

**By-Laws**

**of the**

**New Lawyers Committee**

**of the Oakland County Bar Association**

**OCBA**  
**Article I. – The New Lawyers Committee**

Section 1.1. **Name**  
The name shall be the “New Lawyers Committee” (“Committee”) organized under the Bylaws of the Oakland County Bar Association (“Association”).

Section 1.2. **Purpose**  
The purpose of this Committee shall be:

- (a) To conduct programs of interest and of value to new lawyers;
- (b) To preserve and promote high standards of integrity, honor, professional courtesy, and professional ethics among new lawyers;
- (c) To encourage new lawyers to volunteer on programs that benefit Oakland County, such as, HAVEN, Lighthouse, St Vincent & Sarah Fisher Foundation or other such projects as approved by the Board of Directors of the Association. (“Board”)
- (d) To foster understanding and respect of the law among the citizens of the community;
- (e) To facilitate the administration of justice;
- (f) To promote needed reform in the law;
- (g) To provide social activities and events to encourage interaction between members, such as, billiards events, athletic events, theatrical events or other such activities approved by the Board of Directors of the Association.
- (h) To promote the interests of new lawyers in the activities of the Association;
- (i) To cooperate with the general programs of the Association and their legal organizations in the furtherance of the aforementioned purposes.
- (j) To encourage other new lawyers to become members of the Association.

Section 1.3. **OCBA Board of Director Liaison**  
An Association Officer, normally the Vice President, shall be the liaison to the Committee and Council.

**Article II. – Membership/Dues/Fiscal Year**

Section 2.1. **Membership**

- (a) All Members of the Association in good standing who have been admitted to the practice of law ten (10) years or less are enrolled automatically as “Members” of the Committee.
- (b) Membership in the Committee shall terminate automatically at the adjournment of the Association’s Annual Meeting next occurring after the tenth anniversary of such Member’s admission to practice of law. . However, in the event a Committee Member is serving in the capacity as an Officer on the Executive Council, he or she shall be permitted to complete progression through the Officer positions. At the conclusion of said Member’s term as Chairperson, his or her membership in the Committee will be automatically terminated.
- (c) Law students from any accredited school of law who have been granted student membership status by the Association shall be deemed members of the Committee. Such membership shall not include the right to vote or

hold office. Together, all law student members of the Committee, irrespective of which law schools they attend, shall constitute a sub-group of the Committee known as the Law Student Group of the New Lawyers Committee (“Group”).

- (d) The membership of the Group shall organize itself amongst the various accredited laws schools. The Group membership shall elect annually on or before June 30<sup>th</sup> a different representative (“Group Representative”) from amongst its members, to represent the concerns of the Group to the Committee during the following bar year. However, all members of the Group are welcome to attend Committee meetings and events. No member of the Group, including the Group Representative, shall have a right to vote or hold office on the Committee.

Section 2.2. **Dues**

All Association dues must be paid to be a member in good standing of the Committee.

Section 2.3. **Bar Year**

The bar year shall commence July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

### **Article III. – Council**

Section 3.1. **Council**

There shall be a Council of the Committee consisting of not more than 17 voting members (“Officers” and “Directors”) elected as provided in 3.2 (Election). Members elected to the Council who are not otherwise elected as its Officers as provided in Article IV, shall be called Directors.

Section 3.2. **Election**

There shall be an election prior to each annual meeting of the Association to provide sufficient Council members to replace those Directors whose terms are expiring. All Directors elected shall serve for a term of three (3) years beginning at the close of the annual meeting following their election. The 3-year term limitation is waived for Officers during their progression through the Executive Council positions. The term of an Officer shall be renewed annually for a term of one year until the Officer has completed progression through the chair positions as set forth in Article 4. New Directors are elected by a vote of the full committee. Officers are elected by a vote of the Council. All elections shall be by procedure, approved by the Board prior to its annual meeting.

Section 3.3 **Ineligibility**

No person shall be eligible for election to the Executive Council (as defined in section 4.1) unless he or she has demonstrated commitment and dedication to pursuing the purpose and goals of the committee.

Section 3.4 **Nominating Subcommittee**

Prior to the annual meeting of the Association, the Chairperson of the Council shall appoint a nominating subcommittee consisting of the Chair and two (2) other Directors. The subcommittee shall make and report nominations to the Committee for those Council (Director and Officer) positions for which terms expire at the close of the next annual meeting, and to fill vacancies of then existing unexpired Council terms. The subcommittee should make its report to the Council not later than its May meeting.

Section 3.5. **Proxy**

Voting by proxy shall not be permitted.

## Article IV. – Election of Officers

### Section 4.1. **Officers**

The Officers shall be elected as provided in Article III, Section 2, and shall consist of:

- (a) Chairperson
- (b) Chair-Elect
- (c) Vice Chair - Program
- (d) Vice Chair – Public Relations
- (e) Vice Chair – Membership

These Officers shall collectively be called the “Executive Council”.

### Section 4.2. **Terms of Office for Officers and Directors; Initial Vacancy**

Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, an Officer shall hold Office for a regular term of one Bar Year or until such time as a successor is duly elected and takes Office. Directors’ terms will be staggered. Initial vacancies, including the Executive Board as a result of the start-up of the Council, shall be by appointment by the Association.

### Section 4.3. **Duties**

Hereafter, the Council shall be empowered, subject to the approval of the Board, to recommend and carry out those programs and activities designed to effectuate the purposes of the Committee.

### Section 4.4. **Vacancies**

If there is a vacancy in the office of Chairperson, the Chair-Elect shall become Chairperson. The Council, upon majority vote at the next duly noticed meeting may fill any other vacancy on the Executive Council. A vacancy occurring on the Council for any reason may be filled by the Council for the balance of the unexpired term.

### Section 4.5. **Removal**

Any Officer or Director of the Council may be removed for cause by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council, provided that the Officer or Director has the opportunity to defend any such action prior to the cause of removal notice. In addition, any Officer or Director may be removed by 2/3 vote in the event the individual has two (2) consecutive unexcused absences from Committee meetings and/or events.

### Section 4.6. **Chairperson**

#### **(a) Duties**

The Chairperson of the Council shall supervise the business and affairs of the Council. The Chairperson shall preside at all Council and Committee meetings. The Chairperson shall be responsible for carrying out the Purpose of the Council as set forth in Section 1.2, and shall perform all duties incident to the Office of the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall hold office for one bar year. The Chairperson shall attend all meetings of the Board, but will not have a voting seat.

#### **(b) Qualifications**

In addition to the qualifications stated in Section 4.3, to qualify as Chairperson, a person must have served a one-year term as Chair-Elect.

Section 4.7. **Chair-Elect**

(a) **Duties**

The Chair-Elect shall perform the duties of the Chairperson if he or she is absent, unable, refuses to act, or if there is a vacancy of the Chairperson. The Chair-Elect shall automatically succeed to Chairperson upon the completion of the term of Chairperson. The Chair-Elect shall serve as secretary and take the minutes of the meetings and perform such other duties as the Chairperson may assign to the Chair-Elect from time to time for one bar year.

(b) **Qualifications**

In addition to the qualifications stated in Section 2.1, to qualify as Chair-Elect, a person must have served a one-year term as Vice Chair- Program.

Section 4.8. **Vice Chair - Program**

(a) **Duties**

The Vice Chair - Program shall be responsible for overseeing the programs and efforts undertaken by the Council. The Vice Chair - Program shall report from time to time as to the funds raised by specific programs undertaken by the Council. The Vice Chair - Program also shall perform such other duties as the Chairperson may assign to the Vice Chair-Program from time to time for one bar year.

(b) **Qualifications**

To qualify as Vice Chair - Program, a person must have served a one-year term as Vice Chair – Public Relations.

Section 4.9. **Vice Chair – Public Relations**

(a) **Duties**

The Vice Chair – Public Relations shall hold office for one bar year. The Vice Chair – Public Relations shall work with the Association staff to promote the efforts of the Council. The Vice Chair – Public Relations also shall perform such other duties as the Chairperson may assign to the Vice Chair – Public Relations from time to time.

(b) **Qualifications**

To qualify as Vice Chair – Public Relations a person must have served a one-year term as Vice Chair – Membership.

Section 4.10. **Vice Chair – Membership**

(a) **Duties**

The Vice Chair - Membership shall act as a liaison between the Council and the Association's Membership Committee. The Vice Chair - Membership shall report from time to time as to the projects and initiatives undertaken by the Membership Committee and how the Council may assist in these projects. The Vice Chair - Membership also shall perform such other duties as the Chairperson may assign to the Vice Chair-Membership from time to time for one bar year.

(b) **Qualifications**

To qualify as Vice Chair - Membership, a person must have served one (1) full term as a Director and must submit a letter of interest to the Nominating Subcommittee to be placed on a slate of nominees for the position for election as provided in Article III, Section 2.

Section 4.11. **Directors**

(a) **Duties**

The purpose of the Directors is to be a member of, and have a voice in the decision-making process of the Council.

(b) **Qualifications**

To qualify as a Director, a person must have demonstrated commitment and dedication to pursuing the purpose and goals of the committee and submit a letter of interest to be placed on the slate of nominees for the position as provided in Article III, Section 2.

## **Article V. – Meetings**

Section 5.1. **Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the New Lawyers' Committee shall be held each year during the month of May or June. The purpose of the meeting shall be for the Chair and Chair-Elect to report to the membership of the Committee. In addition, the official result of the election for directors shall be announced.

Section 5.2. **Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the membership may be called by the Chair or the New Lawyers Council for purposes as they may deem appropriate.

Section 5.3. **Governance**

The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings at all meetings.

## **Article VI. – Amendments**

Section 6.1 **Changes**

Any proposed changes or amendments to the bylaws shall be voted on by the membership of the New Lawyers' Committee prior to its Annual Meeting and then submitted to the OCBA Board of Directors for their review and approval.

Section 6.2 **Required Vote**

An affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the New Lawyers' Committee members present at the meeting referred to in Section 6.1 shall be required for the adoption of the proposed change.

Section 6.3 **Changes by Petition**

The proposed bylaw change or amendment shall be submitted to the membership of the Committee not more than forty-five (45) days after a valid petition is submitted to the New Lawyers' Council through the Executive Director.