

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

Bylaws of the Section on

Law, Medicine and Health Care

**Article I. Name and Purpose**

Section 1. Name. This Section shall be known as the Section on Law, Medicine and Health Care.

Section 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 on matters concerning law, medicine and health care.

**Article II. Membership**

Section 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 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 in the subject area of the Section.

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, Executive and Other Committees**

Section 1. Officers. The officers of this Section are the chair, chair-elect, and the secretary. The secretary shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Association, shall qualify by acceptance and shall succeed to the office of chair-elect at the close of the next

annual meeting. The chair-elect shall succeed to the office of chair at the close of the next annual meeting. An officer shall serve until his successor has been elected and qualified.

Section 2. The Executive Committee.

- (a) The Executive Committee of the Section is the chair of the Section, chair-elect, the secretary and four other members elected annually. Of the four members of the Executive Committee who are not also Officers of the section, two shall be the immediate past Chairs of the Section, and two of whom shall be “at large” members. Each member of the Executive Committee who is not also an Officer of the Section shall serve until succeeded at the close of the annual meeting two years after that member’s term begins.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the Section in the interval between annual meetings.

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

#### **Article IV. Nominations and Elections**

Section 1. Nominations. At or immediately following the annual meeting, 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 solicit, receive and consider suggestions of persons to serve as secretary and “at large” members of the Executive Committee of the Section.

Section 2. Elections. The secretary and “at large” members of the Executive Committee of the Section shall be elected at the annual meeting. Nominations shall be received from the Nomination Committee and from the floor. Elections may be by voice vote or secret ballot, as the chair determines.

## **Article V. Duties of Officers**

Section 1. Chair. The chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of its Executive Committee. 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 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 absence or disability of the chair. The chair-elect shall be responsible for the program of the Section at each annual meeting of the AALS.

Section 3. Secretary. The secretary of the Section shall assist the chair and chair-elect, as the chair and chair-elect may request, and shall perform the duties of the chair-elect during absence or disability of the chair. The secretary shall produce and distribute an annual Section newsletter.

## **Article VI. Income**

Section 1. Authorized Expenditures of Section Dues and Other Section Income. In addition to the purposes described in Association Executive Committee Regulation 1.6(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, deficiency in a meal guarantee made to a hotel, Section survey, Section directory, or 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 chair must determine that the particular expenditure is for the activity authorized by the Executive Committee of the Section and is consistent with the Section's bylaws and Association policies. 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 Association's National Office no later than one month before the occurrence of the activity.

## **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 after the AALS Executive Committee has formally adopted the policy statement.

## **Article VIII. 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.

## **Article XI. Award**

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding contributions of law teachers in service in health law.

- (a) Specifically, the purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding community service activities. The community service could take a wide variety of forms, including: 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. Service may be performed from an elected, appointed, or volunteer or other unofficial position.
- (b) It is not the purpose of this award to recognize teaching or scholarship. Nor is it the purpose of this award to recognize service other than community service. Specifically, it is not the purpose of this award to recognize service primarily directed to the AALS, to academic institutions, or to academia.
- (c) This award is germane to the Section's and the Association's purposes, because the Bylaws of the Section define its purpose as promoting "the communication of ideas, interests and activities among members and to make recommendations to the Association on matters concerning law, medicine and health care."

Section 2. Announcement

- (a) The Section will announce the award and solicit nominations from the AALS communications platform announcement listserv.
- (b) The Section also will solicit nominations for the award widely in other places that will reach Section members, including: the Health Law Prof Blog, the Bill of Health Blog, and the ASLME listserv.

### Nominations

- (a) The Section will accept nominations only from qualified Section members.
- (b) Those nominating must include one or two paragraphs explaining why the nominee is deserving of the award.
- (c) Nominations will be accepted between June 15 and September 15, 2014.
- (d) Nominations will be submitted to the email of the Section Secretary who will compile and distribute them to the entire Section Executive Committee.
- (e) The Section will carry nominees from prior years and include them with current year's nominees.

## **Selection**

- (a) The Selection Committee for the nominee will be comprised of the entire 2015 Section Executive Committee.
- (b) Each member of the Selection Committee will review all nominations, and will attempt to reach consensus on the award winner. A three-fourths vote is sufficient.
- (c) Eligible award winners must be Section members.
- (d) Law schools and any other institutions or organizations cannot receive an award.
- (e) Both prior year and current year Section officers are excluded from being selected as an award winner.
- (f) The Section may, but need not, give an award every year.
- (g) Before November 1, 2014, the Section will write AALS to explain:
  - a. How many nominations were received
  - b. Who was on the awards selection committee
  - c. When nominations were reviewed
  - d. Why the award winner was selected
  - e. How the Section followed the award criteria and procedures in the selection of their award winner
  - f. The name and school of the award winner

## **Award**

- (h) The Section will not make an award without the prior permission and approval of AALS.
- (i) The Section will recognize the award winner during its Section Program.
- (j) The Section will announce the award widely in the same places from which it sought nominations, including: the Section listserv, the Health Law Prof Blog, the Bill of Health Blog, and the ASLME listserv.
- (k) The Section encourages AALS to issue a press release announcing the AALS Section award winners to both recognize outstanding law professors and to link the awards with the Section, to differentiate the Section awards from the more highly competitive AALS awards.

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