

# ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

## Bylaws of the AALS Section on Poverty Law

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

Section 1. Name. This section shall be known as the *Section on Poverty Law*.

Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to promote the communication of ideas, interests, and activities among members of the section and to make recommendations to the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) on matters concerning laws affecting the poor, particularly public benefit programs and related health, welfare, social services, housing, food, family and consumer issues, as well as the systemic and structural factors contributing to poverty.

### **Article II. Membership**

Section 1. Membership. Membership in the section is open to a faculty member or professional staff of a law school that is a member of the AALS. Associate membership is open to any other person who is concerned with the teaching, administration and improvement of legal education relating to poverty law. The number of Associate Members may not exceed 25 percent of the regular membership.

Section 2. Privileges of Member. Associate members may participate in the programs, meetings, and activities of the section but may not hold office in the section.

### **Article III. Officers and Executive Committee**

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the section are the Chairperson and the Chairperson-elect. The Chairperson-elect shall be elected by written ballot distributed to the membership no later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting of the section, subject to the authority of the Chairperson in Section 3 of this Article. They shall qualify by acceptance and shall succeed to the office of Chairperson at the close of the next annual meeting of the section. An officer shall serve until their successor has been elected and qualified.

Section 2. The Executive Committee. The Executive Committee of the section consists of the Chairperson, Chairperson-elect, the immediate past Chairperson, and no less than three (3) but no more than twelve (12) members serving two-year terms. Once elected, a member may renew their term with the consent of the majority of the Executive Committee. Any remaining vacancies will be filled by a written or electronic ballot of the members as provided in Section I and Article IV. The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the section in the interval between annual meetings and may create standing and special committees.

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 Chairperson becomes vacant, the Chairperson-elect becomes the chairperson. If the position of Chairperson-elect becomes vacant, the Chairperson, with the advice and counsel of the other members of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a person to serve as Chairperson-elect until the next annual meeting of the AALS at which time both a Chairperson and a Chairperson-elect shall be elected. If the position of a member of the Executive Committee becomes vacant, the Chairperson with the advice and consent of the other members of the Executive Committee, shall appoint the person to the position to serve until the next annual meeting of the AALS. The Chair may, in their discretion, hold the annual meeting of the section and corresponding election of members of the Executive Committee, after the annual meeting of the AALS in order to ensure inclusion of a wider pool of faculty candidates.

Section 4. Other Committees. The Executive Committee may create additional standing or special Committees as necessary to perform the work of the Section.

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

Section 1. Nominations. At or immediately following the annual meeting of the section, the chairperson shall appoint the Nominating Committee for the subsequent year. The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three members of the section. The Nominating Committee shall receive and consider suggestions of persons to serve as officers and members of the Executive Committee of the section and shall report a slate of nominees to the section for election through written ballot before the next annual meeting, as provided in these Articles.

Section 2. Elections. The officers and other members of the Executive Committee of the section shall be elected at the annual meeting of the section by written ballot prior to the annual meeting or by email ballot sent to all section members as soon as practicable after the annual meeting of the AALS. Any person who wishes to nominate someone other than the Nominating Committee slate shall send their name to the Nominating Committee Chair no later than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting of the section. The results of the election shall be tabulated and announced at the annual meeting of the section when officers and Executive Committee shall assume their positions.

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

Section 1. Chairperson. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the section and of its Executive Committee. At each annual meeting of the AALS, the chairperson shall report on the section activities during the prior year. The chairperson shall appoint the members of standing and special committees.

Section 2. Chairperson-Elect. The Chairperson-elect of the section shall assist the Chairperson, as the Chairperson may request, and shall perform the duties of the Chairperson during absence or disability of the Chairperson. They are responsible for the program of the section at the annual meeting of AALS and to coordinate the voting process.

Section 3. Authorized Expenditures of Section Dues and Other Section Income. In addition to the purposes described in Association Executive Committee Regulation 12.6 (d), section dues and other section income may be spent for a reception for section members at the annual meeting of the AALS, workshop or teaching conference, any deficiency in a meal guarantee, section survey, section directory, and 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 Chairperson must determine that the particular expenditure was for the activity authorized by the Executive Committee of the section and is consistent with the section's bylaws and the AALS policies. The Chairperson shall notify the AALS one month before the activity of the Section's Executive Committee decision to authorize the expenditure.

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

Because sections are part of the AALS, statements of policy adopted by a section, or similar positions may be made public only after they are approved by the Executive Committee of the AALS.

#### **Article VII. 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 or by email ballot sent to all section members at any time. The amendment takes effect when it is approved by the AALS.