

**AALS Section on Animal Law
Section Bylaws**

Last Amended June 2018

ARTICLE I. NAME AND PURPOSE

Section I.1. Name.

This Section shall be known as the Section on Animal Law.

Section I.2. Purpose.

The purpose of this Section is to promote the communication of ideas, interests, and activities among members and to make recommendations to the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) on matters of interest in teaching and improvement of the law relating to animals.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section II.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 AALS.

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

Section II.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 nor hold office in the section.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMITTEES

Section III.1. Officers.

The officers of this Section shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect, and Immediate Past Chair. The Chair-Elect shall be elected at each annual meeting of the AALS, as appropriate, shall qualify by acceptance, and shall succeed to the office of Chair and then Immediate Past Chair at the close of subsequent annual meetings. An officer shall serve until a successor has been elected and qualified. A Chair, Chair-Elect, and Immediate Past Chair may serve for two consecutive terms upon the approval of the membership at the annual meeting and acceptance by the officers respectively.

Section III.2. Executive Committee

(a) The Executive Committee of the Section shall comprise no fewer than five persons and no more than eight persons.

(b) The Executive Committee shall include the Chair, Chair-Elect, Immediate Past Chair, and three to six other members. The Chair-Elect shall be elected annually. The other non-Chair Executive

Committee members shall serve three-year staggered terms, with at least one member elected annually.

(c) The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the Section in the interval between annual meetings.

Section III.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 necessary to comply with III.2(a) and (b).

(a) If the position of Chair becomes vacant, the Chair-Elect shall immediately assume the position of Chair and shall serve in this capacity for the remainder of the unexpired term as well as during his or her own full term as Chair.

(b) 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 Chair-Elect shall be elected.

(c) 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, may appoint a person to the position to serve until the next annual meeting of AALS. If the vacancy reduces the number of Executive Committee members (excluding the Chair and Chair-Elect) to fewer than three, then the Chair shall appoint a person to the position to serve until the next annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section IV.1. Nominations.

Annually, prior to September 15, the Chair shall appoint the 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 the election at the business meeting of the Section at the next annual meeting of the AALS.

Section IV.2. Elections

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

ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section V.1. Chair.

The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of its Executive Committee and is responsible for the programs of the Section. At each annual meeting of the AALS, the Chair shall report on the Section activities during the prior year. The Chair shall appoint the members of standing and special committees.

Section V.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 the absence or disability of the Chair.

ARTICLE VI. INCOME

Section VI.1. Purpose for Expenditures.

In addition to the purposes described in the AALS Executive Committee Regulation 12.6(d), Section dues and other Section income may be spent for a reception for Section members at an AALS annual meeting, workshop, or teaching conference, deficiency in a meal guarantee made to a hotel, section survey, section directory, enhanced newsletter, or award plaque.

Section VI.2. Authorization and Approval of Expenditures.

Before the activity is undertaken, the Section's Executive Committee must authorize the expenditure of dues or other income for the activity. The Section's Executive Committee must approve the expenditure at least six weeks prior to the activity for which the expenditure is authorized. The Chair shall notify the AALS National Office no later than one month before the activity is to occur. In approving payment of an expenditure, the Section Chair must determine that the particular expenditure is for the activity authorized by the Section's Executive Committee and is consistent with the Section's Bylaws and AALS policies.

ARTICLE VII. SECTION AWARD

Section VII.1 Title

The title of the award shall be "Excellence in Animal Law: Scholarship-Teaching-Service."

Section VII.2 Purpose

The purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding contributions of law teachers (full-time and adjunct) in teaching, scholarship, advocacy, and/or service on behalf of animals.

Section VII.3 Criteria

The criteria is intended to be very broad to recognize the many ways that law teachers, both full-time and adjunct, have an impact in seeking greater protections for animals through the law, including through scholarship, education of law students and the public at-large, pro bono litigation, legislative advocacy, leading or consulting on public initiatives, and other public or private projects. It can be local, regional, national, or international in scope.

Section VII.4 Nominations

(a) The Section may solicit nominations from the AALS communications platform announcement listserv as well as other places that may reach animal law professors. Anyone who has taught at an AALS accredited law school as a full-time or adjunct professor may submit a nomination by completing and submitting a nomination form to the Section Chair no later than September 30 each year.

(b) Eligible nominees are individuals who have taught at an AALS accredited law school as a full-time or adjunct law professor. Current Section Executive Committee members and past recipients of the award are not eligible for nomination. Law schools and any other institutions or organizations are not eligible to be nominated or receive an award.

Section VII.5 Selection

(a) The Selection Committee shall be comprised of the entire Section's Executive Committee except any member who has nominated another for the award and voluntarily recused himself/herself from the Selection Committee.

(b) Each member of the Selection Committee shall review all nominations. The Selection Committee shall meet via teleconference (or other means) and attempt to reach consensus on the award winner; a three-fourths vote of members in attendance at the meeting is required for selection of the winner. The Section may, but need not, give one award each year.

(c) Annually, before November 1, the Section shall notify AALS headquarters of the award winner and secure permission and approval from AALS to make the award.

Section VII.6 Recognition of Award Winner

The Section shall recognize the award winner during its Section Program at the AALS annual meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. POLICY STATEMENTS

Sections are components of the AALS. Thus, any statements of policy or positions adopted by a Section may be made public only after the AALS Executive Committee has formally adopted the policy statement or position.

ARTICLE IX. 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 approved by the AALS.