

**By-Laws of the Family Law Section
Of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice
(revised October 2010)**

I. Officers

Section 1: Titles

The officers of the Section shall be the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson And Secretary.

Section 2: Duties of Officers

- (a) **Chairperson:** The Chairperson shall be the chief executive officer of the Section and preside at all meetings and direct the affairs of the Section with the advice and consent of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice and shall appoint and may remove all committees and members deemed advisable or that the North Carolina Advocates for Justice directs. The Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Board of Governors.
- (b) **Vice Chairperson:** The Vice Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson in the absence of the Chairperson, shall perform such duties as are delegated by the Chairperson and shall assume the office of Chairperson upon the creation of a vacancy in that office.
- (c) **Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all Section meetings and Executive Committee meetings and shall perform such duties as are delegated by the Chairperson and shall assume the office of Vice Chairperson upon the creation of a vacancy in that office.
- (d) **Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Section Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary and shall meet from time to time as deemed advisable by the Section Chairperson, who shall call and preside at all Executive Committee meetings.

Section 3: Election of Officers and Terms

- (a) Officers shall be elected by a majority of those Section members voting in an annual election called by the Chairperson.
- (b) Nominations shall be made by the Nominating Committee and by the Section membership.
- (c) Terms of office shall be for one year commencing on July 1 of each year.

II. Regulations Governing Committees

Section 1: No committee shall assume to represent the Section before any legislative body, in courts, or before any other tribunal unless unauthorized to do so by the Executive Committee of the Section or the membership of the Section.

Section 2: Attendance Policy

Members of the Section may attend all committee meetings but may not participate unless invited by a majority of such group present at said meeting.

Section 3: Minutes and Reports

- (a) Each committee must keep minutes of its meetings and a copy shall be Filed within five days after such meeting by or with the Section Secretary.
- (b) Reports from the chairpersons of the committees must be received by the chairperson of the Section two weeks prior to Section meetings.

Section 4: Attendance Records

- (a) Records of attendance at all meetings must be kept and reported in the minutes. These records should be available to the Section Chairperson upon request to assist in making appointments for the coming year.
- (b) The Section Chairperson has the right to authorize committee Chairpersons to replace inactive committee members when necessary.

Section 5: Publicity and Speakers Bureau

- (a) Important action by a committee deemed to be newsworthy should be specially noted in the minutes or reports so that an appropriate news release covering the subject can be dispatched from the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Office by the Section Chairperson.
- (b) The North Carolina Advocates for Justice receives requests from professional organizations, civic groups, and others for speakers on various subjects. Committees are urged to arrange a list of speakers and subjects related to the work of their area. These names should be furnished to the Section Chairperson.

Section 6: Chairpersons of Committees

- (a) The Section Chairperson shall select chairpersons for each committee. The Section Chairperson and committee chairperson will appoint members of the committees.

- (b) The chairperson of a committee shall preside at all meetings and shall direct the affairs of the group with the advice and consent of the Section Chairperson.
- (c) The chairperson has the power to assign research work to registered members of the committee. The chairperson may appoint from the members of the committee or program area such subcommittees as needed with specific assignments of work projects, thus allowing for broad participation in the work of the Section.
- (d) The chairperson of the committee should either appoint a newsletter editor to send articles to be published in Trial Briefs or the Section Chairperson should submit these articles.
- (e) Committee chairperson will be responsible for:
 - (1) proposing to the Section Chairperson new legislation or an appeal of undesirable or unnecessary laws in the particular field, and
 - (2) aiding in the continuing education of lawyers in their respective fields by proposing seminar topics and speakers.

Section 7: Legislative Policy and Procedures

Committees are to assist the Legislative Committee in obtaining passage of Approved legislation by appearing before legislative committees in their areas of specialty.

III. General Business Meetings

Section 1: Regular business meetings of committees may be held at such times and places as may be determined by the chairperson. The meeting may be held at the general meetings of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice but ordinarily they should not be scheduled at times in conflict with programs and general functions.

Section 2: Plans for committee meetings at hotels, lodges, restaurants, or other locations (except small business meetings at law offices) should be given to the Executive Committee prior to the event and all such arrangements should be handled by the Executive Committee.

IV. Committees

Section 1: There shall be such standing and special committees as the Section membership or the Section Chairperson shall authorize. The number, qualifications, powers and duties of all committees shall be determined by the general membership or the Section Chairperson.

Section 2: The members of the standing committees shall be appointed by the Section Chairperson and the committee chairperson.
A Committee Chairperson will serve a one year term.

Section 3: Committee Functions

- (a) Nominating and Awards Committee – This Committee is composed of the Section Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary. Its duties shall include:
 - (1) Recommendations to the Section for all officers; and
 - (2) Recommendation to the North Carolina Advocates for Justice of recipients of various awards
- (b) Legislative Committee – the functions of this committee are:
 - (1) To supervise the legislative program for the Section by considering proposed and pending legislation and by developing the Section’s legislative program;
 - (2) This committee shall work closely with the Section Executive Committee in presenting its ideas to members of the legislature;
 - (3) The committee chairman may appoint subcommittees on particular legislation for in-depth study.
- (c) Membership Committee – the functions of this committee are:
 - (1) To supervise and conduct a continuing program of solicitation of new members and for the conservation of existing members;
 - (2) To exercise general supervision of the membership application procedures and inductions of new members;
 - (3) To study and report to the Section Executive Committee recommendations that would lead to the improvement of relations between the Section and its members;
- (d) Public Service and Information Committee – the functions of this committee are:
 - (1) To study, recommend, supervise, conduct and promote the activities of the Section seeking to improve the relations between the bar and the public;
 - (2) To develop social and legal issues revolving around the trial bar and the public and foster programs to carry out the widest understanding of these issues among the legislative members, community, fraternal, business and industrial groups, and the judiciary and bar associations;
 - (3) To develop and maintain a listing of communications media and publications, news contacts, etc., across the state to carry out the functions of this committee;
 - (4) To evaluate news items from editorials, etc. involving the trial bar and respond when appropriate.
- (e) Amicus Curiae Committee – this committee shall review litigation, not involving the Section as a party, with the purpose of recommending to

the Section Chairperson whether the Section should seek to participate as an Amicus Curiae. This committee will:

- (1) Derive general standards and conditions for approval by the Section Chairperson for Amicus Curiae participation by the Section;
 - (2) Present to the Section Chairperson litigation which this committee feels deserves and Amicus Curiae brief by the Section;
 - (3) Assign writing of the Amicus Curiae brief to a person particularly competent in the area of litigation.
- (f) Education Committee – this committee will study, formulate, and recommend programs to the North Carolina Advocates for Justice Education Committee that will attract lawyers to our continuing legal education programs. This committee will:
- (1) To establish these programs in sufficient time that they can be properly publicized and advertised to promote attendance at the seminar;
 - (2) One member of the committee will be named as chairperson for each seminar and will work closely with the Executive Committee in arranging that particular seminar;
 - (3) Specific topics and speakers should be suggest by committee members;
 - (4) Payment of expenses for any speakers from out of state being invited to appear on seminar programs must be approved in advance by the Executive Committee.
- (g) Lawyers Assistance Committee – the functions of this committee are:
- (1) To establish procedures whereby a member of the Section may call upon a member or members of this committee for assistance when such member is involved in a controversy concerning on-going litigation wherein such member is being subjected to mistreatment by an opponent or the tribunal and such mistreatment significantly effects a substantial right of the member or the member's client.
 - (2) To assemble a group of Committee members who shall immediately come to the assistance of a Section member when such member is involved in a controversy concerning on-going litigation wherein such member is being subjected to mistreatment by an opponent or the tribunal and such mistreatment significantly effects a substantial right of the member or the member's client.
 - (3) To report to the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice any action proposed to be taken as a result of any such request for assistance.

V. Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Governors of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice at a regularly scheduled Board meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose, provided that a written notice shall have been sent to each member of the Board at least ten days before such 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.

VI. Membership

Membership in the Family Law Section is open to all members of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice. Membership in the North Carolina Advocates for Justice is required.