

## PROPOSED 2014 ALA BYLAWS CHANGES

### 1. Current Bylaws: Article 1

Section 4. **Association Year** The fiscal and operational year of the Association shall be from June 1 through May 31. The June 1 through May 31 fiscal year shall be effective June 1, 2011 and thereafter.

Proposed Bylaw: Article 1, Section 4 (Proposed by the President)

Section 4. **Association Year** The fiscal and operational year of the Association shall be from **January 1 through December 31**. The **January 1 through December 31** fiscal year shall be effective **January 2015** and thereafter.

Rationale: To align with the National Bar Association (NBA) Fiscal Year.

### 2. Current Bylaw: None

Proposed Bylaw: Article VI, Section 11 (Proposed by the President)

Section 11. **Attendance at Board Meetings** Any officer, or other member of the Board, who fails to attend two consecutive Board meetings within an Association year, without a reasonable excuse, shall be deemed to have resigned, immediately upon expiration of the appeal period of 60 days and his or her vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the Bylaws.

Rationale: accountability in leadership role

### 3. Current Bylaw: Article 5

Section 2. **Standing Committees** The following shall constitute the standing committees of the organization:

**Membership Committee:**

The Membership committee shall be responsible for recruiting membership into ALA. The Committee will spearhead all efforts to increase ALA's membership.

**Continuing Legal Education Committee:**

The CLE Committee shall be responsible for assisting in the planning of CLE activities for ALA. The committee, when requested, will find presenters for CLE programs. The CLE Committee is responsible for ensuring that all of the requirements are met with the Alabama State Bar for approval of ALA's CLE Programs.

**Law Student Division (LSD):**

The LSD shall be responsible for coordinating programs with law students. The programs include a Law Student Reception and workshop to be held in conjunction with ALA's Winter meeting, Law Student Summer Intern Program, ALA's Mini Bar Review and Law Student Mentor Program. Other Programs may be created by LSD. LSD is also responsible for assisting in gaining Law Student membership.

**Community Education and Affairs Committee (CEA):**

The CEA shall be responsible for coordinating community programs for ALA. The CEA shall be responsible for keeping ALA abreast of any community programs mandated by the National Bar Association. The CEA shall coordinate community programs with ALA affiliate chapters. The CEA shall be directly responsible for planning the "Know Your Rights Seminar". The CEA shall be responsible for forging relationships between ALA and other community groups.

**Annual Meeting and Retreat Committee (AMR):**

The AMR shall be responsible for planning ALA's annual meeting/banquet and retreat. The AMR will be responsible for all matters and plans relating to the annual meeting and retreat. These items include, but are not limited to: selection of host hotel or other site, obtaining corporate sponsorship, planning social activities in conjunction with the meeting and retreat, scheduling of activities, selection of menus, banquet ticket price, preparation of registration material, annual program and/or souvenir book, selection of CLE presenter(s), selection of banquet speaker, advertisement, and anything the committee deems necessary to carry out the Annual Meeting and Retreat.

**Finance Committee:**

The Finance Committee shall oversee the financial management of the Association and recommend to the Board of Directors an annual budget and measures to insure the continued financial stability of the association. The Treasurer shall serve as a member of the Finance Committee.

Proposed Bylaw: Article V, Section 2 (Proposed by the President)

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**Finance Committee:**

The Finance Committee shall oversee the financial management of the Association and recommend to the Board of Directors an annual budget and measures to insure the continued financial stability of the association. The Treasurer shall serve as a member of the Finance Committee.

**Nominations Committee:** The Nominations Committee shall consist of one (1) Regular Member from each of the three (3) Districts (Northern, Middle, Southern), appointed by the President on or before May 1 of each year. The Nominations Committee shall be responsible for the procedures for the nominations of Officers and Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting, and shall certify the eligibility of all candidates for Officers and Board of Directors. The Nominations Committee may enact such procedures as necessary to effectuate its business.

**Judicial Selection Committee:** The Judicial Selection Committee shall be composed of at least one (1) Regular Member from each District, the President and President-Elect. This committee shall be responsible for evaluating the qualifications of candidates for the federal, state, county and local bench; shall make recommendations to the Justice, State, County and Municipal Departments with respect to candidates for the federal, state, county and local bench; may cooperate with other bar associations or groups in seeking suitable candidates for recommendation for appointment. When appropriate, and where approved by the Board or the Executive Committee, the chairperson or designated Regular Member of the Association may testify in favor of or against the confirmation of specific nominees to the federal, state, county or local bench. The Committee shall consult with local members or Affiliate Members in the judicial circuit, district or municipality in which a candidate seeks appointment and give due consideration to any comments submitted therefrom. No candidate shall receive the endorsement of the Association unless there has been an opportunity by the committee to conduct an investigation and submit a report to the Board, the Executive Committee, or the membership. All requests for endorsement should be promptly referred to this committee.

**Michael Figures Legislative Committee:** The Legislation Committee shall have at least (3) members, one from each district. It shall develop a legislative relations program on behalf of the Association. Legislative contacts shall include relations with individual members of the Alabama House of Representatives, the Alabama Senate, and appropriate committees, with specific emphasis on the Judiciary Committees of both the House and Senate on behalf of the Association. The Committee shall also monitor and review current legislation pending before each legislative body and provide recommendations for oral and/or written testimony before appropriate committees. Additionally, the Committee may assist the legislative process by presenting resolutions passed at the Annual Meeting or other proposals to legislative representatives regarding issues the Association deems appropriate. This Committee shall draft a list of issues that it anticipates will be proposed, discussed, or voted upon in the current legislative session and present it to the Board for its review at its second meeting after the Annual Meeting. Additions to or changes in the legislative agenda shall be presented to the Executive Committee or the Board, as

appropriate, time permitting. If there is no time available for the presentation of such issues to the Executive Committee or the Board before the Association needs to act, the Chair of the Committee shall consult with the Officers of the Association for approval to proceed.

Rationale: These are necessary ongoing committees

4. Current Bylaw: None

Proposed Bylaw: Article XI, (Proposed by the President)

**Nominations and Elections**

**Section 5. Applications for Nomination**

The nomination of candidates for Officers and Board of Director shall be by application to the Nominations Committee. Each application may propose nominees for one or more office. The application shall include a biographical resume and a statement prepared by the nominee indicating qualifications for the office sought, including in the latter, the nominee's activities in the Association, the profession, and the community. All Regular Members of the Association in good standing at the time of nomination, who meet the requirements of office as stated in the Bylaws, shall be eligible as candidates for election.

**Section 6. Nominations**

The Nominations Committee may nominate one Regular Member in good standing for the office of President-Elect, one for the office of Vice-President, one for the office of Treasurer, one for the office of Secretary and one for the office of Parliamentarian. The Committee shall make its report in a general session of the members of the Association at the Annual Meeting. Nominations may be offered from the floor for any of the above offices and positions following the report of the Committee. Members may also write-in candidates on the ballot. Floor nominations or write-in candidates will be ruled out of order if inconsistent with the requirements of Article VII, Section 2 of the Bylaws.

Rationale: To have a procedure in place for the nomination and review of candidates for leadership positions. To have one member from the nominations committee from each district to try to avoid bias on the event more than one person is nominated for any position.

5. Current Bylaw: None

Proposed Bylaw: Article VIII, Section 9 (Proposed by the President)

**Section 9. Records and Property Retention:** All Officers, within sixty (60) days of the completion of their term, shall relinquish all records of the Association and other items of the Association in their possession to the President or his/her designee.

Rationale: To make sure the next administration is equipped to serve and for the association to keep records of minutes, financial records and any other property of the association.

6. Current Bylaw: None

Proposed Bylaw: Article VII, Section 5 (Proposed by the Vice President)

Section 5. **Removal of Officers:** Establish a provision for the removal of officers/directors upon good cause shown, to be reviewed and approved by the Executive Council (Board or membership at a quarterly meeting-revision proposed by the President) – for example, official disbarment from the AL State Bar, misappropriation of treasury funds, etc.

Rationale: To have a procedure for removal of officers/directors

7. Current Bylaw: Article II,

Section 2. **Regular Members** A lawyer who is a member in good standing before the Bar of any state and who practices or resides in the state of Alabama and who supports the principles and objectives of the Association may become a regular Member of this Association upon application and payment of the applicable membership fee.

Proposed Bylaw: Article II, Section 2 (Proposed by the Vice President)

Section 2. That a “member in good standing” be expanded to also include being a member of good standing with the Alabama State Bar

Rationale: Expand definition of a “member in good standing”

8. That one of the quarterly meetings to be "dedicated" to the Judicial Council, much like the winter quarterly meeting is dedicated to the Law Students. It would be a good way of institutionalizing the JC's involvement with the Association (Proposed by Judge Eugene Verin).