



## **BYLAWS OF THE SECTION ON LEGAL MASTER’S PROGRAMS**

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

Section 1. *Name.* Section on Legal Master’s Programs

Section 2. *Purpose.* The Section on Legal Master’s Programs of the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) is dedicated to fostering the professional development of educators, administrators, and practitioners engaged in graduate legal education. Recognizing the evolving landscape of the legal profession, the Section seeks to advance innovative and inclusive approaches to legal master’s programs that address the needs of diverse student populations, respond to emerging trends in legal practice, and expand opportunities to promote access to law.

Specifically, the Section aims to:

1. Facilitate the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and research to enhance the quality and relevance of legal master’s education.
2. Support the professional growth of faculty and administrators through workshops, symposia, and collaborative initiatives.
3. Promote the development of curricula and programs that prepare students for leadership roles in compliance, public service, business, health care, and other fields intersecting with the law.
4. Advocate for graduate law programs as vehicles to address access to justice by equipping professionals with the skills and knowledge to serve unmet legal needs.
5. Foster a collaborative network within the AALS community to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by technological advancements, regulatory changes, and shifts in the legal services market.

Through these efforts, the Section on Legal Master’s Programs seeks to advance the mission of the AALS by promoting excellence in legal education, cultivating inclusivity and innovation, and contributing to the broader accessibility of legal knowledge and services.

### **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. *Named Officers.*

- a. *Officers.* The named officers of this Section are the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary.
- b. *Duties.*
  - I. *Chair.* The Chair of the Section shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee. At each annual meeting of the AALS, the chair shall report on the section's activities during the prior year and is responsible for the programs of the section.
  - II. *Chair-Elect.* The Chair-Elect of the Section shall assist the chair, as the chair may request, shall perform the duties of the chair during the absence or disability of the chair, and shall be responsible for coordinating the voting process.
  - III. *Secretary.* The Secretary of the Section keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Section and Executive Committee, shall be responsible for the section's newsletter and assist the chair, as the chair may request.
- c. *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.
- d. *Election.* The Chair-Elect and Secretary shall be elected at the annual meeting of the AALS by the membership of the Section on Legal Master's Programs.
- e. *Term.* The officers named in paragraph (a) shall serve for a term of one year, provided, however that an officer shall serve until that officer's successor has been elected and qualified at the annual meeting of the AALS.



Section 2. *Executive Committee.*

- a. *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 fall below one or to exceed seven) who may be elected by the Section membership.
- b. *Duties.* The Executive Committee shall advise the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary and shall discharge other such functions as it may, from time to time, undertake upon majority vote.
- c. *Meetings.* The Executive Committee shall meet each year at the annual meeting of the AALS, and otherwise on call of the Chair.
- d. *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.
- e. *Election.* The Executive Committee shall be elected at the annual meeting of the AALS.
- f. *Term.* Executive Committee members shall serve for a term of one year, commencing at the conclusion of the annual meeting at which they are elected.
- g. *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 IV. Nominations 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. 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 to serve as Chair-elect until the next annual meeting of the AALS. If the position of Secretary 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. Income and Authorized Expenditures**

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.

Section 2. *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.* Every effort should be made to ensure diversity in Section programming presenters, and awards. Diversity is defined broadly to include ideological diversity, diversity in schools represented, diversity in faculty and administrative responsibilities, and diversity based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, gender (including identity and expression), sexual orientation, age, or disability.

The Section strives to welcome new members into the Section and provide professional development opportunities to junior scholars and administrators. As such, in addition to the diversity qualities listed above, the Section's programming at annual meeting will include first time AALS presenters.



### **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.