

# **SULLIVAN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

## **ARTICLE I**

### NAME

This Association shall be known as Sullivan County Bar Association.

## **ARTICLE II**

### OBJECTS

This Association is established for the purpose of cultivating the science of jurisprudence, promoting reforms in the laws, facilitating administration of justice, elevating the standard of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession, and cherishing the spirit of brotherhood among the members thereof.

## **ARTICLE III**

### MEMBERS

Section 1. Classes. The following classes shall constitute the membership of the Association:

- (a) Active Members: Any member of the Bar residing or practicing in the County of Sullivan may become a member by a vote of the Association.
- (b) Honorary Members: Judges of all Courts of record in the United States and of the State of New York residing in Sullivan County and such others as well shall be chosen or elected by the Association shall be honorary members of the Association.
- (c) Retired members: Any member of the Bar over the age of 65 who is no longer engaged in the full-time practice of law.

Section 2. Election of all members shall be governed by the By-Laws of the Association.

Section 3. All members shall have the privilege and right to attend meetings of the Association and only members shall have the right and privilege to vote.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### OFFICERS

The Officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one person. The officers shall be chosen and elected by the members at the annual meeting.

## ARTICLE V

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. There shall be a Board of Directors composed of ten members of the Association in addition to the officers, and the immediate past president. Five directors shall be elected in 2000 for a four year term; five directors shall be elected in 2002 for a four year term. Election of Directors shall take place at the annual meeting. No Director shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of the Association subject to and in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws.

The President of the Association shall be the presiding officer of the Board of Directors. He shall call meetings within one week prior to each regular monthly meeting of the Association for the purpose of formulating an agenda for the forthcoming meeting. Notice by mail of such meetings shall be forwarded by the Secretary to members of the Board of Directors within thirty-six hours of said meeting.

Special meetings of the Board must be called whenever requested in writing by three members of the Board. Five directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

## ARTICLE VI

### COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be the following standing committees, each of which shall consist of such number of members as may be determined by the Board of Directors, but in no event less than three, to be selected by the President:

1. Family Court Committee
2. Judiciary Committee
3. Grievance Committee
4. Nominating Committee
5. Legislative Committee
6. Committee on Unlawful Practice of Law
7. Fee Dispute Committee
8. Legal Education Committee
9. Insurance Committee
10. Committee on Promoting and Recognizing Pro-Bono Work

Section 2. At any meeting of the Association, on motion duly made and carried, the Association may create such special committee as it may determine: the President shall designate the Chairman and the members of said special committees.

Upon the death of any member of the Association, the President shall designate a Committee to prepare and present memorial resolutions to the Supreme Court.

Section 3. The Association may provide for such other committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 4. All committees shall continue in office until the annual meeting next after their appointment and until their successors are elected or appointed.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Section 1. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held during the month of June in each and every year.

Regular meetings shall be held monthly, except in July and August and the month of the annual meeting. The date, time and place of regular meetings shall be fixed by the Board of Directors and notice of the date, time and place of the monthly meeting shall be given by the President in the Sullivan County Bar Association Newsletter at least ten days prior to such meeting, or in such other manner or means as the President may deem appropriate. However, in the event of an emergency, notice shall be given at least 24 hours in advance by fax or telephone to the membership.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or the Board of Directors and shall be called by the President upon the written request of ten members of the Association, specifying the purpose of such call. At such special meetings, no business shall be transacted except such as shall be specified in the call therefor.

Section 3. At any meeting of the Association, twelve members shall be necessary to constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Notice of all regular meetings must be given by mail at least ten days prior to such meeting. Notice of all special meetings must be given by mail at least three days prior to such meetings. However, in the event of an emergency, notice shall be given at least 24 hours in advance by fax or telephone to the membership.

Section 5. No resolution requiring action in the name of the Sullivan County Bar Association shall be placed upon the agenda of any meeting of the Sullivan County Bar Association, not acted upon by the membership present at such meeting, unless at least ten days

prior written notice is given to all members of the Association of the intent to present such matter at the specific Association meeting accompanied by the full text of the proposed resolution. Such notice shall accompany the monthly Newsletter of the Sullivan County Bar Association, or in such other manner or means as the President may deem appropriate.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### ANNUAL DUES

Section 1. The annual dues shall be such amount as may be fixed by the members, payable annually in advance, except that honorary members shall pay no dues.

Section 2. If any member shall fail to pay the yearly dues within sixty days after the annual meeting in June, when the same shall become payable, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to mail to each member so in default, a cop of this Article and a notice to the effect that such dues are payable. After thirty days from the date of such notice, the Directors may, by order, without further notice, strike from the roll, the name of any member continuing in default, and he thereupon shall cease to be a member of the Association provided that upon his written application satisfactorily explaining such default and the payment of all dues to the date thereof, the Directors shall have the power to reinstate such member.

Section 3. Emergency dues assessments, approved by the Board of Directors, may be levied upon members by giving at least thirty (30) days written notice thereof, and approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the association after expiration of the thirty (30) days' notice.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### ELECTIONS

All contested elections shall be by secret ballot. The officers and directors elected shall enter upon their election, and shall hold office until their successors are elected or appointed. In case of a vacancy occurring in any office, it shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors until the next annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE X**

### SUSPENSIONS AND EXPULSIONS

Any member of the Association may be suspended or expelled for misconduct in his relationship to the Association, or to his profession, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership subject to a hearing subsequent to the following:

- a) Written charges, signed by a majority of the Board of Directors or by ten members shall be filed with the Secretary.

- b) The Secretary shall give notice in writing to the membership incorporating the charges as alleged.
- c) The member so charged shall have eight days after receipt of the charges to file an answer with the Secretary.
- d) A hearing shall be scheduled, upon ten days' minimum notice, to be held at the next stated meeting of the Association; the notice of meeting shall summarize the charges and answer.
- e) The President shall preside over the meeting, conduct the hearing on the issue framed by the charges.
- f) Subsequent to the hearing, the members shall vote by closed ballot determining whether there shall be a suspension or expulsion of the member.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended, but only by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Association present at a meeting, and provided notice of the proposed amendment subscribed by a majority of the Board of Directors or by ten members of the Association, shall have been given at least ten days prior to a meeting.