

1 BYLAWS
2 OF THE
3 OHIO ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE
4 (Adopted March 2006)
5 Revised February 2021
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8 ARTICLE 1 – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

9 Section 1. An executive session occurs when the Board of Trustees or the Executive
10 Committee excludes staff from a portion of a meeting, and executive sessions may be
11 held only to discuss limited matters. Only persons invited by the Board of Trustees or
12 Executive Committee to join the executive session may attend, and the Board of
13 Trustees or Executive Committee may permit anyone it chooses to attend.

14 Section 2. Valid reasons for the Board of Trustees or Executive Committee to adjourn
15 into executive session are:

16 A) Personnel: to consider the employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion,
17 demotion, or compensation of the Chief Executive Officer, Director of
18 Government Affairs;

19 B) Property: to consider the purchase or leasing of property (real or personal,
20 tangible or intangible), and to consider the sale of property.

21 C) Court action: communication with the Association's attorney to discuss
22 pending or imminent court action; or

23 D) Confidential matters: to discuss matters required to be kept confidential by
24 federal law, federal rules, state statutes, the Operating Articles, or these
25 Bylaws.

26 Section 3. An executive session must always begin and end in an open session, as
27 follows:

- 28 A) first, there must be a motion that states the purpose for the executive session
29 and the motion must be specific as to the matters to be discussed;
- 30 B) after the motion, there must be a second on the motion; and
- 31 C) a vote to adjourn into executive session must be made by either a roll call vote
32 or by a show of hands by a majority of a quorum of the Board of Trustees or
33 Executive Committee.

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35 ARTICLE 2 – DUES

36 Section 1. Except for members of the Board of Trustees, the dues of the association
37 are as follows:

38	Law Students	\$25.00
39	Government Attorneys	\$100.00
40	Attorneys practicing 2 or fewer years . . .	\$55.00
41	Attorneys practicing 2 - 5 years	\$250.00
42	Attorneys practicing 5 - 10 years	\$300.00
43	Attorneys practicing 10 - 15 years	\$350.00
44	Attorneys practicing 15 or more years . .	\$395.00
45	Retired Attorneys	\$35.00
46	Paralegals/Legal Assistants\$150.00

47 Section 2. Members of the Association in good standing, including applicants
48 pending approval, will have their dues waived upon request while serving on active duty
49 in the Armed Forces of the United States. This dues waiver is good for one year and
50 renewable for up to four years. An applicant for this dues waiver must serve active duty
51 for more than 60 days to qualify for it and submit an application on a form approved by
52 the association.

53 Section 3. Members in good standing who become disabled may request a waiver of
54 dues until they are able to return to work. Before a disability waiver can be granted, the
55 member must:

56 A) submit a written request to the Board of Trustees for the disability waiver
57 stating that the payment of dues would be a financial hardship;

58 B) submit proof of disability by attaching a statement of disability from an
59 attending physician or from the Social Security Administration or from a
60 disability insurance company; and

61 C) submit to the association verification of continued disability every two years.

62 Section 4. A member who is 65 or older may be granted retired status by applying to
63 the Board of Trustees. For purposes of obtaining retirement status, the retired attorney
64 may not:

65 A) be actively practicing law;

66 B) hold himself or herself out as authorized to practice law;

67 C) hold nonfederal judicial office;

68 D) occupy a nonfederal position in which the attorney is called upon to give
69 legal advice or counsel or to examine the law or pass upon the legal effect
70 of any act, document, or law;

71 E) be employed in the judicial system in a position required to be held by an
72 attorney; or

73 F) practice before any nonfederal court or agency on behalf of any person
74 except himself or herself.

75 Section 5. A member enjoying any dues waiver or retired status has all of the rights
76 and privileges of any other member.

77 Section 6. The dues for the Board of Trustees of the Association, Ohio representatives
78 to the American Association for Justice, and for any Past President who wants to vote at
79 Board of Trustees' meetings are:

80 A) First year of service as trustee: \$1800.00

81 B) Practicing five or fewer years: \$1800.00

82 C) All others: \$3000.00

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ARTICLE 3 – COMMITTEES

85 Section 1. The standing committees of the association are the Nominating
86 Committee, the Continuing Legal Education Committee, the Membership Committee,
87 the Finance Committee, the Public Affairs (Legislative) Committee, the Amicus Curiae
88 Committee, the Publications Committee, the Bylaws Committee, and the Annual
89 Convention Committee.

90 Section 2. The Nominating Committee consists of the President, the Immediate Past
91 President, the Secretary, and four members appointed by the President. This
92 Committee nominates for election at the annual meeting officers and District Trustees
93 and the members to represent Ohio on the Board of Governors and as State Delegates to
94 the American Association for Justice. The Nominating Committee must be appointed in
95 adequate time so that its report may be circulated among the members at least 30 days
96 before any vote intended to approve any report submitted by the Nominating
97 Committee.

98 Section 3. The Continuing Legal Education Committee is responsible for all
99 educational programs provided by and on behalf of the Association. It reviews both the

100 content and the speakers for each program to determine the suitability of the program
101 for the membership and to assure the profitability of the program.

102 Section 4. The Membership Committee, chaired by the Secretary, is responsible for
103 securing new members of the association and membership retention. It conducts the
104 preliminary review of applications for dues waivers and requests for retired member
105 status. It is responsible for reviewing new member applicants for qualifications for
106 membership, consistent with Article III of the Operating Articles, and making
107 recommendations to the Board of Trustees for expulsion or suspension as provided in
108 Article III, Section 3 of the Operating Articles.

109 Section 5. The Finance Committee is responsible for formulating criteria for
110 evaluation of all personnel, conducting a periodic review of the Chief Executive Officer
111 and/or Director of Government Affairs, and reporting to the Board of Trustees about
112 these matters for appropriate action. It is responsible for formulating the annual
113 budget, making periodic adjustment of line items in the budget to reflect fiscal
114 exigencies which may occur during the year, and reporting these matters to the Board of
115 Trustees for appropriate action.

116 Section 6. The Public Affairs (Legislative) Committee is responsible for representing
117 the Association before the Ohio General Assembly. In conjunction with appropriate
118 Section Chairs, it reviews proposed legislation and formulates strategy on behalf of the
119 Association regarding legislation which will impact on the membership and the clients
120 served by the membership. Where appropriate, it will develop legislative positions and
121 formulate strategies for introduction of legislation favorable to the membership and the
122 clients served by the membership.

123 Section 7. The Amicus Curiae Committee represents the Association by presenting its
124 position when cases present issues of overriding importance to the membership and the
125 clients served by the membership.

126 Section 8. The Publications Committee (Editorial Board) is responsible for the
127 publications of the Association.

128 Section 9. The Bylaws Committee is responsible for the periodic review of the
129 Operating Articles and the Bylaws of the Association and recommending proposed
130 amendments and revisions to the Board of Trustees for appropriate action. The Chair of
131 the Bylaws Committee is appointed by the President.

132 Section 10. The Annual Convention Committee is responsible for planning the
133 Association's annual convention. The Annual Convention Committee is comprised of
134 the President-Elect and the Section Chairs. It assists the President-Elect in formulating
135 the educational programs to be provided, securing the faculty, planning entertainment,
136 and otherwise assisting in promoting a profitable event.

137 Section 11. The President or the Board of Trustees may from time to time establish
138 other committees.

139 Section 12. Paralegal and legal assistant members shall not be permitted to join or
140 participate with any committee of the Association.

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142 ARTICLE 4 – SECTIONS

143 Section 1. The sections of the Association serve as educational forums for members
144 with shared interests in particular legal issues and areas of specialization.

145 Section 2. The sections include the Business Torts Section, Consumer Law Section,
146 Criminal Law Section, Employment Law Section, Domestic Relations Law Section,

147 Insurance Law Section, Medical Negligence Section, Trucking Safety Section, New
148 Lawyers Section, Civil Rights Law Section, Mass Torts Section, Social Security Section,
149 Women’s Caucus Section, and Workers’ Compensation Section.

150 Section 3.

151 I. Workers’ Compensation Section Chair

152 a. Role: The duties of the Workers’ Compensation Section Chair shall
153 include the following:

154 i. Communication with the Section Vice-Chair about relevant
155 information obtained at Executive Committee Meetings, and
156 distribution of relevant information using some type of electronic
157 mass communication platform, such as the listserv, when
158 appropriate.

159 ii. Communication with the Section Vice-Chair about section
160 activities.

161 iii. Communication between the Workers’ Compensation Section
162 and OAJ Leadership. . At all times possible, the Section Chair shall
163 do their best to update the Section through the workers’
164 compensation listserv.

165 iv. Participation in the official OAJ/BWC meetings.

166 vi. Participation in the nomination of the next Section Vice-Chair.

167 b. Election: The Person who has served as Section Vice-Chair the previous
168 year will become Section Chair following their term as Section Vice-Chair.

169 c. Term: The Section Chair will serve a one-year term beginning at the OAJ
170 Annual Convention or May 15, if the Annual Convention is unable to take
171 place at some point during the month of May.

172 II. Workers' Compensation Section Vice-Chair

173 a. Role: The duties of the Vice-Chair shall include the following:

174 i. Communication with the Chair about section activities.

175 ii. Distribution of relevant information to the listserv when
176 appropriate.

177 iii. Participation in official OAJ/BWC meetings.

178 b. Election:

179 i. Qualifications: In order to serve as Vice-Chair, an individual must
180 have demonstrated a commitment to furthering the interests of
181 OAJ and its Workers' Compensation Section.

182 ii. The Vice-Chair will be selected prior to the OAJ Annual
183 Convention or May 15, if the Annual Convention is unable to take
184 place at some point during the month of May

185 iii. Nominations: Qualified Members shall apply to OAJ indicating
186 their interest in the Workers' Compensation Section Vice-Chair
187 position. Additionally, the section members may nominate and
188 recruit qualified members for this position. Applicants may include
189 recommendations from active section members along with their
190 applications.

191 iv. The Vice-Chair shall be selected by a majority vote from the
192 sitting Section Chair the sitting Section Vice Chair, the Immediate

193 Past Section Chair, the sitting OAJ President-Elect and the sitting
194 OAJ Vice President.

195 v. In the event that no candidate receives a majority vote, the
196 position will be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees for
197 OAJ.

198 c. Term: The Vice-Chair shall serve a one-year term beginning at the OAJ
199 Annual Convention. Following the expiration of the one-year term, the
200 Vice-Chair shall become the Section Chair for the following term.

201 III. Official OAJ/BWC Meetings

202 a. The official meetings held between OAJ and the BWC or Industrial
203 Commission, or any other government office regarding workers'
204 compensation matters, shall include, at least, the current section chair and
205 vice section chair. Any additional meeting attendees representing OAJ
206 shall be at the section chair's discretion.

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208 ARTICLE 5 – AMENDMENTS

209 Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at the annual meeting of the Association by a
210 majority vote of the members present and voting or by a majority vote of the members
211 of the Board of Trustees present and voting at a duly constituted meeting.

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213 Section 2. Whenever an amendment is proposed for consideration by membership at the
214 annual meeting, the proposed amendment must be submitted to the President or
215 Secretary in writing not less than 30 days before the annual meeting. The proposed
216 amendment must be circulated to the entire membership in writing no less than 10 days

217 before the annual meeting.

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219 Section 3. Whenever an amendment is proposed for consideration of the Board of
220 Trustees, the proposed amendment must be submitted to the President or Secretary in
221 writing no less than 15 days prior to the duly constituted board meeting. The proposed
222 amendment must be circulated to all members of the Board of Trustees no less than 10
223 days before the duly constituted board meeting.