

CONSTITUTION OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE. We, the members of the Bar of Washington County, Arkansas, in order to promote a closer relationship between the members of the Bar of said county, in order to achieve greater cooperation with the Bar associations of other counties and districts in Arkansas, the Arkansas Bar Association and the American Bar Association, in order to uphold honor, integrity and the observance of sound professional ethics among the members of the Bar, to encourage legal education, promote reform in law and facilitate the administration of justice, do hereby organize ourselves the WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION and do hereby adopt this Constitution of the Association.

Article I. **MEMBERSHIP.** The membership of this Association shall consist of all members of the Bar of Washington County, Arkansas, in good standing, who shall apply for admission to membership in this Association and pay the admission fees and dues fixed by the by-laws of this Association, and any or all members of the Bar of the State of Arkansas, practicing in the court of Washington County, Arkansas, elected to membership in said Association by majority vote of the then members. The Association may, by the vote of the majority of all members of the Association, expel any member of the Association for unprofessional conduct.

Article II. **OFFICERS.** The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice-President and a Secretary-Treasurer. These officers shall be elected by secret ballot at the annual meeting each year, and shall hold office until the close of the annual meeting held the following year, or until their successors are elected and qualified. In event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President shall become President for the remainder of the term for which the President was elected. In event of a vacancy in any other office, the President shall appoint a person to hold such office for the remainder of the term of the prior occupant of the office. The officers above named shall perform the duties usually incident to the offices which they hold.

Article III. **COMMITTEES.** The Association shall have the following standing committees: Executive Committee, Program Committee, Committee on Grievances, Legislative Committee and a Committee on Memorials. The members of these committees, except ex-officio members, shall be appointed by the President.

Article IV. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Association and two other members, and shall manage the business of the Association, subject to the will of the Association expressed at meetings thereof.

Article V. **PROGRAM COMMITTEE.** The Program Committee shall consist of at least three members, and shall arrange the program for the regular and called meetings of the Association, subject to the direction of the Executive Committee.

Article VI. **COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES.** The Grievance Review Committee shall consist of at least five members.

In the instance of a complaint brought by a client against a person practicing law or holding himself out to practice law in Washington County, the Committee shall advise the client of his

right to file a grievance with the Committee on Professional Conduct of the Arkansas Supreme Court and provide the client with information concerning the procedure for doing so. If the client elects to file a grievance, the responsibility of the Committee shall cease except for cooperation requested by such body. In addition, the Committee shall determine if the client wishes to enlist the aid of the Committee in resolving the problem of which he complains by contacting the Bar member concerned and/or arranging a meeting monitored by a member of the Committee between the client and the member of the Bar. If the problem cannot be resolved by such meeting, the Committee will promptly advise the client within one month following the receipt of the complaint so that the client may timely file a grievance with the Committee on Professional Conduct of the Arkansas Supreme Court, at which time the responsibility of the Committee shall cease.

It is expressly recognized that exclusive jurisdiction for the reprimand and discipline of attorneys at law rests with the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Professional Conduct, and that the Grievance Review Committee is without jurisdiction to conduct any proceedings or investigations except as expressly set forth above.

Article VII. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE. The Legislative Committee shall consist of at least five members. It shall be the duty of this committee to consider legislative proposals which have bearing upon the legal profession and the practice of law, and to make recommendations thereupon to the Association.

Article VIII. COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS. The Committee on Memorials shall consist of at least five members. It shall prepare for the records of the Association suitable memorial statements concerning all members who shall depart this life.

Article IX. MEETINGS. The Association shall meet on the first Monday of each month, with the annual meeting to be held in December. The time and place of the meetings shall be fixed by the Executive Committee. Called meetings may be held at any time, on the call of the Executive Committee. Any meeting other than the regular annual meeting may be held jointly with any other Bar Association, at the will of the Executive Committee.

Article X. AMENDMENTS. This Constitution may be amended by the vote of a majority of the members present at any regular meeting of the Association, provided, that: the amendment was read at the next previous meeting of the Association, an announcement was then made that the amendment would be offered for adoption at the following meeting, and the amendment was published prior to the following meeting in the Association newsletter or otherwise furnished in writing to each member. This Constitution may also be amended by the unanimous vote of all the members present at any meeting of the Association, at which at least 35 members are present, without reading of or announcement concerning the amendment at any previous meeting.

Article XI. ETHICS. Members of the Washington County Bar and of the Washington County Bar Association and all members of the Bar practicing in the courts of Washington County, Arkansas, shall be controlled and governed by the Canons of Professional Ethics in the American Bar Association.

Articles V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and X were amended by unanimous vote of the Association at the April 10, 2002, annual meeting.

Article VI was amended by the Association in 1986.

Article IX was amended by unanimous vote of the Association at the August 1, 2005 meeting.

BY-LAWS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

1. Admission Fees and Dues. The membership fee and dues in the Washington County Bar Association shall be as fixed by the Association from time to time by a majority of members present at the meeting when the matter is voted upon. Special levies may be assessed by the Association from time to time by the same vote.

2. Financial Obligations. No financial obligations shall be incurred on behalf of this Association by any officer or member thereof, except by the express authority of the Executive Committee, or of the Association itself expressed by majority vote of the members present at any meeting of the Association.

3. Parliamentary Rules. The parliamentary rules set out in Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern all proceedings and meetings of this Association, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and By-Laws hereof.

4. Quorum. Nine members of the Association present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum.

5. Notice of Meetings. The Secretary-Treasurer shall, by mail or otherwise, give personal notice to every member of the Association of every meeting thereof, within the week next prior to such meeting.

6. Amendments. These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Association present at any meeting thereof.

Paragraph 7 was deleted by unanimous vote of the Association at the April 10, 2002, annual meeting.