

THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

FAMILY LAW SECTION

**BY-LAWS
Amended 03/04/2014**

**ARTICLE I
Name and Purpose**

Section 1 This Section shall be known as the Section on Family Law of The Allegheny County Bar Association.

Section 2 The purpose of the Section shall be to study all phases, questions, and problems within the field of Family Law; to inform its members and the members of The Allegheny County Bar Association of various developments in the field of Family Law, and where indicated, to propose and support changes, amendments, modifications, and improvements in the common and statutory law relating to marriage, divorce, annulment, paternity, support and custody. It shall concern itself with the study of, and the dissemination of information on, issues related to the law of marriage, divorce, annulment, paternity, support and custody and shall keep its members and The Allegheny County Bar Association informed of the results of its studies.

**ARTICLE II
Membership and Dues**

Section 1 Any member of The Allegheny County Bar Association in good standing may become a member of the Section. Application for membership shall be made upon an appropriate form supplied by The Allegheny County Bar Association.

Section 2 The members of the Section shall pay such annual dues as the Section may direct. A member of the Bar Association who becomes a new member of the Section on or after January 1st shall pay initial dues at one-half of the annual rate fixed for that year. All first year admittees shall be exempt from paying dues during the first year. Failure of any

member to pay the current year's dues within four months of the billing date shall cause that person's membership in the Section to be terminated.

ARTICLE III
Officers and Council

Section 1 The Officers of the Section shall be a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer.

Section 2 The Council shall consist of the immediate past Chair of the Section, the four officers of the Section named in Section 1 hereof and fifteen additional members at large to be elected by the Section as hereinafter provided. All past Chairs of the Section other than the immediate past Chair, who are members of the Council by election or otherwise and all members of the Judiciary assigned to the Family Division of the Court of Common Pleas and such other members of the Judiciary as the Chair may select, the Director and Assistant Director(s) of the Family Division, a professor from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and a Professor from Duquesne University School of Law, each to be selected by the Dean of each law school and each Family Division Hearing Officer shall become honorary members of the Council and entitled to notice of, with the right to attend all meetings of the Council and to participate in any discussions at such meetings but without the right to vote.

Section 3 The Council shall have authority from time to time to designate and to create the offices of Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, and such additional offices as may be necessary; and the Chair, with approval of a majority of the Council, shall designate the persons to fill the offices thus created until the next general election of the Section.

Section 4 The Chair, the Vice Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Section to hold office for a term beginning with their election at the annual meeting and ending at the close of the next succeeding annual meeting of the Section, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. A member of the Section who has been Chair for a full one-year term shall be eligible to be re-elected as Chair for one additional term of one year and shall not be eligible to serve again as Chair until a period of two years has elapsed following the conclusion of that member's last term in the office.

Section 5

(a) The members at large of the Council shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Section.

(b) Upon expiration of the terms of the members of the Council, five members shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Section for a term of three years beginning at the close of the annual meeting at which they are elected, and ending at the close of the third succeeding annual meeting of the Section. Any vacancy in another class of Council members, except a vacancy pursuant to Article III, Section 5(e), may be filled by appointment by the Chair of the Section with the recommendation of the Officers of the Section for the unexpired term.

(c) A Chair of the Section who has completed a term shall serve as a Member of the Council for two years following the conclusion of the term as Chair and shall have all the powers, rights, and privileges of a Council member.

(d) A member of the Section who has served a three-year term as a member of the Council shall not be eligible for re-election as a member of the Council until the passage of one year following the conclusion of that member's term of office: Provided, however, that this provision shall not prohibit the election of a member of the Council as an officer of the Section, nor shall it apply to the immediate past Chair of the Section who shall serve as a member of the Council as provided in these By-Laws.

(e) A member of Council who has not attended three successive meetings without good cause shall be removed as a member and the Chair shall appoint - with the recommendation of the Officers of the Section - a successor who shall serve for the unexpired term of the former member of Council.

ARTICLE IV Nomination and Election Procedures

Section 1

On or before February 1 of each year, the Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee of not less than five (5) members of the Section, two (2) of whom shall not be current voting Council members and none of whom shall be current officers of the section. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall be the immediate past Chair of the Section. The membership of the Nominating Committee shall be announced at the February meeting of the Section and shall appear in the minutes of the February meeting. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a list of nominees, each of whom must be a member of the Section, for nominations for the offices of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and for any other offices that may have been created pursuant to Article III, Section 3 hereof, and for vacancies in any of the offices of the Section pursuant to Article VI, Section

3. The Committee may, if it chooses, recommend more than the number to be elected. Said list of nominees shall be published in the Pittsburgh Legal Journal for three consecutive business days beginning on the last day of March. The vote to elect the officers and council members shall be held at the annual meeting.

Section 2

(a) Any member of Council may also nominate a Section member for election to an office. To appear on the ballot, a nominee must receive nominations by separate letters from not less than four (4) members of Council. Said nominations, along with the necessary letters, must be received by the Chair of the Nominating Committee by no later than April 20th.

(b) Any member of the Section may also nominate a member to be elected to Council. To appear on the ballot, a nominee must receive nominations by separate letters from not less than four (4) members of the Section, one of whom may be the nominee, and no two of whom may be members of the same law firm. Said nominations, along with the necessary letters, must be received by the Chair of the Nominating Committee by no later than April 20th.

Section 3 There shall be no nominations from the floor. The final ballot shall contain those certain persons recommended by the Nominating Committee, as well as those persons properly nominated by Council members for Officers or by Section members for Council. If the Nominating Committee chooses to do so, it may designate on the ballot those nominees who were selected by the Nominating Committee. The method of voting at the annual meeting shall be at the discretion of the section Chair, in consultation with the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Article V Powers and Duties of Officers

Section 1 The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Council. The Chair shall prepare and present to each annual meeting of The Allegheny County Bar Association a written report of the work of the Section for the preceding year. The Chair shall perform such other acts as usually pertain to the office of Chair.

Section 2 The Vice Chair, upon the death, resignation, or inability of the Chair to act, shall perform the duties of the Chair for the remainder of the Chair's term, except that, in the event of temporary absence or disability of the Chair, the Vice Chair is able to assume

the Chair's duties. Promptly after election, the Vice Chair shall submit to the Chair a list of suggested committees of the Section, and names of persons recommended be appointed to act as Chair and the membership of each committee. The Vice Chair shall also be in charge of promoting and maintaining membership in the Section.

Section 3 The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and the Council. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as may be requested by the Chair of the Section, and shall, in cooperation with the latter, draft a summary or digest of the proceedings of the Section during each year for presentation to the Board of Governors of The Allegheny County Bar Association.

Section 4 The Treasurer shall keep appropriate records of all dues collected from Section members and all expenses of the Section. At each annual meeting of the Section, the Treasurer shall make a report of the financial status of the Section, and a statement of any balance on hand which will be carried forward into the ensuing year.

Article VI Powers, Duties and Business of the Council

Section 1 Subject to the rights of the members of the Section to take appropriate action and subject to the provisions of the constitution and By-Laws of The Allegheny County Bar Association, and of these By-Laws, the Council shall have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section. The Council shall authorize all commitments or contracts which shall entail payment of money, and shall authorize all expenditure of all Section funds. The Council shall not authorize commitments or contracts which shall entail the payment of more money during any fiscal year than the amount available in the treasury of the Section.

Section 2 The Council may authorize the Chair to make commitments or expend money and to perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Council may from time to time direct, subject always to the limitations of these By-Laws and the By-Laws of The Allegheny County Bar Association.

Section 3 Vacancies in any office of the Section other than those vacancies under Article III, Sections 5(b) and 5(e), may be filled by the remaining members of the Council. Officers of the Council so elected shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Section.

Section 4 The Council shall have power to create committees of the section, to abolish committees, and to consolidate committees. It shall appropriately notify the members of

any such committee and the general membership of the Section with regard to any such action.

Section 5 Communication between members of the Council may occur via telephone, facsimile, letter and/or email. The Council's Secretary shall maintain an updated Council contact list which may include current telephone numbers, office and cell numbers, facsimile numbers, addresses and/or email addresses for each member of the Council. Email contacts shall be used unless a particular Council member advises the Secretary otherwise. The contact list shall be provided to each Council member annually or when a significant change in membership occurs. Business of the Council, including, but not limited to, casting votes, discussing issues, resolutions and proposing Council actions, may be conducted via email outside the hours of the meeting of the Council.

Article VII Meetings of the Section

Section 1 Meetings of the Section shall be held at least semi--annually at a time and place fixed by the Chair or the Council. The election meeting of each year shall be held during the month of May and shall be the annual meeting of the Section.

Section 2 Fifteen (15) members present at a meeting of the Section shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 3 Action of the Section shall be by majority vote of the members present and qualified to vote, or by email as provided in Article VI, Section 5.

Article VIII Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 1 The fiscal year of the Section shall be the same as the fiscal year of The Allegheny County Bar Association.

Section 2 To the extent authorized by the Council, all bills incurred by the Section, or any committee or officer thereof, shall be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Section for payment, and shall be approved by the Chair or such other officer as the Chair may from time to time designate.

Section 3 No salary or compensation shall be paid to any officer or member of the Council: provided, however, that, when authorized by the Council, or by the Chair pursuant to a delegation of authority by the Council, officers and members of the Council may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenditures.

Section 4 Any action of the Section must be approved by The Allegheny County Bar Association, in accordance with the Association's By-Laws, before the same becomes effective as the action of The Allegheny County Bar Association. Any resolution adopted or action taken by the Section shall, on the request of the Section, be reported by the Chair to the Association.

Article IX Amendments

Section 1 Any proposal for amendments shall be submitted to the Chair of the Section. Proposed amendments shall be drafted by the Bylaws Committee and submitted to the Chair of the Section for review by the Officers of the Section prior to submission to the Council.

Section 2 These By-Laws may be amended at any annual meeting or any regular meeting of the Section or of Council by a majority vote of the members of the Section present and voting or a 2/3 vote of the members of Council present and voting provided: (1) that any proposed amendment shall first have been submitted to and approved by the Council or (2) that thirty (30) days advance notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given to members, said notice to include the date, time, and place of the meeting at which the vote on the amendments is to occur, and (3) that the proposed amendment does not conflict with the By-Laws of The Allegheny County Bar Association.