

# ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

## Bylaws of the Section on Critical Theories

### **Article I. Name and Purpose**

Section 1. Name. This section shall be known as the Section on Critical Theories

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to protect and advance the scholarly production and innovative teaching of critical theory despite mounting attacks against the critical schools of legal knowledge. Specifically, the interrelated goals of the section are to: (1) expand community building, networks, and mutual aid among law faculty members who participate in the production, expression, dissemination, and application of critical knowledge; while combatting censorship, intimidation, or retaliation that target critical voices, and (2) to support and expand teaching, learning, research, scholarship, pedagogy, advocacy, and activism grounded in critical knowledge, which includes making critical knowledge more practical, accessible, and actionable in efforts to strengthen democratic decision making, particularly in the academy and on campuses.

### **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 America Law Schools (AALS).
- (b) Associate membership is open to any other person who is concerned with the subject area of the section.

Section 2. Privileges of Members.

- (a) Regular members may serve as officers of the section, executive committee members, 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 executive committee. The chair shall be elected at the AALS 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 the chair 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 the chair-elect 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 2. The Executive Committee.

- (a) The Executive Committee of the section shall consist of the chair, chair-elect, immediate past chair (for one year), and no fewer than five or more than ten other members elected annually.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the section in the interval between annual meetings and may create standing and special committees.
- (c) Executive Committee members, other than the chair, chair-elect, and immediate past chair, shall be elected to serve for a term of three years. Officers shall continue to serve on the Executive Committee until they have fulfilled their term as immediate past chair. Past section chairs may be reelected to the Executive Committee three years after their term as immediate past chair has expired.

Section 3. Filling Vacancies. If an officer or other member of the Executive Committee resigns or otherwise becomes ineligible or unavailable to serve, the position shall be promptly filled. 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 a majority of the other members of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a person to serve as chair-elect until an election can be held. If a position on the Executive Committee becomes vacant, the chair, with the advice and consent of a majority of the other members of the Executive Committee, may appoint a person to the position to serve until the next annual meeting of the AALS.

#### **Article IV. Nomination and Elections**

Section 1. Nominations. When there are vacancies on the Executive Committee, the chair shall appoint a Nomination Committee. The Nomination Committee shall consist of at least three members of the Executive Committee. The chair-elect shall serve as the chair of the Nomination Committee. Members of the Executive Committee seeking reelection may not serve on the Nomination Committee. The Nomination Committee shall receive and consider suggestions of persons to serve as members of the Executive Committee and shall report a slate of nominees to the section for election at the business meeting of the section at the next annual meeting of the AALS.

Section 2. Elections. Members of the Executive Committee of the section shall be elected at the annual meeting; by mail, including electronic mail, prior to the annual meeting; through other electronic means; or by in-person ballot vote at the business meeting of the section—as determined by the chair.

#### **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 and is responsible for the program of the section. 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 serve as chair of the section's Nomination Committee and have primary responsibility for maintaining the section webpage on the AALS website.

#### **Article VI. Section Meetings**

Section 1. The section shall meet annually in connection with the annual meeting of the AALS. The program and order of business shall be arranged by the chair in consultation with the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The members of the section present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum of the transaction of business.

Section 3. 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 at the meeting.

#### **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, 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. Any amendment or new Bylaws take effect when approved by the AALS under applicable procedures, or immediately if no such approval is required.