

# **LGBT LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR OF NEVADA**

## **BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **Name and Principal Office**

##### **Section 1. Name**

This organization shall be known as the LGBT Law Section of the State Bar of Nevada (hereinafter referred to as “the Section”).

##### **Section 2. Principal Office**

The principal office of the Section shall be the State Bar of Nevada, 600 East Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, Nevada 89104. The Executive Committee of the Section may change the location of the principal office at any time.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Section shall be to further the knowledge of the members of the Section in LGBT issues; to assist the State Bar of Nevada in the development of the legislative program of the State Bar of Nevada pertaining to LGBT issues relating to all areas of the law; to assist, when called upon by the Board of Governors in the formulation, administration and implementation of programs, forums, and other activities for the education of members of the State Bar, governmental entities, and the community at large in LGBT issues and laws related thereto; to encourage all members of the State Bar of Nevada who practice in areas of the law involving LGBT issues to participate in the Section; to act upon all matters germane to its purposes as so described or referred to it by the Board of Governors; and to make recommendations to the Board of Governors.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Membership**

##### **Section 1. Membership qualifications**

Any Nevada licensed attorney who is a member in good standing with the State Bar of Nevada may qualify for membership upon payment of the Section dues or any licensed attorney in good standing who is authorized to practice law in the State of Nevada as provided by special admission or federal law practice.

##### **Section 2. Membership rights**

Members have the following rights:

1. To attend meetings, including meetings of the Executive Committee.
2. To vote, upon payment of the appropriate dues.
3. To hold office.
4. To participate in all activities of the Section not prohibited or assigned in accordance with the Bylaws.

### **Section 3. Dues**

Dues for membership in the Section shall be in an amount set by the Section and approved by the Board of Governors, payable upon enrollment and thereafter annually in advance each year; at the beginning of the State Bar's fiscal year succeeding each enrollment. Fees shall be paid to the State Bar of Nevada, along with all other funds generated by this Section, and appropriately accounted for by the Accounting Department of the State Bar of Nevada in conjunction with the Treasurer of the Section and shall be used for the purposes of defraying costs and expenses of this Section or such other purposes as the Board of Governors may designate. The dues shall be determined by the Board of Governors in consultation with the Executive Committee. Within the meaning of this Section, the time intervening between successive annual meetings is deemed to be one (1) year. The initial dues shall be \$25.00 per year.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **General Membership Meetings**

#### **Section 1. Annual Meeting**

The General Membership shall hold a meeting at least annually at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee. The initial General Membership meeting was held on September 17, 2013.

#### **Section 2. Notice**

- A. Written notice of each meeting specifying the time and place shall be mailed, e-mailed, faxed or delivered to each member thirty (30) days prior to meeting.
- B. Written notice shall include an agenda with the action items indicated.
- C. Robert's Rule of Order shall apply, if so determined by the Executive Committee.

#### **Section 3. Quorum**

Fifteen (15) members or 10% of the General Membership, (whichever is less), shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting. The Section Secretary (or highest ranking Executive Committee Member, if the Secretary is not present) is responsible for determining if a quorum has been established.

#### **Section 4. Voting**

- A. Each member in good standing shall have one (1) vote.

B. Except as provided in Article VII, a majority vote of the quorum is necessary to take action.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Executive Committee Meetings**

#### **Section 1. Executive Committee Meetings**

The Executive Committee shall hold at least one (1) meeting each year at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee. This shall include meetings via teleconference call.

#### **Section 2. Special Meetings of the Executive Committee**

A. Any member of the Executive Committee may convene a special meeting of the Executive Committee at a time and place, to be determined by the Executive Committee; such meetings may include teleconference calls.

B. Reasonable efforts shall be made to notify members, including but not limited to notice by mail, e-mail, fax, telephone or delivery at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

#### **Section 3. Powers**

The policies, programs, business and property of the Section shall be controlled and managed by its Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall:

A. At least annually review the mission and the goals, objectives and priorities of the Executive Committee and make recommendations for change, if any, to the General Membership.

B. Adopt procedures for establishing, implementing and reviewing priorities in the allocation of resources.

C. Establish and appoint officers and members to appropriate sub-committees, as the Executive Committee shall from time to time determine as appropriate or necessary. Initial sub-committees may include: Membership, Newsletter, Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”), Advocacy, Legislative, and Publications.

#### **Section 4. Officers**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers:

A. Chairperson

B. Chair-Elect or Vice Chair

C. Secretary

D. Treasurer

E. Three (3) At Large Members

A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

## **Section 5. Election and Terms**

A. The General Membership shall elect Executive Officers by a majority vote at the Annual Meeting of the Section. The applicant of the new section shall identify the person(s) who is/are designated to serves as initial officer(s) of the Section and seek approval of the designation of such person(s).

B. Officers shall serve a two-year term or until a successor has been elected.

C. No officer shall hold more than one office at the same time, except for At Large officers who may serve as committee chairs.

D. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office unless approved by the General Membership.

## **Section 6. Resignation**

Any officer may resign by giving written notice to the Executive Committee.

## **Section 7. Removal**

Upon written notice, the General Membership may remove a member of the Executive Committee by a majority vote.

## **Section 8. Vacancies**

The Executive Committee may fill a vacancy in any office for the duration of the term.

# **ARTICLE VI**

## **Powers and Duties of the Officers**

### **Section 1. Chairperson**

The Chairperson shall:

A. Preside at all of the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Section;

B. Serve as an ex officio member of all standing or sub-committees;

C. Make an annual written report to the Board of Governors which shall be available at the annual meeting of the State Bar;

D. Be vested with any and all powers and duties necessary to fulfill the office of the Chairperson.

### **Section 2. Chair Elect or Vice Chair**

The Chair Elect or Vice Chair shall:

A. Shall serve as an ex officio member of all standing or sub-committees;

B. Shall be vested with any and all powers and duties necessary to fulfill the office of Chair Elect or Vice Chair.

**Section 3. Secretary**

The Secretary shall:

- A. Record and maintain, or cause to be recorded and maintained, minutes of all meetings.
- B. Send, or cause to be sent, written notice of all meetings of the membership;
- C. Keep and maintain copies of notices, agenda, minutes, attendance and other written records or items from the meetings;
- D. Be vested with any and all powers and duties necessary to fulfill the office.

**Section 4. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall:

- A. Keep and maintain, or cause to be kept and maintained, adequate and correct accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts and disbursements;
- B. Render, or cause to be rendered, to the membership at each regular and Annual Meeting, or upon request, an account of the financial status of the Section;
- C. Create an annual budget to be approved by the Executive Committee;
- D. Have other powers and duties prescribed by the President or Executive Committee or are vested with any and all powers and duties necessary to fulfill the office of the Treasurer.

**ARTICLE VII**

**Amendment of Bylaws**

These Bylaws may be amended, altered or repealed at any meeting by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the quorum present, provided that members are notified at least thirty (30) days prior to any meeting in which such amendments, alterations or repeal of the Bylaws are to be voted upon.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**Proposed Slate of Initial Officers**

|                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Chair</b>           | <b>Tara D. Newberry</b> |
| <b>Chair Elect</b>     | <b>James Davis</b>      |
| <b>Secretary</b>       | <b>Brian Eagan</b>      |
| <b>Treasurer</b>       | <b>Peter Cleary</b>     |
| <b>At Large Member</b> | <b>Steve Amend</b>      |
| <b>At Large Member</b> | <b>Marek Bute</b>       |
| <b>At Large Member</b> | <b>Kim Surratt</b>      |

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Continuing Legal Education.**

All educational projects of the Section for which CLE credits will be sought must be submitted to the Continuing Legal Education Committee for approval. The CLE Committee will administer and coordinate all such projects with the Section. Net profits or losses of such projects will be divided in a manner consistent with the policies of the Continuing Legal Education Committee as approved by the Board of Governors.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Legislation**

This Section may draft legislation for the Nevada State Legislature, or propose to support or oppose the adoption of legislation by the Nevada State Legislature, provided the Section's proposed legislation or position on legislation is consistent with its purpose and (1) relates closely and directly to the administration of justice; (2) involves matters which are not primarily political and as to which evaluation by lawyers would have particular relevance if not related closely and directly to the administration of justice; or (3) comes within the Section's special expertise and jurisdiction. Any proposed legislative position must be adopted by the Section pursuant to this Section 10 and Section 7.10 of the State Bar of Nevada Bylaws. Any committee of this Section, including the Legislative Committee, may draft or propose to support or oppose the adoption of legislation by the Nevada State Legislature. Any such draft legislation or proposal must be approved by the Legislative and Executive Committees of this Section. If the Legislative Committee approves the draft legislation or the taking of the position pursuant to these Bylaws, the Legislative Committee or the Executive Committee, by and through the Chairperson or Vice Chairperson, must present the draft legislation to legislative position to the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada for review pursuant to Section 7.10 of the State Bar of Nevada Bylaws. No other committee of this Section is permitted to present the draft legislation or the proposal to the Board of Governors; only the Legislative or Executive Committee may do so and only after the draft legislation or proposal is approved by the Executive and Legislative Committees.

Adopted this 29th day of October, 2013 by the Membership.