

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

Bylaws of the Section on Minority Groups

Article I. Name and Purpose

This Section of the Association of American Law Schools, created by the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools, shall carry forward the work of the Association by providing a common meeting ground as a means of effecting communication and collaborative action among law teachers and administrators interested in problems and programs relating to minority persons in the legal profession and also by formulating and submitting to the members of the Section, the Association, and other appropriate groups, such reports, recommendations and publications as may be deemed useful to effectuate specific policies and programs of the Section.

Article II. Membership

Section 1. Regular membership in the Section includes the right to participate in its activities, vote, and hold office. Regular membership is automatically open to all persons who belong to the faculties of AALS law schools.

Section 2. Associate membership in the Section includes the right to participate in all of its activities except voting or holding office. Associate membership is automatically open to the following:

- (a) Members of law faculties of non-member AALS law schools;
- (b) Lawyers and other persons whose general professional skills, knowledge, and abilities make appropriate their participation in the affairs of the Section;
- (c) Law Students with exceptional qualifications and interests in the work of the Section.

Section 3. Dues may be assessed from members of the Section when so determined by the Executive Committee of the Section.

Article III. Officers and Executive Committee

Section 1. The officers of this Section shall be the Chair, Chair Elect and Executive Committee

Section 2. In addition to the Chair and Chair-elect of the Section, there shall also be an Executive Committee consisting of the Chair and Chair-elect of the Section plus seven additional persons (one of whom shall be the immediate past chair of the section).

Section 3. The Chair shall be elected at the Annual Meeting in which these Bylaws are adopted for a term of one year beginning with the adjournment of the Annual Meeting of the AALS during which he or she is elected and ending with the adjournment of such Annual Meeting one year thereafter. The Chair Elect shall be elected for a term of one year beginning with the adjournment of the annual meeting of the AALS during which he or she is elected and ending with the adjournment of such Annual Meeting one year thereafter at which time, the Chair Elect shall become the Chair.

Section 4. One member of the Executive Committee shall be the immediate past chair of the section, who shall serve for one year immediately following his or her term as chair of the section.

Section 5. The remaining Six members of the Executive Committee shall be elected to annual terms. Upon election, each of these Six members of the Executive Committee shall serve for a term of one year beginning with the adjournment of the annual meeting of the AALS during which he or she is elected and ending with the adjournment of such annual meeting one year thereafter. The Chair Elect may select a slate of candidates for the Executive Committee, but Section members may nominate additional candidates from the floor. The six candidates receiving the most votes will be deemed elected.

Section 6. Any officer or other member of the Executive Committee may be removed for cause by a vote of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee at a special meeting which may be called by the Chair or any two members of the Executive Committee. Such vote shall be taken only after the person or persons to be removed have been notified of the reason for such removal and given opportunity to be heard.

Article IV. Duties of Officers and Executive Committee Members; Executive Committee Meetings

Section 1. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee. He or she shall formulate and present at each annual meeting of the Section a report of the work of the Section for the past year. He or she shall perform such other duties and acts as usually pertain to this office.

Section 2. The Chair Elect of the Sections shall assist the Chair, as the Chair may request, and shall perform the duties of the Chair during absence or disability of the Chair. If the office of the Chair becomes vacant, the Chair Elect shall succeed to the office of Chair.

Section 3. The Chair Elect of the Section shall keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Section and the Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as the Chair may request.

Section 4. The immediate past chair shall serve in the same manner as other members of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section subject to the provisions of these Bylaws. It shall especially authorize all commitments or contracts which shall entail the payment of money, and no monies appropriated for the use or benefit of the Section shall be expended without such authorization.

Section 6. The Executive Committee may authorize the Chair to appoint committees from Section members to perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Executive Committee may direct, subject to the limitations of these Bylaws.

Section 7. The Executive Committee during the interim between annual meetings of the Section, may fill vacancies in its own membership.

Section 8. A meeting of the Executive Committee may be held in conjunction with the AALS annual meeting. Each such meeting shall be held at such hour and at such place in the city or locality where such annual meeting is held as may be designated by the Chair. No formal notice of any such regular meeting need be given, but it shall be the duty of the Chair to make reasonably available to the members of the Executive Committee information as to the hour and place of such Executive Committee meetings.

Section 9. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by delivering notice thereof to each member of the Executive Committee within a reasonable time before such meeting. The notice shall include the time and place of the meeting and the objectives of the meeting. Meeting may be held in any form that permits all of the members of the Executive Committee to participate prior to a vote on any matter considered, including in person, via telephone, Internet, Listserv, e-mail or other means of communication.

Section 10. All binding action of the Executive Committee shall be by a majority vote of the whole Executive Committee. The term "majority vote of the whole Executive Committee," and the term "votes of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee," shall mean the votes of a majority of those persons then holding the position of voting member of the Executive Committee.

Section 11. Members of the Executive Committee when personally present at a meeting of the Executive Committee shall vote in person, but otherwise may communicate their vote to the Chair Elect in writing or by other recordable means (including via e-mail, fax or other means of delivering written communications) and

have it counted with the same effect as if cast personally at such meeting. Such communication may be made before, during or after such meeting.

Section 12. The Chair of the Section may, and upon request of any member of the Executive Committee shall, submit, or cause to be submitted to each of the members of the Executive Committee, any proposition upon which the Executive Committee may be authorized to act, and the members of the Executive committee may vote upon such proposition so submitted by communicating their vote thereon in writing over their respective signatures, to the Chair Elect, who shall record upon his or her minutes each proposition so submitted, when, how, at whose request same were submitted and the vote of each member of the Executive Committee, thereon, and keep on file such written and signed votes. If the votes of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee shall be in favor of such proposition, or if the majority shall be against such proposition, such majority vote shall constitute binding action of the Executive Committee.

Section 13. In lieu of the procedures outlined above, the Executive Committee may authorize the Chair to act on behalf of the Executive Committee and/or the Section with respect to matters which are subject to the general supervision and control of the Executive Committee.

Article V. Section Meetings

Section 1. The Section shall meet annually in connection with the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools and immediately preceding or during the period of such annual meeting. The program and order of business shall be arranged by the Chair of the Section.

Section 2. Note: Section meetings must be held at AALS Annual Meeting unless AALS Executive Committee approves different location.

Section 3. The members of the Section present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum of the transaction of business.

Section 4. Except as otherwise indicated in these Bylaws, all binding action of the Section shall be by a majority vote of the members present and voting.

Article VI. Amendments

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended, or new Bylaws may be adopted, at any annual or special meeting of the Section, by a majority vote of the members of the Section present and voting; provided, first, that such proposed amendment, or proposed new Bylaws, shall have first been approved by a majority of the Executive Committee; and provided, second, that no such amendment or new Bylaws shall be adopted at any special meeting of the Section unless the notice of such meeting shall have stated that the

object, or one of the objects, of such meeting will be the amendment of the Bylaws of the Section or the adoption of new Bylaws for the Section as the case may be.

Section 2. 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 Associations 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. Awards

Section 1. The Clyde Ferguson Award.

1. The Minority Groups Section of the Association of American Law Schools hereby establishes the Clyde Ferguson Award, named in honor of the second tenured African American on the Harvard Law School faculty. The Award may be granted by the Minority Groups Section to an outstanding law teacher, who, in the course of his or her career, has achieved excellence in the areas of public service, teaching, and scholarship. The Award is particularly aimed at law teachers who have provided support, encouragement and mentoring to colleagues, students and aspiring legal educators.
2. All current and former professional legal educators are eligible for the Award, including administrators, librarians, clinical faculty, legal writing teachers, and tenure track and tenured faculty, as long as they served more than seven years at the time of the Award. However, no serving member of the Executive Committee is eligible to receive the Award.
3. Nominations may be made at any time to the Chair of the Section. Each year, the Chair should announce the existence of the Award and solicit nominations widely through e-mail listserves, the Section newsletter, and by other means in the discretion of the Chair. Nominations should be made in written form, describing why the nominee should be considered for the Award. Where

possible, the nomination should include the nominee's CV or other similar information

4. The Chair shall call a meeting of the Executive Committee to consider the nominees in advance of the Annual Meeting of the AALS. All nominations which were received after the Executive Committee last met to consider the Award shall be considered at the meeting. Copies of materials submitted in support of the nomination shall be distributed to the members of the executive committee in advance of the meeting.
5. The recipient shall be selected by consensus of the Executive Committee after discussion, or, if no consensus is reached, by majority vote of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may vote not to grant the Award in any given year. The Executive Committee may vote to delegate initial consideration of nominees to a subcommittee, which may make a recommendation to the full committee, but no Award shall be made without approval of the full committee.
6. The Award shall ordinarily be presented at the Minority Groups Section Luncheon at the Annual Meeting of the AALS.

Section 2. The Derrick Bell Award.

1. The Minority Groups Section of the Association of American Law Schools hereby establishes the Derrick A. Bell, Jr. Award, named in honor of Derrick A. Bell, Jr. of New York University Law School, the first tenured African-American on the Harvard Law School faculty. The award honors a junior faculty member who, through activism, mentoring, collegueship, teaching or scholarship, has made an extraordinary contribution to legal education, the legal system, or social justice.
2. All current professional legal educators are eligible for the Award, including administrators, librarians, clinical faculty, legal writing teachers, and tenure track faculty, so long as they have not received tenure, and have served for seven years or less, at the time of the Award. However, no serving member of the Executive Committee is eligible to receive the Award.
3. Nominations may be made at any time to the Chair of the Section. Each year, the Chair should announce the existence of the Award and solicit nominations widely through e-mail listserves, the Section newsletter, and by other means in the discretion of the Chair. Nominations should be made in written form, describing why the nominee should be considered for the Award. Where possible, the nomination should include the nominee's CV or other similar information.

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