

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW SECTION

Bylaws

As last amended and approved by the
Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors
on March 21, 2025.

ARTICLE I: NAME

This organization shall be known as the “World Peace Through Law Section” of the Washington State Bar Association (hereinafter referred to as the “Section” and the “Bar”).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

2.1. Purpose

The World Peace Through Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association seeks to promote the rule of law and peaceful resolution of disputes among states and to foster education on public international law and human rights. The Section provides a forum for ideas, offers continuing legal education programs, publishes a newsletter, engages in activities with governmental entities and non-governmental organizations who share an interest in world peace through law and undertakes such other service as may benefit the members, the legal profession and the public.

2.2. Limitations

These bylaws have been adopted subject to the Bylaws of the Bar.

2.3. Principal Office

The Principal Office of the Section shall be maintained in the offices of the Bar.

2.4. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Section shall coincide with that of the Bar.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

3.1. Membership

Any Active member in good standing of the Bar, inactive members under WSBA Bylaws Article III.B.2.b.1 and III.B.2.b.3, and any professor at a Washington law school (whether licensed in Washington or not) may be enrolled as a voting member of the Section upon payment of annual Section dues in the amount and for the

purpose approved by the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar pursuant to Article 3.2 of these bylaws. In addition, people not licensed to practice law in Washington may be non-voting members (“subscribers”) of the Section by paying the Section’s annual dues. Law students may also be Subscribers by paying an annual amount set by the Board of Governors.

3.2. Annual Dues

Annual membership dues amount is determined by the Section executive committee and is subject to approval by the Board of Governors of the Bar.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

4.1. Officers

The officers of the Section shall be the Chair, the Chair-elect, the Secretary/Treasurer, and the Immediate Past Chair.

4.2. Chair

The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and the executive committee. The Chair shall generally attend to the business of the Section and perform other customary duties of the office as well as duties delegated by the executive committee. In accordance with the WSBA Bylaws, the Chair shall also prepare and submit an annual report on the work of the Section for the past year.

4.3. Chair-elect

Upon the Chair’s death, resignation, or refusal to act, the Chair-elect shall perform the duties of the Chair for the remainder of the Chair’s term. In case of the Chair’s disability, the Chair-elect shall perform the duties of the Chair only for the duration of the disability.

4.4. Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer will take minutes at each meeting of the Section and executive committee, and provide approved minutes to the Bar for publication and record retention. The Secretary/Treasurer will also work with the Bar to ensure that the Section complies with Bar fiscal policies and procedures, work with the Bar to prepare the Section’s annual budget, and review the Section’s monthly financial statements for accuracy and comparison to budget. In conjunction with the Chair, and as authorized by the executive committee, the Secretary/Treasurer shall generally attend to the business of the Section.

4.5. Immediate Past Chair

The Immediate Past Chair shall serve as an officer as provided in Article 5.3.

4.6. Term

The term of office for each officer shall commence on October 1 and shall be for one year. For interim appointments, Article 5.6 controls.

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

5.1. Powers and Duties

The executive committee of the Section shall be vested with the powers and duties necessary for the administration of the affairs of the Section. The executive committee shall have the following primary duties:

To determine programs and activities that further the Section's purpose.

To be responsible for communications between the Section and the WSBA.

To create additional committees, if necessary, for the administration of the Section's activities.

From time to time, to make awards, such as the Ralph J. Bunch Award.

5.2. Composition

The executive committee shall be composed of the officers of the Section and at least three At-Large members with up to five At-Large positions allowed. Members of the executive committee must be voting members of the Section.

5.3. Terms

With the exception of the At-Large members, the term of office shall begin on October 1 and be for one year. The term of office for At-Large members shall begin on October 1 and be for three years with terms staggered so that at least one position is open for election each year.

Upon completion of a one-year term, the Chair shall assume the position of Immediate Past Chair until the next annual election. A vacancy in the office of Immediate Past Chair shall not be filled by appointment, but shall remain vacant until the current Chair's term has ended.

5.4. Meetings of the Executive Committee

The executive committee shall meet at least four times per year. Special meetings may be held as designated by the Chair or a majority of the executive committee. Notice of all meetings shall be provided to all Section members and published on the Bar website.

5.5. Quorum

A majority of the voting executive committee members constitutes a quorum. Action by the executive committee is determined by a majority vote of the members present in person, by telephone, or videoconference, once a quorum is established. Votes may be received in person or by telephone, fax or e-mail in accordance with the Bar's Bylaws.

5.6. Interim Appointments

The executive committee will appoint, by majority vote, members to fill vacancies on the executive committee (except for Immediate Past Chair). When a member is appointed to fill a vacancy in an unexpired term, the member will do so until the next annual election when an individual will be elected to serve the remainder of the vacated term.

ARTICLE VI: OTHER COMMITTEES

6.1. Formation

World Peace Through Law Section

The executive committee shall appoint committees to perform such duties and exercise such powers as may be needed to meet the objectives of the Section. Committees may be identified as standing committees or ad hoc committees.

6.2. Newsletter Committee

If appointed, a newsletter committee may be composed of one or more members. The executive committee shall appoint the Chair of the newsletter committee. The duty of the committee is to prepare a regularly published newsletter. The committee works in collaboration with the Chair of the Section regarding the final content of each newsletter.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

7.1. Meetings

The Section may, at its discretion, hold an annual or special meeting of the membership, giving notice to the members of the Section and publishing public notice on the Bar website. Meetings of the membership may be called by the Chair or a majority of the members of the executive committee.

7.2. Quorum

The voting members of the Section present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. However, votes may be cast by voting members attending, but not physically present, by electronic ballot, or other similar means.

ARTICLE VIII: ELECTIONS

8.1. Elections

Each year the membership shall elect a Chair-elect and a Secretary/Treasurer to serve a one-year term and at least one At-Large member of the executive committee to serve a term of three years and may elect up to two additional At-Large members provided the number of At-Large members on the executive committee following the election does not exceed five members. The outgoing Chair elect shall automatically succeed to the office of Chair.

8.2. Nominations

The executive committee shall annually appoint a nominating committee of not fewer than three members of the Section. At least one member of the nominating committee should not be a current member of the section executive committee. All applicants will apply through an electronic process administered by the Bar. The executive committee will also have an alternative process to allow for nominations to occur outside of the nominating committee process. The nominating committee shall make and report nominations for the upcoming vacant positions of the offices of Chair-elect, Secretary/Treasurer, and one At-Large member of the executive committee. In the event that the office of Chair-elect is vacant at the time of the election, the position of Chair shall also be included with the nominations. The executive committee will approve a list of nominees for each open position.

8.3. Voting

Nominations and elections for open executive committee positions will be held between March and May each year. The Bar will administer the elections by electronic means and certify the results, unless the Section develops its own equivalent electronic election process. In the event of a tie, the winner will be

determined by a random tie-breaker method to be determined by the Section Chair.

8.4. Term Of Office

The term of office of each elected position shall commence October 1.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

9.1. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the voting members of the Section. These bylaws may also be amended at any regular or special meeting of the executive committee of the Section called for the purpose of amending the bylaws and upon seven days written notice to members of the Section and the public, by a majority vote of the voting executive committee members once a quorum is established. No amendment of these bylaws shall become effective until approved by the Board of Governors of the Washington State Bar Association.

Approved by the WSBA Board of Governors on March 21, 2025.