

**By-Laws of the New Lawyers Division
Of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice
(revised October 2009)**

Article I

- 1:** The name of this Division shall be the “New Lawyers Division [NLD] of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice.
- 2:** This Division shall come into existence upon authorization and approval by the North Carolina Advocates for Justice.

Article II

Jurisdiction

- 1:** This organization is formed as a Division of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice pursuant to the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Board resolution.
- 2:** The jurisdiction of this organization is limited to carrying out the objectives as expressed in Article III and the other Bylaws of this Division, but under no circumstances is to exceed that provided for by the Charter and Bylaws of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice.
- 3:** This Divisions has no authority, unless prior approval be obtained from the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Board of Governors, to formulate or disseminate policy, to take a public position on a public issues, to publish journals, letters or any other publications; nor to hold or own property of any kind; nor to obligate or attempt to obligate the North Carolina Advocates for Justice.

Article III

Objectives and Goals

The objectives and goals of the NLD will be the same as those set forth within the Bylaws of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice.

Article IV

Membership

All active members of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice who have been practicing law for less than (10) years, regardless of age, are Division members.

Article V

Board of Governors

1: The Board of Governors (hereinafter called the “Board”) shall be the managing body of the NLD of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice and shall control and formulate policies for the NLD.

2: The Board shall consist of the chairperson, chairperson-elect, secretary, and immediate past-chairperson, and the ten (10) governors elected in accordance with the Bylaws.

- A. Term:** The term of each elected Board member shall be two (2) years. Five (5) Board members shall be elected each year. Each of the five (5) Board members to be elected from the membership at-large shall take office immediately upon adjournment of the annual membership meeting following this election and hold office for two (2) years or until his/her successor is elected and qualified. At the first Division membership meeting, five (5) Board members also shall be elected to one (1) year terms.
- B.** No elected Board member shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms.
- C.** Board members shall be nominated and elected from the Division membership at-large.
- D.** Should any officer or governor fail to 1) qualify, 2) resign, 3) die, or 4) refuse or cease to serve for any reason, the office shall be filled by election by the NLD Board of Governors by a majority vote or quorum of the Governors.

3: Powers: The Board shall have the following powers:

- A.** Appoint or authorize the chairperson to appoint such standing and other committees, including a nominating committee to select and recommend names of members as nominees for governors and officers, as in its judgment is necessary for the proper management of the Divisions, and, in such cases, to delegate and define duties and powers of such committees.
- B.** Make, alter, or amend NLD policies and Bylaws.
- C.** Establish and change initiation fees and/or dues for this Division as consistent with the North Carolina Advocates for Justice properties.
- D.** Provide material for the submission for publication in Around the State, Trial Briefs, and/or other appropriate periodicals.
- E.** Expel from this Division any member, officer, or Board member for good cause by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board.
- F.** Appoint representatives to AAJ New Lawyers Division.

4: Attendance: Each member of the Board of Governors must attend one-half (1/2) of its meetings in each year. The failure of any member to attend the required number of meetings shall automatically constitute such member’s resignation from the Board unless absences have been excused in writing by the President.

5: All governors shall serve without compensation.

Article VI

Officers

1: The officers of this Division shall be elected each year from the NLD Board of Governors at the annual Division membership meeting and shall be:

- A. Chairperson;
- B. Chairperson-elect;
- C. Secretary;
- D. Immediate past-chairperson.

2: All officers shall take office immediately upon the adjournment of the annual Division membership meeting following their election and hold office for a term of one (1) year until their successors are elected and qualified.

3: The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Division and shall be a member of and chairperson of the Board and be an ex-officio member thereof the year following his term of office as chairperson. He/she shall perform such other services as are incident to his/her office and as are, from time to time, required by the Division Board. The chairperson shall also serve on the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Board of Governors.

4: The chairperson-elect shall be a member of the Division Board, and in the absence, disability, or death of the chairperson, shall exercise and perform his/her office and as are, from time to time, required by the Division Board.

5: The secretary shall be a member of the Division Board and shall keep the record of all proceedings of all Division membership and/or Board meetings, keep a roll of the Division's members, attend to correspondence and issue such notices as may be required by these Bylaws or otherwise. He/she shall perform such other services as are incident to his/her office and as are, from time to time, required by the Division Board.

6: The immediate past-chairperson shall be a member of the Division Board and perform such services as are, from time to time, required by the Division Board which includes providing assistance in the transition from one Board to another.

7: Compensation: All officers shall serve without compensation.

8: There will be an open election for secretary. The secretary, upon termination of his/her term, will automatically become chairperson-elect. The chairperson-elect, upon termination of his/her term, will automatically become chairperson.

9: If for some reason an officer does not assume the next office after his/her term, there will be an open election for the vacant office. [See Article V, 2e]

Article VII

Nominations and Elections

1: Nominations: At least thirty (30) days before each annual membership meeting, the Board shall appoint a five (5) member nominating committee which shall nominate from the Division membership a secretary and governors. The Nominating Committee shall submit the names of all nominees to the membership of the NLD at least ten days prior to the Annual Meeting. Accompanying the list of nominees shall be a notice that written nominations may be submitted by NLD members in good standing prior to the Annual Meeting and that further nominations may be submitted from the floor at the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting the recommendations of the Nominating Committee together with the report on all written nominations received will be submitted to the membership.

2: Elections: Officers and Board members shall be elected at each annual Division membership meeting by majority vote of the membership present.

3: Other Nominations: Other voting members of the Division may be nominated from the floor at the said annual Division membership meeting.

4: Voting shall be by ballot, but in person only. There will be no proxy votes accepted.

Article VIII

Committees

1: Annual Meetings:

A. Membership: The annual Division membership meeting shall be held at the Annual Convention of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice.

B. Board: The Board shall have its annual meeting immediately following the adjournment of the annual Division membership meeting and shall have at least three (3) other meetings during the fiscal year.

2: Special Meetings: May be called by the chairperson, on his/her own initiative, at any time or by written request of at least five (5) Board members; provided notice of the time and place be given the members of the Board at least seven (7) days before the meeting, either by publication in the journal or separate mailed notice which shall state the purpose thereof.

3: Quorum: Fifteen (15) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum to do business. Less than fifteen (15) members may adjourn the meeting to another fixed date without further notice.

A. Annual Membership Meeting:

B. Board: Five (5) members of the Board present shall constitute a quorum but less may adjourn the meeting to another fixed date without further notice. 25 percent of the Board of Governors in good standing shall constitute a quorum to do business. Less than 25 percent of the members may adjourn the meeting to another fixed date without further notice.

4: Parliamentary Rules: All meetings will be conducted under the latest published revision of the Roberts Rules of Order where not inconsistent with the Bylaws.

5: Order of Business: The order of business at all meetings shall be:

A. Roll call (may be by signed roster);

B. Reading, correction, and approval of any unapproved minutes;

C. Reports of officers and committees;

D. Unfinished business;

E. New business

Article IX

Amendments

1: These Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board present at any Board meeting during the first year of NLD existence and approval by the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Board of Governors.

2: These Bylaws may be amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified members present at an Annual Meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose, provided that a written notice shall have been sent to each member at least ten (10) days before such annual or special meeting, which notice shall state the proposed amendment or change which is proposed. Only such changes shall be made as have been specified in the notice.

3: The Bylaws may also be amended by the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Board of Governors.

Article X

Dissolution

1: The Division may be dissolved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership taken at the annual membership meeting, together with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board.

2: The Division shall be dissolved automatically if no quorum of the Board or of the Division membership is assembled in any regular or special meeting for a period of twenty-four (24) consecutive months.