

**BYLAWS OF THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER RIGHTS SECTION
OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**

ARTICLE I

Section 1. This Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association ("NJSBA") shall be known as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Section.

Section 2. The purposes of this Section shall be:

- (a) To promote lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights;
- (b) To study and report on laws, decisions, and governmental regulations as they may affect the rights, responsibilities, and needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender identified people;
- (c) To provide a common meeting ground and forum for members of the profession interested in the legal problems of people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender; and
- (d) To take action regarding these matters, subject to these bylaws and the constitution, bylaws, rules, and regulations of the NJSBA.
- (e) To serve as a voice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender lawyers within the NJSBA;
- (f) To provide programs and services that promote Section members' professional and personal growth;
- (g) To provide leadership in improving and changing the law and legal profession regarding issues of concern to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community;
- (h) To recruit and retain a diverse membership in this Section and to ensure full and equal participation;
- (i) To mentor lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender law students; and
- (j) To be a resource for the NJSBA on legal issues affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons.

**ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership in this section shall consist of all members of the New Jersey State Bar Association who shall signify their desire in writing to become members of this section and who shall pay section dues in the amount as shall be determined by the Board of Trustees of the NJSBA. Section dues are payable to the NJSBA at the same time and in the same manner as are Association dues.

**ARTICLE III
OFFICERS**

Section 1. The officers of this section shall be a chairperson, a chair-elect, a vice chairperson and a secretary.

Section 2. Each officer shall be elected in a manner as hereinafter set forth. All officers shall hold office for a term beginning at the close of the NJSBA Annual Meeting at which installed, and continue thereafter until the close of the following year's annual meeting, or until their respective successors have been elected.

Section 3. No chairperson may succeed him or herself for a period of at least two years from the expiration of his or her term. The vice-chair will automatically succeed the chairperson unless he or she expressly declines the position. This Article III shall not apply to former officers of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Committee of the NJSBA.

ARTICLE IV NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The chairperson, in consultation with the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Nominating Committee of five members of the Section, one of whom shall be the immediate past chairperson(s), who shall chair the Nominating Committee, and one of whom shall be a Young Lawyer (defined as under 36 years of age or practicing 12 years or less). The Nominating Committee shall make nominations of the officers and ten at-large trustees. The Nominating Committee shall consider diversity, qualifications and service to this Section and the NJSBA in general when making such nominations. The slate of nominees shall be published to members of the Section by newsletter, listserv or otherwise not less than 30 days prior to the election meeting at which they are to be proposed for election.

Section 2. Additional nominations may be made by petition of at least three members of the section, submitted to the Nominating Committee not later than 15 days prior to the election meeting. If any additional nominations are so made, all nominations shall be announced to the members of the Section at least 10 days before the election meeting.

Section 3. The officers and at-large trustees shall be elected at a meeting by a majority vote of the members present in-person at said meeting specifically held for this purpose. Voting by proxy is not permitted. This election meeting shall not be held on less than five (5) days' notice to the members. The officers and at-large trustees so elected shall take their offices at the next following NJSBA Annual Meeting or coincident therewith.

Section 4. Removal of Officers. Any officer or trustee may be removed, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members at any meeting duly called for such purpose.

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Section and Executive Committee, appoint the membership and chair of all standing and special committees, formulate and present at each annual meeting of the NJSBA a written report of the work of the Section for the past year, and pursue such other duties and acts as usually pertain to such office.

Section 2. The chair-elect shall, in the absence of the chair, perform the duties of the chair, or in the event of death, resignation or disability of the chair, the chair-elect shall succeed to the office of chairperson. In addition, the chair-elect shall be responsible for preparation and/or revision of the Section's bylaws, shall have overall responsibility for the publicity attendant to all GLBT Rights Section events and affairs, and shall perform such duties as the chairperson shall designate.

Section 3. The vice-chairperson shall be responsible for the Section's continuing legal education efforts throughout the year and shall perform such other duties as the chairperson may reasonably request.

Section 4. The secretary shall be the custodian of all books, records, papers and documents which are the property of the Section, and shall keep a true record of all proceedings.

Section 5. The immediate past-chair shall serve as the liaison between this Section and the other sections and committees of the NJSBA and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the chairperson.

ARTICLE VI VACANCIES

Section 1. In the event the chairperson position is vacant, the vice-chair will succeed as chair for the balance of the unexpired term. Any vacancy of the position of any other officer or member of the Executive Committee shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Committee for the balance of the unexpired term of the vacant position filled in this manner.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be an annual meeting of the membership of the Section which may be held at the same time and place as the Annual Meeting of the NJSBA or such other time and place as the chairperson may determine. The aforesaid meeting may be held in the same city where the Annual Meeting of the NJSBA is held or such other place as the chairperson may determine, as the time designated by the Association Secretary in the notice of such meetings, with such program or order of business as may be fixed by the chairperson.

Section 2. Meetings of the membership of this Section may be called by the chairperson at such times and places as the chairperson may determine. In addition to the annual meeting, there shall be at least three (3) meetings per year. It shall be the duty of the chairperson to call a special meeting of the members whenever the chairperson is directed to do so by a resolution of the majority of the Executive Committee, or upon a presentation to the secretary of a petition signed by thirty-three and one-third (33 1/3%) percent of the members entitled to vote at such meeting.

Section 3. At all meetings, 10 percent of the Section members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Any action by the Section shall be by a majority vote of the section members present and such action shall be binding upon the Section.

ARTICLE VIII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. This Section shall have an Executive Committee consisting of the current officers, up to ten at-large trustees and the legislative coordinator, who shall be appointed by the chair. Additionally, the immediate past chairperson of the Section shall be a member(s) of the Executive Committee for a term of one year after the expiration of office.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of this Section during the interval between meetings of the Section and shall have the authority to act for the section in any way in which the Section itself would be authorized to act. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any request to the NJSBA to advocate for any cause, litigation or legislation shall be approved by a majority the members of this Section. Such approval may be by vote of the Section members.

Section 3. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held upon the call of the chairperson of the Section, upon such notice written or oral, and at such time and place as the chairperson determines.

Section 4. Action by the Executive Committee shall be by a majority vote of its members present, except that the chairperson shall not vote except to break a deadlock caused by a tie vote. A quorum shall consist of a majority of Executive Committee members. In the event of a deadlock caused by a tie-vote of the Committee, the chairperson shall have and shall cast an extra vote in order to break the deadlock.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting by a majority vote of the members voting, but such amendments shall not take effect until they have been approved by the Board of Trustees of the Association.

Section 2. Notice of any proposed amendments shall be given to the members of the Section at least 15 days prior to the vote of the Section.

ARTICLE X SECTION COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Section chairperson shall appoint such ad hoc committees as is deemed necessary or desirable.

ARTICLE XI TRANSITION

Section 1. The first slate of officers and at-large trustees shall be nominated and elected in the following manner: The former co-chairpersons of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Committee of the NJSBA shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members of the Section, at least one of whom shall include a former co-chairperson of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Committee of the NJSBA. The Nominating Committee shall make nominations of the officers and three at-large trustees. In so doing, the Nominating Committee shall consider diversity, qualifications and service to this Section, the former Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Committee and the NJSBA in general when making such nominations. The slate of nominees shall be published to members of the Section not less than 15 days prior to the election meeting or listserv vote at which they are to be proposed for election.

Section 2. Additional nominations may be made by petition of at least three members of the section, submitted to the Nominating Committee not later than 10 days prior to the election meeting. If any additional nominations are so made, all nominations shall be announced to the members of the Section at least 5 days before the election meeting.

Section 3. The first election of officers and at-large trustees shall be conducted in the manner described in Article IV, Section 3, or by listserv vote, at the discretion of the former co-chairpersons of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Committee of the NJSBA. If said voting is conducted by listserv, the vote or poll shall be made available to the membership for at least five (5) days. The officers and trustees so elected shall take their offices at the next NJSBA Annual Meeting or coincident therewith.

Section 4. The first election of officers and at-large trustees by the membership of this Section shall take place at an election meeting of this Section prior to the Annual Meeting of the NJSBA in the year 2007.

ARTICLE XII AUTHORITY

Section 1. This Section shall be organized and conducted in all respects subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of the NJSBA and no action of this Section shall be construed to determine the Association's policy, nor shall any recommendation or resolutions of the Section be acted upon or publicized until after approval by the Association.

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