

1 BYLAWS
2 OF THE
3 OHIO ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE
4 (Adopted March 2006)
5 Revised October 2020
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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 Section 2. Members of the Association in good standing, including applicants
47 pending approval, will have their dues waived upon request while serving on active duty
48 in the Armed Forces of the United States. This dues waiver is good for one year and
49 renewable for up to four years. An applicant for this dues waiver must serve active duty
50 for more than 60 days to qualify for it and submit an application on a form approved by
51 the association.

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

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

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

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

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

64 A) be actively practicing law;

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

66 C) hold nonfederal judicial office;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

81 C) All others: \$3000.00

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83 ARTICLE 3 – COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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ARTICLE 4 – SECTIONS

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

142 Section 2. The sections include the Business Torts Section, Consumer Law Section,
143 Criminal Law Section, Employment Law Section, Domestic Relations Law Section,
144 Insurance Law Section, Medical Negligence Section, Trucking Safety Section, New

145 Lawyers Section, Civil Rights Law Section, Mass Torts Section, Social Security Section,
146 Women’s Caucus Section, and Workers’ Compensation Section.

147 Section 3.

148 I. Workers’ Compensation Section Chair

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

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

156 ii. Communication with the Section Vice-Chair about section
157 activities.

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

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

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

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

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

169 II. Workers' Compensation Section Vice-Chair

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

171 i. Communication with the Chair about section activities.

172 ii. Distribution of relevant information to the listserv when
173 appropriate.

174 iii. Participation in official OAJ/BWC meetings.

175 b. Election:

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

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

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

188 iv. The Vice-Chair shall be selected by a majority vote from the
189 sitting Section Chair the sitting Section Vice Chair, the Immediate
190 Past Section Chair, the sitting OAJ President-Elect and the sitting
191 OAJ Vice President.

192 v. In the event that no candidate receives a majority vote, the
193 position will be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Trustees for
194 OAJ.

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

198 III. Official OAJ/BWC Meetings

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

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205 ARTICLE 5 – AMENDMENTS

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

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

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