
30 (8) maintain records of membership; (9) ensure the transmission of such budgets,  
31 reports and records to his or her successor in office; and (10) perform relevant  
32 duties as assigned from time to time by the chair or the Executive Committee.

33  
34 Article VI. Finances

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36 Section 1. Dues.

37  
38 Each regular member of the Section shall pay annual dues in an amount to be  
39 determined by the Executive Committee. Changes in dues shall occur no more  
40 frequently than annually. Any change shall take effect at the beginning of the  
41 Section's fiscal year following the Executive Committee vote. The Section  
42 membership shall receive notice of any change at least 30 days prior to the



1 increase. Publication in the Section newsletter, on the AALS’s communication  
2 platform, or by e-mail to the Section membership shall constitute adequate notice.  
3 The chair shall include an explanation for any change in the chair’s annual  
4 accounting of Section funds and expenditures.  
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6 Section 2. Annual Budget.

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8 The chair, with the assistance of the treasurer, shall prepare an annual budget for  
9 the Section, which shall be approved by the Executive Committee prior to  
10 submission to the AALS. The annual budget shall be sufficiently detailed so  
11 that the Executive Committee, and subsequently the AALS Executive  
12 Committee, may assess and approve allocations of funds for particular activities  
13 of the Section.  
14

15 Section 3. Expenditures.

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17 Section dues and other Section income may be spent in accordance with  
18 applicable AALS and Section policies, regulations and bylaws. The chair or the  
19 treasurer shall confirm that each expenditure is permitted by AALS and Section  
20 policy and shall ensure that the Executive Committee complies with any  
21 applicable AALS policy requiring notification of the AALS in advance of an  
22 expenditure.

23 Article VII. Policy Statements

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25 Section 1. Policy Statements.

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27 With the approval of its Executive Committee, and only in compliance with  
28 AALS Executive Committee Regulations, the Section may communicate or  
29 publish statements of position or policy on matters affecting legal education.  
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31 Article VIII. Amendments

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33 Section 1. Amendments.

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35 These bylaws may be amended at the Section’s business meeting during the  
36 AALS annual meeting or the AALS Clinical Section annual conference by a  
37 majority of the regular members of the Section present and voting, or by mail or  
38 email ballot in the event either meeting is conducted virtually. Notice of meeting  
39 to propose an amendment of these bylaws shall include the proposed amendment,  
40 a description of its intended purpose, and shall be given no less than 30 days in  
41 advance of the meeting at which the vote will occur. Publication in the Section

1 newsletter, on the AALS's communication platform, or by e-mail to the Section  
2 membership shall constitute adequate notice. The amendment takes effect when  
3 it is approved by the Executive Committee of the AALS.  
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6 Adopted: December 23, 1992

7 Amended: January 4, 2001; January 5, 2002; January 8, 2011, January 4, 2022  
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