

## **BY-LAWS**

### **WATER LAW SECTION**

#### **COLORADO BAR ASSOCIATION**

The Water Law Section of the Colorado Bar Association is comprised of Association members committed to improved education about and use of the water resources of the state by the influence that may be exerted by the legal profession. The goals of the Section include helping to coordinate the work of attorneys, legislators, public water officials, water engineers and geologists, water right owners and users, and those interested in using water for recreational and environmental purposes, to promote the optimum use of Colorado's limited water supplies. The Section will work to accomplish these goals and to provide educational opportunities for Section members and others so that they can be well informed and prepared for the practice of water law. The Section will be committed to practices consistent with fulfilling the CBA's Mission, Values, and Vision Statements as articulated in Appendix A of the CBA Bylaws. These practices may include, but are not limited to, assigning council composition, creating working groups/committees, planning speaking events and identifying speakers.

#### **I. MEMBERSHIP IN SECTION**

- 1.** Persons who are Attorney members of the Colorado Bar Association may be members of the Section upon payment of Section dues.
- 2.** Persons who are Associate or Patron members of the Colorado Bar Association may be associate or patron members of the Section upon payment of Section dues. Associate and Patron members shall not be entitled to hold office or vote in Section elections.
- 3.** Persons who are Student members of the Colorado Bar Association may be student members of the Section. Student members will not be assessed Section dues, and the Executive Council will consider reducing fees for participation by Student members in events sponsored by the Section. Student members shall not be entitled to hold office or vote in Section elections.
- 4.** When considering the composition of Section leadership on the Council, the Appointing Committee shall consider recognized diversity criteria, including (i) ethnicity, (ii) age, (iii) gender, (iv) sexual orientation, (v) area of practice, (vi) firm size, (vii) years in practice, and (viii) geographic location. The Appointing Committee should strive for a Council that is diverse in as many of these areas as possible, consistent with the size of the Council and its substantive objectives.

#### **II. SECTION GOVERNANCE**

- 1.** The governing body of the Section is the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall consist of eleven (11) Section members, including four (4) Officers and seven (7) members-at-large ("Members-at-Large"). The Section Officers shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary-Treasurer, and the Chair Emeritus. Commencing with the 2018 elections, it shall be an aspiration to have at least one (1) Officer and at least one (1) Member-at-Large whose law offices are located in any of Water Divisions No. 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7. No person can simultaneously hold an Officer and a Member-at-Large position.
- 2.** There is no limit to the number of terms a member may serve as an Officer or as a Member-at-Large of the Executive Council.

3. The duties of the Officers shall include:
  - A. Supervising Section financial matters;
  - B. Representing the Section on policy matters and legislative matters;
  - C. Undertaking short-range and long-range planning for all areas of concern to the Section;
  - D. Overseeing the selection of Officers and Members-at-Large, the annual elections, and records of terms of office, as provided for in these By-Laws;
  - E. Providing periodic notice of topical news and events and/or maintenance of a web-site for all Section members;
  - F. Facilitating CLE programs for the Section members and others as appropriate; and
  - G. Completing all other tasks necessary to conduct the business of the Section.
4. The duties of the Executive Council include annual planning for the Section, approval of filing of amicus briefs, approval of Section positions regarding proposed legislation, and all other matters referred to the Executive Council by the Officers.

### III. MEETINGS

1. Regular Meetings. Regular meetings of the Executive Council shall occur at least six (6) times each year. The Chair shall schedule meetings of the Officers, if any. Notice of at least seven (7) days will be provided to the Officers and Members-at-Large verbally or in writing when possible. The Chair may provide an agenda before the meetings along with any materials necessary to assist the Officers and/or Members-at-Large in making informed decisions. The agenda will clearly identify what items will be submitted to a vote by the Officers and/or Executive Council.
2. Quorum. A quorum for transacting business of the Officers shall consist of two (2) Officers. A quorum for transacting business of the Executive Council shall consist of five (5) members, including at least one (1) Officer.
3. Approval. Ordinary business of the Officers and/or the Executive Council shall be approved by a majority vote by those present, either in person or present by telephonic means.
4. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Officers or the Executive Council may be convened at the request of any Officer or three (3) Members-at-Large. Reasonable notice of at least seven (7) days will be provided to the Officers or the Executive Council verbally or in writing when possible, but at least one (1) day's notice shall be required. Notice shall include the agenda and materials for any matters to be submitted to a vote of the Officers and/or the Executive Council.
5. Attendance. Any member of the Executive Council may attend meetings in person, by phone conference or other electronic means. The Section will provide a dial-in number for persons wishing to participate by telephone conference and the Section will pay the cost for the conference call.

### IV. TERM OF OFFICE

The term of each Officer shall be for one (1) year, subject to Section V.2. The terms of the Members-at-Large shall be for three (3) years. Each term of office runs from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

## **V. ELECTIONS**

1. The Officers shall solicit applications from the Section's members for the Member-at-Large positions and Officers positions by March 15<sup>th</sup> annually. Section members wishing to serve may volunteer themselves. Ballots that include all candidates for Member-at-Large and Officers positions shall be provided to the Section's membership by April 1<sup>st</sup> annually. Voting shall close on the May 15<sup>th</sup> annually. Elections shall be by mail, email, electronic ballot or other appropriate means as determined by the Officers. The candidate with the most votes for each open Officer position shall be elected. For the Members-at-Large, the candidates with the most votes shall be elected for the open positions. The results of the elections shall be May 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. Beginning with the 2019 elections, there shall be a four (4) year Officer track. Officers will automatically matriculate from the Secretary/Treasurer position in year 1, to the Vice-Chair in year 2, to the Chair position in year 3 and to the Chair Emeritus position in year 4 without further election. There shall be an election for the Secretary/Treasurer position annually. For the 2018 elections, there shall be elections for all Officers, except the Chair Emeritus.
3. If member of the Executive Council runs for a different open position during his/her term, but is not elected to the different position, then such Member-at-Large or Officer shall retain his/her current position for the remainder of the term.
4. When selecting its officers and at large members, the Section will be committed to practices consistent with fulfilling the CBA's Mission, Values, and Vision Statements as articulated in Appendix A of the CBA Bylaws.

## **VI. COMMITTEES**

The Chair may from time to time establish such committees to advance the goals and duties of the Section. Committees can be comprised of the Section's members, the Executive Council and/or the Officers. The Chair shall appoint the Committee Chairs. At least one (1) member of any committee shall be a member of the Executive Council. Subject to these bylaws and the bylaws of the CBA, the Council may authorize the Chair to appoint one or more committees from among the Section's members to perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Council may direct. The Chair will be committed to practices consistent with fulfilling the CBA's Mission, Values, and Vision Statements as articulated in Appendix A of the CBA Bylaws.

## **VII. SECTION REPRESENTATIVES**

1. The Section must have a CBA Board of Governors Representative.
2. The Section must have a Communications Representative. The duties of the Communications Representative include helping recruit new Section members.
3. The Section must have a Legislative Liaison. The duties of the Legislative Liaison include correspondence with the CBA's Lobbyists during the legislative sessions.

4. The CBA Board of Governors, Communications and Legislative Representatives must be held by a member of the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall appoint the CBA Board of Governors, Communications and Legislative Representatives.

**VIII. DUES**

The dues of the Section shall be as determined by the Executive Council.

**IX. VACANCIES**

The Officers may declare an Officer or Member-at-Large position vacant if the office holder has three or more unexcused absences from scheduled meetings. Any vacancy in any Member-at-Large or Officer position may be filled by vote of the Executive Council for the remainder of the term only. If possible, any vacancy in an Officer position shall be filled by a member of the Executive Council.

**X. AMENDMENTS**

The Section members may amend these By-Laws by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those voting. The Executive Council may amend these By-Laws by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those voting.

I, the undersigned Chair of the Colorado Bar Association Water Law Section, hereby certify that the foregoing Bylaws constitute the Bylaws of the Colorado Bar Association Water Law Section as amended and adopted by the Section and approved by the Board of Governors of the Colorado Bar Association.

February 8, 2021

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Date



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Holly Strablizky, Chair 2020-2021