

# ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

## (PROPOSED) BYLAWS OF THE SECTION ON LAW PROFESSORS WITH DISABILITIES AND ALLIES

### Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 1. *Name.* This Section will be known as the *Section on Law Professors With Disabilities and Allies*.

Section 2. *Purpose.* The purpose of this Section is to provide a forum for the discussion of matters of common concern to law professors with disabilities and their allies, to put on programming related to the same, and to provide a forum for the recognition and celebration of the accomplishments of law professors with disabilities.

### 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.

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. The Chair shall be responsible for the program of the section at the annual meeting, and for such other duties as the Chair shall elect to undertake.

II. *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 as needed. If the office

of the Chair becomes vacant, the Chair-Elect shall succeed to the office of Chair.

III. *Secretary.* The Secretary of the Section shall be responsible for the Section newsletter, and shall also 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, or in advance of the meeting by electronic vote.
- 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 or by electronic vote.

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 or by electronic vote prior to the meeting.
- 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. 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 V. Income and Authorized Expenditures**

Any section income may be spent in accordance with applicable AALS and Section policies, regulations and bylaws. The Chair shall confirm that each expenditure is permitted by AALS and Section policy and shall ensure that the Section's Executive Committee complies with any applicable AALS policy requiring notification of AALS in advance of an expenditure.

#### **Article VI. Policy Statements**

Because Sections are part of the AALS structure, statements of policy or similar positions adopted by the Section shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the AALS for approval prior to publication.

#### **Article VII. Award**

Section 1. *Establishment of Award.* The Section on Law Professors with Disabilities and Allies hereby establishes the Chai Fedlblum award, named in honor of Chai Feldblum, a disabled law professor and disability rights advocate.

Section 2. *Award Criteria.* The Award may be awarded by the Section to an individual who fulfills any one of the three following criteria:

a. An individual who has, through leadership, mentoring, advocacy, scholarly or other work made substantial contributions to the inclusion of people with disabilities in the legal profession, legal academia, or at their own institution; or, who has made significant contributions to the creation of a welcoming environment for people with disabilities, increasing the availability of access or accommodations, or otherwise contributed to the standing of people with disabilities in the legal profession, legal academia, or at their own institution.

b. A junior faculty member and Section member whose scholarly, teaching, clinical or service work shows exceptional promise (this work need not be related specifically to disability issues).

c. A senior faculty member and Section member whose scholarly, teaching, clinical or service work has made exceptional contributions to the profession (this work need not be related specifically to disability issues).

Section 3. *Eligibility.* 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. However, the serving Chair shall not be eligible for the Award, and any other serving member of the Section Leadership must recuse from the Award Selection process if they are nominated.

Section 4. *Nominations.* 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 through e-mail listservs, 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, and self-nominations are permissible. The nomination should include the nominee's CV or other similar information.

Section 5. *Selection.* 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 all materials submitted in support of the nomination shall be distributed to members of the executive committee in advance of the meeting. The Executive Committee may choose to select a single recipient of the award, or, if it has strong candidates from more than one category, may select up to one awardee from each category set out in Section 2. The recipient(s) 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.

Section 6. *Presentation.* The Award shall ordinarily be presented at the Annual Meeting of the AALS, at Section programming.

## **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.