

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

Bylaws of the Section on  
Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues

**Article I. Name and Purpose**

Section 1. Name. This section shall be known as the Section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues.

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 on matters concerning the interests of gay and lesbian persons involved in legal education and on matters of interest in the teaching and improvement of the law relating to sexual orientation and gender identity issues.

**Article II. Membership**

Section 1. Membership.

(a) Membership in the section is open to a faculty member of a law school that is member of the Association of American Law Schools (hereinafter referred to as AALS) and to Canadian Associates.

(b) Associate membership is open to any other person who is concerned with the interests of gay and lesbian persons involved in legal education or with the teaching and improvement of the law relating to gay and lesbian issues.

Section 2. Privileges of Members.

(a) Regular members may vote in person at a section meeting.

(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 at each annual meeting of the Association, 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 or her successor has been elected and qualified.

Section 2. The Executive Committee.

(a) The Executive Committee of the section is the chairperson of the section, the chairperson-elect, and four other members elected annually.

(b) The Executive Committee shall act in the interval between annual meeting and may create standing and special committees.

**Article IV. Nomination and Elections**

Section 1. Nominations. The Nominating Committee for the subsequent year shall be appointed at or immediately following the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three members of the section and shall include at least one past chairperson of the section. The Nominating Committee shall receive and consider suggestions of persons to serve as officers and other executive committee members for the section and shall report a slate of nominees to the section for election at the business meeting of the section at the annual meeting of the AALS.

Section 2. Elections. The officers and other members of the executive committee of the section shall be elected at the annual meeting. Nominations shall be received from the Nominating Committee and from the floor. Elections may be by voice vote or secret ballot, as the chairperson determines.

**Article V. Duties of Officers**

Section 1. Chairperson. The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the section and of the executive committee. The chairperson 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 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. If the office of chairperson becomes vacant, the chairperson-elect shall succeed to the office of chairperson.

**Article VI. Policy Statements**

Section 1. Public Policy Statements. In accordance with AALS Executive Committee Regulations, the section may submit to the AALS Executive Committee recommendations that the Association take a stated position. Statements of policy adopted by the section may not otherwise be made public without the prior approval of the AALS Executive Committee.

Section 2. Communications Within Legal Education. In accordance with AALS Executive Committee Regulations, the section may communicate statements of position on matters affecting legal education to members of the section and deans and faculty of members and ABA-approved schools, with a disclaimer that the statement is that of the section and not the Association. The section may not communicate to a member school the section's views concerning the school's compliance with rules of membership in the AALS or concerning the quality or characteristics of the school's educational program or institutional policies.

### **Article III. Amendments**

Section 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of the section by majority vote of the regular members of the section present and voting. Such amendments take effect when approved by the Executive Committee of the AALS.