

# ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS

## Bylaws of the Section on East Asian Law and Society (As amended Jan. 5, 2024)

### Article I. Name and Purpose

- Section 1. Name. This Section shall be known as the Section on East Asian Law and Society.
- Section 2. Purpose. The purpose of this Section is to promote learning about East Asian law and society, particularly in a comparative context; to collaborate with other Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Sections on matters of common interest related to globalization and legal education; and to facilitate the communication of ideas, interests and activities among members concerning legal systems in East Asia.

### Article II. Membership

- Section 1. Membership.
- (a) Membership in the Section is open to all faculty members and professional staff of a law school that is a member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS).
  - (b) Associate membership is open to any other person who is concerned with the teaching, administration, and improvement of legal education in the subject area of the Section.
- Section 2. Privileges of Members.
- (a) Regular members may be officers of the Section 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 the secretary. The secretary shall be elected annually, shall qualify by acceptance and shall succeed to the office of chair-elect at the close of the next annual meeting. The chair-elect shall succeed to the office of chair at the close of the next annual meeting. An officer shall serve until their successor has been elected and qualified.

**Section 2. The Executive Committee**

- (a) The Executive Committee of the Section will consist of an elected chair, chair-elect, secretary, and a minimum of five and no more than seven other members. Of the five members of the Executive Committee who are not also Section officers, one will be the immediate past chair, and four will be “at large” members. Each Executive Committee member who is not also an officer will serve for a two year period.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the Section in the interval between annual meetings.

**Section 3. Filling Vacancies.** If an officer or other Executive Committee member, resigns, becomes ineligible to serve, or dies, the position shall be promptly filled through the process described herein. If the position of chair becomes vacant, the chair-elect will automatically become the chair. If the position of chair-elect becomes vacant, the secretary will automatically become the chair-elect. If the position of secretary 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 secretary until the next annual election, at which time both a chair-elect and a secretary shall be elected. If the position of a member of the Executive Committee 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 the position to serve until the next annual meeting of the AALS.

**Article IV. Nominations and Elections**

**Section 1. Nominations.** At or immediately prior and following the annual meeting of the Section, which shall be held each year at the AALS annual meeting, the chair shall appoint the Nominating Committee for the subsequent year. The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three members of the Section and shall include at least one past Section chair. The Nominating Committee shall solicit, receive and consider suggestions of persons to serve as secretary and “at large” members of the Executive Committee of the Section.

**Section 2. Elections.** The secretary and “at large” members of the Executive Committee of the Section shall be elected annually, either at the annual meeting or via a virtual meeting or online election. Nominations shall be received from the Nominating Committee, from the floor during the annual meeting, or via solicitation or self-nomination. Elections shall be by voice vote at the meeting, unless the chair otherwise determines, or cast electronically in the event of electronic election.

## 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. The chair shall appoint the members of standing and special committees.
- Section 2. Chair-Elect. The chair-elect 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 and the chair shall be responsible for the program of the Section at each annual meeting of the AALS.
- Section 3. Secretary. The secretary of the Section shall assist the chair and chair-elect, as the chair and chair-elect may request, and shall perform the duties of the chair-elect during absence or disability of the chair. The secretary shall arrange for the production and distribute one Section newsletter annually.

## Article VI. Cohen Lifetime Achievement Award

- Section 1. Purpose and Criteria. The purpose of the AALS Section on East Asian Law & Society Jerome A. Cohen Lifetime Achievement Award is to honor an individual who has had a distinguished career of teaching, service, and scholarship for at least 20 years, including at least 5 years as a faculty member at an AALS member institution, in the field of East Asian Law & Society. The recipient should be someone who has impacted the legal community, the academy, and the issues that affect the field through mentoring, writing, speaking, activism, and by providing opportunities to others in the field.
- Section 2. Frequency. The award shall be made from time to time as the Executive Committee of the Section determines. The award may be given at most annually, but it need not be given on an annual basis.
- Section 3. Selection Process.
- (a) The chair of the Section shall seek nominations from the Section through the AALS Communication Platform, and may also use other appropriate venues, including other electronic means. Only individuals currently registered as Section members may make nominations. Only Section members and other individuals are eligible for the award, *i.e.* law schools, institutions or organizations are not eligible. The timing of the announcement and deadline for nominations shall be determined by the officers on an annual basis.
  - (b) Once the deadline for nominations has passed, the officers shall confer and review the nominations. They shall then send their recommendation to the Executive Committee, along with a list of all the nominations. The officers may

also send a recommendation that the award not be awarded that year, along with the list of all the nominations.

- (c) The Executive Committee shall discuss the nominees by e-mail or a meeting, as the chair shall arrange, and then vote whether to approve the officers' recommendation. A 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee is required to approve the granting of the award. If the recommended individual fails to obtain a 2/3 vote, the officers shall decide whether to recommend another individual (in which case the process with the Executive Committee starts anew) or not grant the award that year.
- (d) After voting, the chair shall inform the AALS Managing Director to verify that the award criteria and procedures were followed and to provide the name and affiliation of the recipient. Notification shall occur by November 15 of the year immediately preceding the AALS Annual Meeting at which the award will be given.

Section 4. Announcement and Ceremony. The chair shall advise the recipient after notifying the AALS that the Section has followed its approved award criteria and procedures and encourage their attending an award ceremony at the next annual meeting, either in person or virtually. The chair shall then announce the recipient of the Award to Section members. The award will be presented at the Section's annual meeting program session. The Selection Committee may also decide to purchase a plaque for the recipient. The cost of the plaque shall not exceed the price cap placed on awards by the AALS Executive Committee.

#### **Article VII. Income**

Section 1. Authorized Expenditures of Section Dues and Other Section Income. Section dues and other Section income, if any, may be spent in accordance with the 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 Executive Committee complies with any applicable AALS policy requiring notification of the AALS in advance of an expenditure.

#### **Article VIII. 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 IX. Amendments**

Section 1. 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 via electronic voting. The amendment takes effect when it is approved by the AALS.

Last Amended Jan. 5, 2024 in Washington D.C.