BYLAWS OF THE COUNCIL OF SECTIONS
OF THE FLORIDA BAR

ARTICLE I
NAMES AND PURPOSE

Section 1. Name. The name of the organization is the Council of Sections of The Florida Bar (the "council").

Section 2. Purpose. The purposes of the council include:

(a) fostering communication among the sections and promoting efficiencies in the delivery of section services to members of the bar;

(b) working with bar staff and the board of governors to promote efficient and cost effective use of staff to support section activities;

(c) improving communication between the board of governors and the sections;

(d) advising on and recommending to the board of governors policies and procedures that affect the sections generally; and

(e) undertaking projects as the sections or the president of The Florida Bar may from time to time request the council to undertake.

ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

Section 1. Members and Delegates. Each section of The Florida Bar is entitled to membership in the council, with each member section being entitled to 1 vote. For purposes of these bylaws, the Young Lawyers Division and Out of State Division are considered sections. The chair of each member section may appoint 2 delegates to the council, 1 of whom must be either the chair or the chair-elect of that section. Appointed members serve at the discretion of the chair of the section and may be changed at any time during the year by written notice to the chair of the council. The chair, or chair-elect if the chair is not a delegate, of each member section will cast the vote for that section, with the appointed member voting in the absence of the section chair or chair-elect.

Section 2. Quorum and Binding Action. A quorum of the council consists of a majority of the member sections. A majority vote of the sections present at a meeting duly called at which a quorum is present binds the council.

ARTICLE III
AUTHORITY

Section 1. Authority. The council has the authority to carry out the purposes expressed in Article I.
Section 2. Resolutions. The council may adopt resolutions by majority vote of a quorum and may communicate and advocate these resolutions to the board of governors.

Section 3. Section Rights. The actions of the council do not restrict in any way the rights and responsibilities of any section or its executive council.

ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS

Section 1. Council Officers. The council officers are chair, chair-elect, secretary, treasurer, and other officers and advisors at the council’s discretion.

Section 2. Eligibility.

(a) Chair and Chair-elect. The chair and chair-elect may be a current delegate to the council or a former chair of a section.

(b) Secretary and Treasurer. The secretary and treasurer may be a current or former delegate to the council.

Section 3. Selection of Officers.

(a) Chair-elect. The chair-elect will be elected annually by a majority vote of a quorum of the council.

(b) Chair. The chair-elect becomes chair on adjournment of the annual meeting, concluding the chair-elect’s term.

(c) Secretary and Treasurer. The secretary and treasurer are elected by majority vote of a quorum of the council.

(d) Immediate Past Chair. The chair becomes immediate past chair on adjournment of the annual meeting, concluding the chair’s term.

(e) Other Officers and Advisors. Eligibility of other officers and advisors is at the discretion of the council.

Section 4. Duties and Limitations.

(a) Chair. The chair (or the chair-elect, in the absence of the chair) presides at all meetings of the council. The chair schedules the meetings of the council in accordance with the provisions of these bylaws, formulates and presents a report of the work of the council for the preceding year at the annual meeting of the council, appoints the committee chairs and members of all committees of the council who are to hold office during the chair’s term, oversees the performance of all activities of the council, keeps the council informed, carries out the council’s decisions, and performs other duties as usually pertain to the office of chair or as designated by the executive council. The chair is an ex-officio member of each committee of the council.

(b) Chair-elect. The chair-elect acts as chair in the chair’s absence.
(c) Secretary. The secretary records the minutes of council meetings. If the secretary is not the designated voting member of a section, the secretary has no vote at council meetings.

(d) Treasurer. The treasurer is responsible for accounting for council funds and preparing financial statements under the council’s supervision. If the treasurer is not the designated voting member of a section, the treasurer has no vote at council meetings.

Section 5. Vacancy in Office.

(a) Chair. If the chair ceases to serve, the chair-elect will serve the balance of the term and the term of chair for which the chair-elect was elected.

(b) Chair-elect. If the chair-elect ceases to serve, a successor will be elected by a majority vote of a quorum of the council.

Section 6. Term of Office. The term of office of all officers is 1 year that begins at the conclusion of the annual meeting of The Florida Bar and ends at the conclusion of the next annual meeting of The Florida Bar.

ARTICLE V
MEETINGS

The council will meet at the annual meeting of The Florida Bar. The chair of the council may convene other meetings by providing each delegate with at least 30 days' prior written notice. A copy of the proposed agenda for the meeting being called must be provided to the delegates before the meeting. Prior written notice may be waived by a majority of the sections. The chair must convene a meeting within 45 days of receiving a written request to do so from 3 or more section chairs, or from the president of The Florida Bar. The council may meet or vote telephonically, by e-mail, or by other electronic means. Council meetings are governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VI
COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS

Section 1. Standing Committees. The council will establish the following permanent standing committees with the stated goals, purposes, and members:

(a) Executive Committee. The executive committee is responsible for providing assistance to the chair and coordinating with the members on matters that arise between council meetings. The executive committee conducts business of the council between the regular or special meetings of the council when council action is impractical. The committee may meet or vote in person, by correspondence, telephonically, by e-mail, or by other electronic means. The members of the executive committee are the chair, chair-elect, secretary, treasurer and immediate past chair.

(b) Nominating Committee. The nominating committee is responsible for preparing the proposed slate of officers for the upcoming year to be presented to the council
members before the annual meeting of The Florida Bar. The members of the committee are the immediate past chair, the chair, and the chair-elect.

(c) CLE/Education Committee. The purpose of the CLE/education committee is to assist the members of the council in considering matters relating to continuing legal education and other education programs and matters. The CLE/education committee consists of a minimum of 3 members appointed by the chair.

(d) Budget Committee. The budget committee is responsible for assisting the treasurer with the preparation of the council's budget and to coordinate with the long range planning committee for any programs that may impact the budget. The budget committee is chaired by the treasurer and includes at least 2 other members appointed by the council chair.

(e) Long Range Planning Committee. The long range planning committee makes recommendations concerning the future role and activities of the council. The long range planning committee consists of a minimum of 3 members appointed by the chair.

Section 2. Ad Hoc Committees. The chair of the council may establish ad hoc committees as the chair or the council deem necessary and appropriate.

Section 3. Committee Appointments. The chair may appoint members of the council to the various committees for 1-year terms. All members of the council must be appointed to serve on at least 1 committee.

Section 4. Liaison Appointments. The chair may appoint council liaisons to The Florida Bar Board of Governors, The Florida Bar’s continuing legal education (CLE) committee, and other Florida Bar committees, entities, and organizations. The council liaisons may attend and participate in meetings as permitted by the entities to which the liaisons are appointed.

ARTICLE VII
EXPENSES AND COMPENSATION

Section 1. Expense Reimbursement. The chair and treasurer may authorize the reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket travel expenses in accordance with bar policies and the annual budget of the council for a designee to represent the council at meetings held by entities other than the council.

Section 2. Compensation of Council Delegates. No salary or other compensation may be paid to any council delegate.

Section 3. Budget. The council will establish a budget for the operation of the council for the next fiscal year at the annual meeting of The Florida Bar by majority vote of a quorum of the council. The budget may be modified during any fiscal year by like vote.
ARTICLE VIII
MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Council Actions Versus Bar Actions. No action of the council is to be represented or construed as the action of The Florida Bar.

Section 2. Bylaw Amendments. These bylaws may be amended only on approval by the board of governors after either:

(a) written ratification by two-thirds of the bar’s sections; or

(b) by majority vote of the member sections at any council meeting with 30-days advance written notice.