

RESTATED

BY-LAWS

ST. CLAIR COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

AMENDED JUNE 18, 1993

AMENDED NOVEMBER 18, 1993

AMENDED JANUARY 18, 1996

AMENDED NOVEMBER 18, 1994

AMENDED FEBRUARY 26, 2004

**SECTION 1. NAME:** The name of this Association shall be "ST. CLAIR COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION."

**SECTION 2. PURPOSES:** The Association exists for the purposes of cultivating the science of jurisprudence, promoting reform in the law, facilitating the administration of justice, elevating the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession, encouraging a thorough and liberal legal education and cultivating and cherishing a spirit of camaraderie among the members thereof. The Association shall not take any partisan political action nor endorse or recommend any person for any official position.

**SECTION 3. MEMBERSHIP:** The membership of the Association shall consist of active, associate, life and honorary members.

**A. Active:** Any person licensed to practice law by the Supreme Court of Illinois, who practices or resides in St. Clair County, and who pays dues as hereinafter set forth, shall be an active member of this Association/.

**B. Associate:** Any person who is licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois and who pays dues as hereinafter set forth, shall be an associate member of the Association.

**C. Life:** Any member of this Association who has been a practicing attorney for a period of forty (40) years shall be awarded a life membership in this Association, if the attorney has been a member of this Association for ten (10) years or more.

**D. Honorary:** Distinguished lawyers may be elected honorary members by a three-fourths (3/4ths) vote of the members of the Board of Directors and by the approval of the members at a regular meeting.

**E. Privileges:** All members in good standing shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of membership, except that honorary members shall have a voice but not a vote at meetings, nor shall they be entitled to hold office.

**F. Expulsion:** Any member of this Association may be expelled from membership for cause upon recommendation of the Board of Directors and by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the members present at any meeting held after ten (10) days notice in writing has been given to all members of the Association.

#### SECTION 4. MEETINGS:

**A. Time:** As near as practicable, regular meetings shall be held at such time as the President or a majority of the Board of Directors may direct, or upon the filing of a petition with the Secretary signed by not less than twenty (20) voting members requesting a special meeting for a particular purpose.

**B. Place:** All regular meetings shall be held in St. Clair County, Illinois, or at such a place as the Board of Directors may direct.

**C. Notice:** Notice stating the time and place of meeting shall be given by mail to the membership posted at least five (5) days in advance of any regular meeting, and three (3) days in advance of any special meeting.

**D. Quorum:** Twenty-five (25) voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting.

**E. Conduct of Meeting:** Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of all meetings.

**F. Agenda:** There shall be prepared an agenda for each meeting of the general membership. The agenda shall include endorsements to be considered, issues to be voted on, old and new notification to the general membership of all agenda items shall be made no later than seven (7) days prior to each general membership meeting. Advance notification of any non-agenda item can be waived if seventy-five percent (75%) or more of the Association members at a general membership meeting agree to waive the requirement.

SECTION 5. OFFICERS: The officers shall be President, First Vice-President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

#### SECTION 6. DIRECTORS:

**A.** The Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of twelve (12) members, including by reason of their respective offices, the President, First Vice-President, Second-Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and immediate past President. The remaining Directors shall be chosen as follows: Three (3) Directors, whose terms shall expire in two years, shall be elected every year. Only active members shall serve as Directors.

**B.** A majority of the Board present in person shall constitute a quorum. The affirmative vote of the majority of the quorum shall be necessary for action by the Board. The President shall have no vote except in the event of a tie.

**C.** Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the President or any two (2) Directors; however, in no event shall there be fewer than eight (8) Board of Directors'

meetings each year. The person or persons authorized to call meetings of the Board of Directors may fix the place for holding the meeting of the Board of Directors so called.

**SECTION 7. TERMS OF OFFICE:** The terms of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall commence on July 1st of the year in which he is elected and end on June 30th of the last year of his term.

**SECTION 8. VACANCIES:** All vacancies in any office during the term thereof, shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 9. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:**

**A.** There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of five (5) members. The members of this committee shall be the three (3) most recent past Presidents able and willing to serve and two (2) other members of the Association appointed by the President. The last immediate past-President able and willing to serve shall be the Chairman of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall report its recommendations for the nominations for the offices and terms to be filled to the President, who in turn shall report same to the members by notice at least twenty (20) days prior to the June meeting.

**B.** Nominations may be made from the floor at the June meeting by any active member of the Association.

**C. Voting:** Voting shall be by voice vote at the June meeting, except voting shall be by ballot if there are nominations under Paragraph B aforesaid. The President shall appoint tellers of the election to canvass the ballots immediately after the voting and report the results immediately after the canvass.

**SECTION 10. PRESIDENT:** The President shall preside at all meetings and shall act as Chairman of the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 11. VICE-PRESIDENTS:** The First Vice-President shall act in the President's stead in the President's absence, and shall perform such other duties as the President may assign with the First Vice-President's consent. The Second Vice-President shall act in the First Vice-President's absence, and shall perform other duties as the President may assign with the Second Vice-President's consent.

**SECTION 12. SECRETARY:** The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, and all general membership meetings. The Secretary shall be the custodian of the corporate reports of the Association and shall also file the annual corporate report of the Association with the Secretary of State as a not-for-profit corporation.

**SECTION 13. REGISTERED AGENT:** A Registered Agent shall be appointed by the Board of Directors as required by law of not-for profit corporations.

**SECTION 14. TREASURER:** The Treasurer shall keep a complete record of all funds received and disbursed by the Association. At least quarterly, the Treasurer shall submit a written report of the financial condition of the Association to the Board of Directors, and a summary thereof

**SECTION 15. COMMITTEES:**

**A. Starting Committees:** The President shall, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, appoint a Chairman and members of the following Standing Committees:

1. Legal Practices and Education Committee.
2. Legal-Medical Committee.
3. Governmental Affairs Committee.
4. Special Events and Program Committee.
5. Family/Probate Law Committee.
6. Membership Committee.
7. Young Lawyers Committee.
8. Law Day Committee.

**B.** The President shall, pursuant to the terms of Administrative Order 75-50 of the Circuit Court, Twentieth members of the Association as members of the Advisory Board of Trustees of the St. Clair County Law Library to serve such terms as are designated in said Administrative Order.

**SECTION 16. FUNCTIONS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:** The functions of the Standing Committees of the Association are as follows:

1. Legal Practices and Education Committee: To hear and investigate complaints relating to any legal practices issues including but limited to attorney-client fee disputes, to legal services and to assist in the resolution, enforcement or reporting of any such disputes or unauthorized practices. To promote, expand and support civil legal services to the indigent in St. Clair County. To promote and encourage participation in continuing legal education programs by all members of the Association. The committee shall report its activities to the Board of Directors as directed.

2. Legal-Medical Committee: To promote cooperation with the medical profession in connection with litigation in which medical testimony may be essential to a fair determination of the controversy; to foster understanding on the part of the medical profession and its members of the judicial process; to encourage the development of the medical skills and the increase of medical knowledge; and to cooperate with appropriate medical societies and organizations in the resolution of common problems relating to the administration of justice.

3. Government Affairs Committee: To observe, monitor and recommend improvements or reform to any judicial, legislative or other governmental system that impacts St. Clair County and its legal community, to recommend only qualified candidates for judicial or legislative election/appointment, to maintain the Association By-Laws and to regularly report to the Board of Directors on governmental affairs issues.

4. Special Events and Program Committee: To organize, oversee, and present programs of general interest and special such special events shall include: Annual Memorial Service, Ecumenical Service and other such special events approved by the Board of Directors. The committee shall address all

public relations concerns of the Association. The committee shall coordinate with any other entities as necessary to present any general or special event sponsored by the Association. The committee shall regularly report to the Board of Directors.

5. Family/Probate Law Committee: To promote and assist members who practice in family law or probate law with various aspects and issues arising in these areas of law. To recommend improvements or reform in family or probate law for the efficient administration of family and probate matters. The committee shall regularly report to the Board of Directors.

6. Membership Committee: To promote membership in the Association by any person qualified to belong as provided in Section 2 of the Association By-Laws.

7. Young Lawyers Committee: To promote membership and assist young members of the legal community; to facilitate communication between young members of the bar, the state bar, and the American Bar Association in areas of concern to young lawyers.

8. Law Day Committee: To acquaint the public with the Association and its members as a part of community life and affairs; to furnish speakers and to present programs of interest to civic organizations, schools, churches, and other interested parties; to foster and promote, by appropriate ceremonies, respect for the law in connection with Law Day observances in St. Clair County, Illinois.

**SECTION 17. DUES:** Dues for the Association's fiscal year, (July 1 through June 30), shall be paid in advance, on or before August 1st of each year, as follows:

- A. Membership dues shall be in such amounts as may be fixed by the Board of Directors
- B. Honorary and Life Members shall pay no annual dues.
- C. The Treasurer shall forward a statement for dues to each member in July of each year.
- D. A member of the Association shall be exempt from payment of dues during such time as the member is on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States or its allies.

E. If a person becomes a new member during the period of January 1 through June 30, then the Treasurer shall collect only one-half (1/2) of the dues otherwise payable.

F. All members of the Association having offices in St. Clair County, Illinois, shall designate in writing at the time their ISBA dues are paid that the St. Clair County Bar Association will receive the ISBA dues rebate.

**SECTION 18. CHECK AUTHORITY:** The President and Treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks.

**SECTION 19. AMENDMENTS:** These By-Laws may be restated, amended or repealed at any regular meeting after members have received at least twenty (20) days notice of the suggested restatement, amendments, or repeal.

**SECTION 20. CONSTRUCTION:** The Board of Directors shall decide all question concerning the construction or interpretation of these By-Laws.

**SECTION 21. EFFECT:** These By-Laws shall take effect on the date of their adoption by the Association, and shall supersede all preceding By-Laws of the Association.

The foregoing By-Laws were amended at general membership meetings of the Association on the **18th day of June, 1993** and the **18th day of November, 1993** and the **17th day of February, 2004** and have been adopted retroactive to **July 1, 1987**.

ST. CLAIR COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

By \_\_\_\_\_  
**PRESIDENT**

**ATTEST:**

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**SECRETARY**