

BYLAWS OF THE MILITARY AND VETERANS' LAW SECTION OF THE STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN

JANUARY 2026

ARTICLE I

PURPOSES

Section 1. This Section shall be known as the Military and Veterans' Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

Section 2. The purposes of the Section shall be:

- (a) To provide for the exchange of ideas among members engaged in the practice of law servicing current and former service members and their dependents, employers, educators, and judiciary, with a view to:
 - (i) Improve the practice of *law as it applies to the military and to veterans*.
 - (ii) Study the principles, regulations, *administrative rules*, statutes and legal developments that affect *veterans, their dependents* and the military community, and to
 - (iii) Improve the quality of legal services provided to *veterans, their dependents* and the military community.
- (b) To serve as a forum and vehicle for the dissemination of specialized knowledge to practitioners engaged in the practice of law in this area by fostering networking and communications among members,
- (c) To coordinate its activities with those of other sections of the State Bar of Michigan whose activities and practice areas are complementary to those of this Section.

To accomplish these goals, the Military and Veterans' Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan will sponsor meetings and conferences of educational value and support the publication of articles that relate to the purposes of the section.

Article II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any active member of the State Bar of Michigan and upon request to the State Bar of Michigan and upon payment of dues for the current year, shall be enrolled as a member of the Section. Each applicant shall pay to the State Bar of Michigan the current section dues and shall thereafter pay annual dues on or before October 1 of each year. The amount of the annual dues will be determined by the council and may be changed upon the approval of a majority of the council.

Section 2. As provided in Article VII, Section 5 of the Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan, any newly admitted member of the State Bar of Michigan shall become a member without payment of dues for the first two years of his or her admission to the State Bar of Michigan, upon submission of a written request to the State Bar of Michigan.

Section 3. As provided in Article VIII, Section 6 of the Bylaws of the State Bar Michigan, any law student affiliate member may become a member of the Military *and Veterans'* Law Section upon request to the State Bar. Law student affiliate memberships are free.

ARTICLE III

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of the Section shall be held on the second Tuesday of September. Officers and Council members' office terms shall be from October to September 30 of each year.

Section 2. All active members of the State Bar of Michigan who have applied for membership in the Section and have paid dues or have otherwise qualified under Article II- by September 1st by mail or by electronic means shall receive notice of the annual meeting and shall be eligible to vote at the meeting. Participation in the meeting may be in person or by zoom or other electronic means.

Section 3. Voting at the *Annual* Meeting may not be done by proxy.

ARTICLE IV

ELECTION OF COUNCIL

Section 1. The *members* shall *select* eleven (11) members, consisting of:

- (a) The officers, elected pursuant to Article V and
- (b) Seven (7) members elected to three (3) year terms by the membership of the Section.

Section 2. If any elected member of the Council shall fail to attend three (3) successive meetings of the Council, the Council may declare the position vacant. If a position of the Council becomes vacant for any reason during the term of a member, including resignation or inability to perform the duties of the position, the remaining members of the Council shall select a replacement, who shall succeed in the position.

Section 3. Prior to the annual meeting the Chair shall appoint a nominating committee to propose nominations for the position of Officers and members of the Council for election at the annual meeting. Other nominations may be members present at the annual meeting.

Section 4. Election of the Council shall be by voice vote of the members of the Section present at the annual meeting unless voting by written or electronic ballot is requested and approved by a majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting or the outcome of the election by voice vote is indeterminable in which case voting by written *or electronic* ballot shall be required. The members of the Section present at the annual meeting of the Section constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and the actions of the majority of the quorum constitute action of the Section

Section 5. Student members are eligible to hold Council and Officer positions.

ARTICLE V

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the Section shall serve three (3) year terms, and shall consist of the following, elected by the members at the annual meeting:

- (a) Chairperson
- (b) Chairperson-elect
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Treasurer

Section 2. If any office becomes vacant during the period between annual meetings, the Council may select a replacement who will succeed to the full duties and responsibilities of the office.

Section 3. Subject to the approval of the members at the annual meeting, The Chairperson-elect shall succeed to the office of Chair.

ARTICLE VI

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. ~~Chairperson~~ The Chairperson shall:

- (a) Preside at all meetings of the Council.
- (b) Prepare and present at each meeting, including the annual meeting, a report of the activities of the Section.
- (c) Appoint Chairpersons and members of the committees of the Section.
- (d) Perform such other duties as are customarily associated with the office of Chairperson. Or as assigned by the Council.

Section 2. The Chairperson-Elect shall:

- (a) Preside at all meetings of the Council in the absence of the Chairperson.
- (b) Assume and perform the duties of the Chairperson during the disability of or after the death or resignation of the Chairperson.
- (c) Be responsible for the development and presentation of educational programs at the annual meeting.

Section 3. The Secretary shall:

- (a) Be the custodian of the books and records of the Section, apart from the financial documents.
- (b) Keep a record of all meetings, including the annual meeting of the Council.
- (c) Preside at the meetings of the Council in the absence of the Chairperson and the Chairperson-elect.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall:

- (a) Keep a record of the money received and disbursed and present a report at each meeting of the Council.
- (b) Present a financial report to the members at the annual meeting.
- (c) Prepare and present a proposed budget for consideration of the Council.
- (d) Preside at meetings in the absence of the Chairperson, Chairperson-elect and the Secretary.

ARTICLE VII

DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

Section 1. The Council shall:

- (a) Have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section subject to the Supreme Court Rules concerning the State Bar of Michigan and the Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan and the Bylaws of the Section.
- (b) During interim *periods* between meetings of the Section, have full power to do and perform all acts and functions, which the Section itself might do or perform.
- (c) Authorize all commitments or contracts and shall authorize or approve the expenditure of all monies.
- (d) Formulate and state the position of the Council on any matters relating to the Section's purposes.

Section 2. A majority of the membership of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A vote of the majority of those Council members present and voting shall be required for action by the Council.

Section 3. Between scheduled meetings the Council *and* the Chairperson of the Section may, and *at* the request of any member of the Council, shall

- (a) Schedule and convene a special meeting of the Council.~~or~~
- (b) When calling a formal Council meeting is not practical, submit in writing to each member of the Council any proposition on which the Council may be authorized to act. Members of the Council may vote on such a proposition by communicating their vote to the Secretary by any prompt or convenient means. The Secretary shall retain a record of the proposition submitted, when, how, at whose request submitted and the vote of each member thereon.

ARTICLE VIII

COMMITTEES

Section 1. The membership of committees is open to any member of the Section. Officers and Council members may also serve on and act as chairs of committees. The Council shall determine the number of members of each committee. The council may create committees that it determines are necessary and abolish *them* when no longer determined to be necessary.

Section 2. Any Law Student affiliate member may request to join and participate in any committee.

Section 3. Any member of the Council may request to join and participate in any committee.

ARTICLE IX

MEETINGS

Section 1. The Council shall meet at least once per quarter. Majority of those present and voting shall be sufficient to take action on any matter before the Council. Members may attend in person, by video or computer, *zoom*, telephone or any electronic means. Everyone must be able to adequately hear and participate.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Council or Section may be called *at any time* by the Chairperson.

ARTICLE X

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Section shall be from October¹ to September 30 of each year.

Section 2. All bills incurred by the Section, before being forwarded to the Treasurer or to the Executive Secretary of the State Bar of Michigan for payment, shall be approved by both the Chairperson and the Treasurer.

Section 3. No salary or compensation shall be paid for serving as a Section officer, member of the Council or member of any committee.

Section 4. Any action of this section must be approved by the Representative Assembly or the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar of Michigan before the same becomes effective as the action of the State Bar of Michigan. Reports or recommendations of this Section or by *any* of its committees may be released, announced or published only as provided in the Bylaws of the State Bar of Michigan, Article VIII and Article IX.

ARTICLE XI

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Section 1. An interested person is any officer, member of the Section or a general member who has a financial interest as defined by these Bylaws.

- (a) Financial interest applies to any Interested Person who has directly or indirectly through business, investment or ownership interest in any entity that may benefit from any action by the Section.
- (b) Any Interested Person when exercising their duties on behalf of this Section shall not take any action that would be considered unethical or improper. At all times they shall avoid the appearance of impropriety.
- (c) In any situation where there is conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety, the Interested Person shall disclose the same. Refrain from any discussion on the subject and abstain from voting. That person's abstention shall be recorded.

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by a majority vote of the Council, or by a petition signed by not less than five (5) members of the Section. The *Secretary* shall cause a complete and accurate text of the proposed amendments to be published in the Michigan Bar Journal or otherwise communicated to the members of the Section not less than thirty (30) days before the annual meeting.

Section 2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the membership at the annual meeting and shall be adopted upon a majority vote of those members present and voting.

Section 3. No amendment so adopted shall become effective until approved by the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar of Michigan.

First adopted: 2013

Revised: January 23, 2026