

**CONSTITUTION
OF
THE MINNESOTA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**

Adopted January 9th. 1901
Amended 1904 & 1905

ARTICLE I. NAME.

This Association shall be called Minnesota State Bar Association.

ARTICLE II. OBJECT.

This Association is formed to cultivate the science of jurisprudence, to promote reform in the law, to facilitate the administration of justice, to elevate the standard of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession, to encourage a thorough and liberal legal education, to cherish a spirit of brotherhood among the members thereof, and to perpetuate their memory.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERS.

Any member of the legal profession in good standing, residing and practicing in the state of Minnesota may become a member of this Association by signing the roll of members, or by directing the Secretary to sign his name thereto, and by paying the annual dues for the current year.

The judges of the United States Court within this state and of the Supreme Court and District Court of Minnesota shall, during their respective terms of office, be honorary members of this Association.

Other honorary members may be elected by the Association.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and a Board of Governors, consisting of eleven members of this Association, including the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be ex-officio members thereof.

[Amended April 5th, 1904, so as to read as follows:

Art. IV. The officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and a Board of Governors consisting of nine (9) members in addition to those who are members thereof ex-officio as hereinafter provided. The President and Vice-President shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Governors during their respective terms of office and for two years after the expiration thereof. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Governors during their respective terms of office, but no longer. Neither the President nor the Vice-President shall be eligible to re-election within two years after the expiration of his term of office.]

ARTICLE V. PRESIDENT.

The President, or in his absence, the Vice-President, or in the absence of both of them, one of the members chosen by those present as President pro tem., shall preside at all meetings of this Association.

The President shall, if present, preside at all meetings of the Board of Governors, and it shall be his duty to deliver an address to the Association at its annual meeting, and, immediately after its annual meeting, he shall call a meeting of the Board of Governors, and from the members thereof, appoint, for the ensuing year, the standing committees as set forth in Article vi herein.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

The management of this Association shall be vested in the said Board of Governors, constituted as hereinbefore set forth, which Board shall be vested with the title to its property as trustees thereof, until the incorporation of this Association; the said Board shall have the power to provide and amend By-Laws for this Association, not inconsistent with the Constitution, by a two-thirds vote of those present at a meeting of said Board. Such By-Laws, however, will be subject to change by the Association at any regular meeting.

Four members of said Board shall constitute a quorum thereof for the transaction of all business.

The said Board shall, immediately after each annual meeting of the Association, meet for the appointment by the President, of the following standing committees for the ensuing year:

First. An Ethics Committee consisting of five members, to whom shall be referred all complaints of professional misconduct of members of the Bar of this state, and all complaints affecting the interests of the legal profession, the practice of law and the administration of justice. The proceedings of this committee shall be in confidence and shall be kept in honorable secrecy except in so far as written or printed reports of the same shall be necessarily and officially made to the said Board.

[Amended April 4, 1905, by adding at the end of paragraph: -

“And said Ethics Committee, if, after investigation and recommendation for prosecution in any case of complaint of professional misconduct, they deem it expedient, may, in the name of this Association, present such case for prosecution to the State Board of Examiners with such recommendation as they may deem proper.”]

Second: Committee on Jurisprudence and Law Reform

consisting of five members to whom shall be referred all proposed changes in law or practice; and it shall be the duty of this Committee to report thereon at each annual meeting of this Association, such changes or modifications of existing laws or practice, or such other matters affecting the interests of the profession as, in their judgment, ought to be proposed by the Association.

Third: Committee on Legal Biography consisting of three members, whose duty it shall be to provide for preservation among the archives of this Association, suitable written or printed memorials of the lives and character of distinguished deceased members of the Bar of this state.

Fourth: A Finance Committee consisting of three members, who shall disburse, by order to the Treasurer, the moneys of this Association.

Fifth: A Library Committee consisting of three members, whose duty it shall be to assist the justices of the Supreme Court in maintaining and advancing the interest of the law library of this state.

Sixth: A Committee on Legal Education consisting of three members, whose duty it shall be to examine into and report to this Association at its annual meeting the system of legal education and admission to the Bar in this state, with such recommendations as to any changes therein as, in their judgment, shall be considered advisable. Such committee shall also from time to time confer with the State Board of Law Examiners relative to the qualification and admission of candidates. It shall be the duty of the Board of Governors of this Association to retain an amply competent counsel to conduct such proceedings for disbarment or discipline of members of the legal profession in this state as shall, in the opinion of a majority of said Board, be considered to be for the best interests of the public and of the Bar of this state.

ARTICLE VII. SECRETARY.

The Secretary shall keep a record of all the meetings of this Association and of the Board of Governors, and, with the concurrence of the President, conduct its correspondence, and discharge such other duties of a like nature as shall be required by this Association.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary to mail to each member of the Association written or printed notice of the annual meeting at least six days previous thereto.

ARTICLE VIII. TREASURER.

The Treasurer shall collect, and upon the order of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, shall disburse the moneys of this Association and discharge such other duties of a like nature as shall be required of him by said Board. He shall give such security for the faithful performance of his duty as Treasurer as the Board of Governors shall require.

ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS.

This Association shall meet annually at such time and place as the Board of Governors may select; special meetings of the Association may be held upon such notice as the Board of Governors may determine, at a time and place to be fixed in such notice. Those present at such meetings shall constitute a quorum.

There shall be two regular meetings of the Board of Governors held on the first Tuesday in April and October in each year at the State Capitol, or such other place as the President shall determine, and there may be such other special and adjourned meetings of the said Board as the President, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall determine.

ARTICLE X. FEES AND DUES.

The annual dues of members shall be \$2.00 and shall be payable to the Treasurer in advance, at or before the annual meeting. Honorary members shall be exempt from the payment of dues.

ARTICLE XI. EXPULSION.

Any member may be suspended or expelled for misconduct in his relations to the Association, or in his profession, or for non-payment of dues for one year, on the recommendation of the Board of Governors, by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Association present and voting at any annual meeting of the Association; and all interests in the property of the Association, or persons ceasing to be members by expulsion, resignation, or otherwise, shall thereupon vest absolutely in the Association.

ARTICLE XII. ELECTION.

All officers of this Association shall be elected by a ballot at the annual meetings for the year next ensuing, and they shall hold their offices until the election and acceptance of their successors.

All vacancies in office shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE XIII.

This Constitution shall go into effect immediately; it can be amended only by a two-thirds vote of the members present at an annual meeting of this Association. ■

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