THE BYLAWS OF THE JUDICIAL SECTION OF THE VIRGINIA BAR ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I
Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name. This section shall be known as the Judicial Section of The Virginia Bar Association.

Section 2. Purposes. The purposes of the Section shall be:

1. to improve the administration of justice;
2. to promote dialogue and collaboration among Virginia state and federal judges;
3. to foster public education about the judicial system and matters of concern to the judiciary;
4. to provide a forum for the study of appropriate legal issues with the state and federal legislative and executive branches of government and the community at-large; and
5. to provide a forum for the discussion of matters of concern to judges.

ARTICLE II
Membership

Section 1. Eligibility. Any member in good standing of the Association who is also an active or retired Virginia state or federal judge shall be eligible for membership in the Section.

Section 2. Admission to Membership. Admission to membership shall be by application and by payment of the Section dues.

Section 3. Quorum for Meeting of Membership. Those members present at meetings duly called as provided for in these bylaws shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE III
Officers

Section 1. Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The initial Chairman and any Vice-Chairman of the Section shall be appointed by the President of the Association for a one year term. Thereafter, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Section shall be elected by the Council of the Section at a meeting to be held in conjunction with the Winter Meeting of the Association. The Chairman of the Section shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of any three or more members of the Council for the purpose of making nominations for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Chairman shall perform the duties and have the responsibilities of the Chief Executive Officer of the Section. The Chairman shall preside at meetings of the Council and at meetings of the Section. The Chairman shall have such other and further duties as the Section, from time to time, may provide. The Vice-Chairman shall assume the duties of the Chairman in the absence of the chairman and shall have such other and further duties as the Chairman or the Section, from time to time, may provide.
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Section 2. Secretary. The Council may elect a Secretary who shall, in consultation with the Executive Director of the Association, maintain the rolls and records of the Section and shall have the further responsibility of preparing and maintaining such other records and reports of the Section as may become necessary. The Secretary shall have such other duties as the Chairman of the Council, from time to time, may provide.

Section 3. Term. Officers of the Section shall serve a one-year term, which shall coincide with the terms of office of the officers of the Association. Officers shall be eligible for reelection to one additional term.

ARTICLE IV
Council

Section 1. Composition. The Section shall have a council representative of the state and federal judiciary in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The council shall be composed of a Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia; a Judge of the Virginia Court of Appeals; one Virginia Circuit Court Judge, General District Court Judge or Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court Judge for each of the Judicial Regions established by the Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia; and a retired State Court Judge. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected from the membership of the Council.

Section 2. Nomination and Election. The initial Council of the Section shall be designated by the Executive Committee of the Association to serve staggered terms of one, two and three years as appropriate. Thereafter, new members shall be elected by the Section's membership annually at a meeting held in conjunction with the Winter Meeting of the Association. The Chairman of the Section shall, preceding each annual meeting, appoint a nominating committee of three members of the Section who will prepare a report to the annual meeting containing nominations for members of the Council. Except for those initial Council members designated by the Executive Committee of the Association (who will serve for the terms specified by their designation), Council members will serve staggered three-year terms, with members being replaced each year. The nominating committee shall also make nominations to fill any vacancies which may occur on the Council prior to the expiration of any member's term. The Council shall elect members to fill such an unexpired term either by written unanimous consent or by simple majority of those members attending and voting at a meeting of the Council. The Chairman shall entertain nominations from the floor in accordance with procedure to be specified by the Council. Those nominees receiving a simple majority vote of those members attending and voting at the annual meeting shall be elected.

Section 3. Powers. The Council shall be the governing body of the Section.

Section 4. Regular Meetings. The Council shall hold an annual meeting in conjunction with the Winter Meeting of the Association and other meetings as called by the Chairman.
Section 5. Quorum. Members of the Council in attendance at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.

Section 6. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Council shall be held at any time at the call of the Section Chairman, any three members of the Council, or the President or the Executive Committee of the Association.

Section 7. Notice of Meetings. All meetings of the Council, except the initial meeting after the organizational meeting of Section members, shall be upon not less than three days’ notice by mail, overnight mail service or by fax.

ARTICLE V
Committees

Section 1. Standing Committee. The Council may designate such standing committees as it may deem appropriate.

Section 2. Special Committees. The Chairman or the Council may appoint special committees as either may deem appropriate.

Section 3. Jurisdiction. The Council shall establish the jurisdiction of the Section committees and shall resolve any disputes among its committees. The Executive Committee of the Association shall resolve any disputes concerning the jurisdiction of the various Sections and Committees of the Association.

ARTICLE VI
Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1. Annual Meeting of the Section. The Section shall have at least one meeting annually for the entire membership of the Section, to be held in conjunction with the Association’s Winter Meeting. The Section may have such other meetings of the entire Section as the Council or Chairman may deem necessary.

Section 2. Amendments. Any amendments or additions to these by-laws shall be upon the approval of the Executive Committee of the Association and a majority of the members of the Section present and voting at the annual meeting.

Section 3. Publications. The Section may produce and distribute a newsletter or other publications in furtherance of its objectives. Any such publications shall be produced in consultation with the President and administrative personnel of the Association.

Section 4. Section Conferences. The Section may sponsor, no more frequently than annually, a conference or seminar on the Judiciary or a subject of interest to the Judiciary. Such conferences shall be conducted in consultation with the administrative personnel of the Association.
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Section 5. Budget. The Section shall submit its budget to the Executive Director of the Association each year on or before November 1, for presentation to the Executive Committee of the Association as part of the Association’s budget.

Section 6. Relationship to Attorney Members of the Bar. Attorney members of the bar will have access to all public functions of the Section, including continuing legal education seminars. The Chairman of the Section will decide if any activity or function of the Section is “public” or alternatively a matter for “executive session” (wherein only members of the Judicial Section may attend).

Section 7. Dues. Annual dues shall be an amount approved by the Executive Committee upon recommendation by the Council, not to be less than $10.00 nor more than $30.00 per person.

Section 8. Reports. The Section will submit an annual report to the Executive Committee and the President of the Association. The Section shall submit such other reports as may be requested by the Executive Committee or the President of the Association.

Section 9. Expenditures of Funds. Except as otherwise provided herein or directed by the Executive Committee of the Association, the Section may expend the funds it collects through the payment of dues in the manner that it sees fit. However, the Section is not empowered to spend funds in excess of those actually on hand, nor may it obligate the Association in any financial matter.

Section 10. Authentication. These by-laws were approved by the Executive Committee of The Virginia Bar Association on January 21, 1995, for initial adoption. Amendments to these by-laws were approved by the Executive Committee of The Virginia Bar Association on October 19, 2007, and adopted by the membership of the Section on January 18, 2008.