

BALTIMORE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

This Association shall be known as “Baltimore County Bar Association, Inc.”

ARTICLE II - PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES

The Association is formed for the purpose of maintaining the honor and integrity of the profession of law, cultivating better understanding among its members, promoting the due administration of justice, educating its members to a high standard of professional knowledge and professional ethics, participating actively in all matters pertaining to the Bench and Bar, and promoting good relationships and understanding between the Association and the general public.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Regular Membership

The following are eligible for regular membership in the Association:

- 1) Attorneys
Attorneys engaged in the practice of law who have been admitted to practice before the Court of Appeals of Maryland and who maintain good standing with the Client Protection Fund of the Bar of Maryland.
- 2) Judges
A judge of the District Court of Maryland, of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, or any County in Maryland, of the Court of Appeals, of the Court of Special Appeals, of the Orphans’ Court of Baltimore County who is also an attorney, or a Maryland State or Federal Administrative Law Judge who is also an attorney.
- 3) Non-Attorney Member
A Non-Attorney member is a law student who is attending or has graduated within the last year from a law school accredited by the American Bar Association, but is not yet admitted to practice before the Court of Appeals of Maryland. Non-Attorney members shall not have the right to vote at the Stated Meetings and may only attend such functions as designated by the Executive Council.
- 4) Legal Associate Member
A Legal Associate Member is any individual who is not an attorney, but who falls into a particular defined class or profession which is closely associated with the legal system is eligible to be a Legal Associate Member upon sponsorship by an Attorney Member. Legal

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Associate Membership includes, but is not limited to, Paralegals, Court Reporters, Legal Administrators, Law Librarians, Legal Secretaries and Assistants, Mediators and Arbitrators. A Legal Associate Member shall be eligible to participate in all committees with the exception of the Bench Bar Committee. The Legal Associate Member shall be able to participate in social activities and other activities of the BCBA (excluding the Black Tie Banquet), but shall not be entitled to serve as a chair or vice chair of a committee. The Legal Associate Member shall not be eligible to vote, hold office, or participate as a member of the Lawyer Referral and Information Service panel.

Section B. Honorary Membership

Honorary membership in the Association may be granted to an active member who has retired from the practice of law or the judiciary or in recognition of the extraordinary service to the legal profession having significance to Baltimore County, the state or the nation. An honorary member shall be entitled to the full privileges and benefits of membership in the Association without being required to pay dues. A person seeking Honorary Membership requests shall be submit by a letter or electronic means requesting same to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall ensure the person is eligible for Honorary Membership. All requests for Honorary Membership shall be voted on at the next regularly scheduled Stated Meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section A. Officers

- 1) The Officers of the Association shall consist of a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, a Treasurer and the Immediate Past President.
- 2) The term of each Officer shall be for one (1) year. No person may serve for more than one (1) year in a particular office except as Secretary or Treasurer.
- 3) The Officers, with the exception of the President and the Immediate Past President, shall be elected annually at the Stated Meeting.
- 4) The President-Elect shall automatically serve as the next President of the Association without challenge by competitive election.
- 5) No person may serve as an Officer of the Association who has not served as an elected member of the Executive Council.

Section B. Executive Council

- 1) The Executive Council shall consist of the Officers of the Association, the Chair of the Young Lawyers Committee, and six (6) members, to be elected at large from the Association who have been members in good standing for a period of not less than five (5) years. The President and the Secretary of the Association shall be the Chair and the

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Secretary of the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall manage the affairs of the Association for the benefit of its members.

2) The six (6) At Large Members of the Executive Council shall be elected annually at the Stated Meeting.

3) The six (6) At Large Members elected to the Executive Council shall serve a one-year term.

Section C. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the President-Elect, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Section D. Indemnifications

Each person, or such person's personal representative, made or threatened to be made a party to an action, suit or proceeding, civil, criminal or administrative, by reason of the fact that such person is serving or has served as a member of the Executive Council or Officer of the Association, shall be indemnified by the Association, to the extent indemnification is not otherwise provided by insurance, to the full extent against expenses (including attorney's fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the action, suit or proceeding, or any threat thereof or any appeal thereon, if such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be within the scope of his or her duties and authority as an Officer or member of the Executive Council of the Association, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe such person's conduct was unlawful. Without limiting in any way the Association's obligation to provide indemnification, the Executive Council may obtain such insurance coverage as may be necessary to carry out the provisions for indemnification herein.

ARTICLE V - VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS

The Executive Council shall fill any vacancy in the Executive Council until the next annual election, except in the case of a vacancy occurring in the office of the President, which shall be filled by the President-Elect of the Association.

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS

Section A. Stated Meetings

There shall be three stated meetings of the Association each year, which those meetings shall take place on the third Thursday of October, February and June. At the stated meetings, and at any regular adjourned meeting thereof, all the powers of the Association may be exercised.

Section B. Special Meetings

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Special meetings may be called (on such notice as shall be provided in the By Laws) at any time by the Executive Council, and shall be called, upon like notice, upon the written request of thirty-five (35) members of the Association. At such special meeting, no business shall be transacted except that specified in the call thereof.

Section C. Quorum

The presence of thirty-five (35) members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Association. For the purposes of constituting a quorum to conduct any business or to take any action at any meeting, a person shall be deemed present when participating remotely via by telephone, video-conferencing or the like provided, however, attendance by any other means than attending in person must be previously approved by the Executive Council.

ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES

Section A. Standing Committees

The Association shall have the following standing committees:

1. Alternative Dispute Resolutions
2. Advocate
3. Bench/Bar
4. Budget and Finance
5. Constitution and By Laws
6. Continuing Legal Education
7. Criminal Law
8. Diversity and Inclusion
9. Entertainment
10. Estates & Trust
11. Family Law
12. Fee Arbitration
13. Historical
14. Law Day
15. Lawyer Assistance
16. Lawyer Referral
17. Long Range Planning
18. Membership and Admissions
19. Memorial & Recognition
20. Negligence, Insurance, and Worker's Compensation
21. Nominating-Elections
22. Pro Bono
23. Professionalism
24. Public Awareness & Speakers
25. Real Property/State & Law Laws/Zoning
26. Solo & Small Firm

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- 27. Technology
- 28. Young Lawyers

Section B. Other Committees

The Association shall have such other committees to be known as Special Committees or Ad Hoc Committees as may be determined necessary and expedient for the efficient operation of the Association by the Executive Council.

Section C. Constitution of Committees

The Chair, the members serving on a committee and their terms shall be approved by the Executive Council.

ARTICLE VIII - ASSOCIATION DUES

Section A. Establishment

The dues of the Association shall be established by the Executive Council from time to time, subject to approval by the membership.

Section B. Regular Annual Payment

Dues shall be payable in full on or before the first day of January of each year, except as hereinafter provided.

Section C. Payment by New Member

The dues of any person approved for membership shall be due and payable within thirty (30) days of notice of approval of membership. Any person receiving approval for membership between January 1 and June 30 in any year shall be entitled to membership for the remainder of that fiscal year upon the payment of the annual dues.

Section D. Special Provisions

The Association shall waive the 1st year of annual dues for any member who has been admitted to practice by the Court of Appeals of Maryland for less than one year.

The Association, upon a majority vote at a Stated Meeting, may confer honorary membership status upon a member and waive all future annual dues.

ARTICLE IX - SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

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Any member of the Association may be suspended or expelled for non-payment of Association dues or assessments, for misconduct in his or her relation to this Association or for misconduct in his or her profession, as prescribed by the By Laws.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any Stated Meeting of the Association. In order for a proposed amendment to be considered, the following prerequisite must have been met.

- 1) The proposed amendment shall be subscribed by at least thirty (30) members of the Association.
- 2) At least thirty (30) days prior to the Stated Meeting addressing proposed amendments, the Secretary shall have notified the members of the Association in writing of the proposed amendments to be voted upon at such Stated Meeting.
- 3) The Secretary's notice shall enclose a copy of the proposed change and the subscription thereto, which may be satisfied by publishing it on the Association's website or by other electronic means.