

**BYLAWS OF THE
YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION
OF THE STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN**
MARCH 2025

ARTICLE 1. NAME

This section shall be known as the Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan (“YLS”).

ARTICLE 2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives and purposes of the YLS shall be to sponsor and carry on activities of particular interest and value to new attorneys in Michigan; to coordinate activities of the various local young lawyer groups in Michigan; to cooperate fully with, and as an integral part of, the State Bar of Michigan (the “State Bar”); and to cooperate with the various local bar associations in the State of Michigan, the American Bar Association, and the American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division in the promotion of their programs.

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY. Except as otherwise allowed in Article 4, Section 4 and Article 5, Section 2 of the Bylaws, every attorney who is a member in good standing of the State Bar is a member of the YLS through the YLS Annual meeting following the member's thirty-sixth (36th) birthday or through the YLS Annual meeting following the member's tenth (10th) anniversary of being licensed, whichever period is greater. Members of the State Bar Law Student Section will be automatically considered members of the YLS as well.

SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP REMOVAL. Any member the YLS shall, upon written request, be dropped from membership without prejudice to reinstatement upon written request if still eligible.

ARTICLE 4. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

SECTION 1. OFFICERS. The officers of the YLS shall be Chairperson, Chairperson-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer and shall be elected pursuant to Article 6 Section 4.

SECTION 2. COUNCIL, TERM, VACANCY. The Chairperson-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by the Council members from their own number at the YLS Annual Council meeting immediately following the YLS Annual Meeting. All officers shall serve in the respective offices to which they have been elected for a term of one (1) year, or until their successors are elected. If, before the expiration of the normal one (1) year term of any office, a vacancy occurs with respect to such office, except that of Chairperson where a Chairperson-Elect is available to fill the vacancy, such office shall be filled by election at the next regular Council meeting, and the tenure of officers so elected shall be for the remainder of the unexpired terms.

SECTION 3. CHAIRPERSON. The Chairperson shall automatically be a member of the Council, shall be chief executive officer of the YLS, and shall fill by appointment, subject to approval by the Council, all vacancies occurring in the membership of the Council from the district in which the vacancy has occurred for the remainder of the term being filled. The Chairperson shall appoint the chairs of all standing committees and such other committees as the Chairperson may deem necessary or as the Council may recommend or create. Except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws, the Chairperson shall call and preside at all meetings of the Council, regular meetings of which shall be held regularly but in no case less than four (4) times each year. Meetings may be held in person or through electronic means at the discretion of the Chairperson. The Chairperson shall also call and preside at the Annual meetings of the YLS and Council.

SECTION 4. CHAIRPERSON-ELECT. The Chairperson-Elect shall automatically succeed to the office of Chairperson at the conclusion of the term as Chairperson-Elect, or earlier upon the existence of a vacancy. In the event the Chairperson-Elect succeeds to the office of Chairperson prior to the expiration of the term as Chairperson-Elect, they shall continue in the office of Chairperson through the full term of office that they would otherwise have served. The Chairperson-Elect shall act as Chairperson during the absence of the Chairperson. The Chairperson-Elect shall perform the duties assigned by the Chairperson in planning and coordinating the projects and activities of the YLS and shall perform other duties usually incident to the office. A person elected Chairperson-Elect ~~may~~ shall automatically succeed to the office of Chairperson, even if they do not meet the age requirement for YLS membership, and that person shall be deemed a member of the YLS during the term of office as Chairperson.

~~SECTION 5. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall keep all minutes and records of meetings of the Council and the YLS, shall preside at meetings of the Council in the absence of both the Chairperson and the Chairperson-Elect, and shall perform other duties usually incident to the office. A person elected Secretary may automatically succeed to the office of Chair-Elect, even if they do not meet the age requirement for YLS membership, and that person shall be deemed a member of the YLS during the term of office as Chairperson. In anticipation of the Secretary succeeding to the office of Chair-Elect at the YLS Annual Meeting, the Council member seat occupied by the Treasurer shall be filled by election prior to the YLS Annual Council Meeting.~~

SECTION 5. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall maintain current and all accessible past information as provided to them by the immediate past Treasurer as to the financial affairs of the YLS, shall preside at meetings of the Council in the absence of both the Chairperson and the Chairperson-Elect, and shall perform other duties usually incident to the office. A person elected Treasurer shall automatically succeed to the office of Chairperson-Elect, even if they do not meet the age requirement for YLS membership, and that person shall be deemed a member of the YLS during the term of office as Chairperson-Elect.

~~SECTION 6. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall maintain current and all accessible past information as provided to them by the by the immediate past Treasurer as to the financial affairs of the YLS and shall perform other duties usually incident to the office.~~

SECTION 6. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall keep all minutes and records of meetings of the Council and the YLS, and shall perform other duties, usually incident to the office. A person

elected Secretary shall automatically succeed to the office of Treasurer, even if they do not meet the age requirement for YLS membership, and that person shall be deemed a member of the YLS during the term of office as Treasurer. In anticipation of the Secretary succeeding to the office of Treasurer at the YLS Annual Meeting, the Council member seat occupied by the Secretary shall be filled by election prior to the YLS Annual Council Meeting.

SECTION 7. RETIRING CHAIRPERSON AS EX OFFICIO MEMBER. The immediate past Chairperson shall be an ex officio member (the “Ex Officio”) of the Council for the following year, with all voting rights. All other past Chairpersons shall be advisors of the Council but without the right to vote.

SECTION 8. ELIGIBILITY. No person shall be eligible to hold office unless, at the time they are appointed or elected, that person is a member of the YLS. No person shall hold the same elective office for two (2) consecutive terms.

SECTION 9. REMOVAL. The Council may, by a two-thirds vote, remove or discharge an officer.

ARTICLE 5. DUTIES AND POWERS OF COUNCIL

SECTION 1. POWERS. There shall be a Council for the YLS which shall be its final policy-making body. The Council shall advise and aid the Chairperson and perform other acts as provided in the Bylaws.

SECTION 2. MEMBERS. The Council shall be composed of the (i) Chairperson; (ii) Chair-Elect; (iii) Secretary; (iv) elected or appointed council members (which includes the Treasurer), as more particularly described in Article 5, Section 4, herein; (v) Ex Officio; and (vi) Law Student Representative.

SECTION 3. NOMINATIONS, ELECTION PROCEDURES. To be nominated, a Council member shall file a petition signed by at least five (5) persons entitled to vote for the nominee with the State Bar no later than April 30. Only members of the YLS eligible to vote in the district they are to represent and who consent to their candidacy in writing may be nominated to serve as Council members. The State Bar shall cause to be published and mailed prior to the end of the month of April in each year an announcement of the vacancies to be filled on the Council, the month during which nominations may be filed, and a form of petition for the nomination of Council members. Nominations may be made on such forms, but nominations in any other form of petition which complies with the Bylaws shall be deemed sufficient. The address of record of each YLS member which is on file with the State Bar as of April 30 of the election year shall determine eligibility for all election purposes. A ballot shall be voted for the number of candidates selected on the ballot, but in no event shall the number of candidates selected on the ballot exceed the maximum number of vacancies to be filled in the district to which the YLS member is eligible to vote. No ballot shall be counted which does not comply with this requirement. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote, the tellers shall determine the successful candidate by lot.

SECTION 4. ELECTION DISTRICTS, REAPPORTIONMENT, TERM. There shall be three (3) council election districts comprised as indicated: District 1 - YLS members in Macomb and Wayne Counties;

District 2 - YLS members in Oakland County; District 3 - YLS members not in District 1 or District 2. A YLS member is a member of the district which corresponds with the member's address on record with the State Bar of Michigan. District 1 shall be entitled to elect a total of eight (8) Council members, District 2 shall be entitled to elect a total of seven (7) Council members, and District 3 shall be entitled to elect a total of nine (9) Council members. Every six (6) years, or upon a majority vote of the Council, the Council shall review election Districts and report to the State Bar Board of Commissioners whether or not a reapportionment of Districts is necessary, and, if so, shall submit a proposed reapportionment plan, which upon adoption shall govern subsequent elections without the need to revise the Bylaws. One-half of the number of Council members to which each District is entitled shall be elected each year to staggered two-year terms, including those elected in the year first following enactment of the Bylaws. Elected Council members shall take office at the close of the YLS Annual meeting following their election and shall, together with Council members whose terms continue, convene the YLS Annual Council Meeting. The Chairperson, Chair-Elect, and Secretary do not count towards the numbers for each District for purpose of calculations under this section.

SECTION 5. LAW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES. Any ABA Accredited law school campus with an address in the State of Michigan may, but is not required to, send a law student representative to be a part of the YLS Council meetings. The manner in which each campus selects that person is in the sole discretion of each campus and the person need not be the same individual at each meeting. However, any selected student representative must be a member of the SBM Law Student Section. At each meeting, the campus representatives will select one individual from amongst themselves to have the power to conduct one vote on behalf of the Law Student Representatives as a whole. The person selected will be representing law student members of the State Bar as a whole. Each campus will not have their own individual vote. The Law Student Representative will be counted towards quorum for voting purposes. If the campus representatives are unable to determine which individual will have voting power due to a tie, a coin flip will be held to determine a representative. If there is a tie involving more than two campus representatives, all names will be placed into a random draw and the selected individual will have the voting privileges.

SECTION 6. SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson, either upon their own initiative or upon written request of two-thirds of the Council and shall be held at the time and place designated by the Chairperson.

SECTION 7. QUORUM. A quorum of the Council shall consist of a majority of its members. Members shall attend meetings in person, unless the Chairperson permits a member to attend by video conference or by telephone. The decisions of the Council shall be determined by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum exists. Present Council members shall be eligible to vote. In the event that a quorum is not present at any meeting, the members present may proceed with the business of the meeting as if a quorum were present, and their acts shall become effective when and if enough absent members ratify them in writing, in addition to those present, to constitute a majority of the Council. Upon prior consent of the Chairperson, any action that maybe taken at a meeting may be taken without a meeting and determined by a majority vote of members via electronic means. Proxy voting is not allowed under any circumstances.

SECTION 8. ABSENCES. If a Council member is absent for two (2) consecutive meetings of the Council without having been excused by the Chairperson, or three (3) meetings during the course of the Bar year for any reason, the Chairperson may declare the seat of that Council member vacant

and fill the vacancy as provided for in Article 4, Section 3.

ARTICLE 6. ANNUAL MEETINGS

SECTION 1. YLS ANNUAL MEETING. The YLS Annual Meeting shall be held in conjunction with the YLS Annual Council Meeting, at any time prior to October 31st of each year.

SECTION 2. ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING. The Annual meeting of the Council shall be held on the same date and at the same place as the YLS Annual meeting and shall convene immediately following the YLS Annual meeting.

SECTION 3. AGENDAS. At such meetings, the order of business includes the following:

YLS ANNUAL MEETINGS:

1. Opening remarks by Chairperson.
2. Report of Secretary.
3. Reports of standing committees.
4. Reports of special committees.
5. New business, special address, etc.
6. Report of the Secretary of results of Council election.
7. Other business
8. Adjourn

YLS ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Appointment of Council vacancies by Chairperson and approval by Council.
2. Assumption of office of Chairperson by Chairperson-Elect.
3. Assumption of office of Chairperson-Elect by Secretary
4. Election of Treasurer and any other officer positions that have not been assumed.

SECTION 4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Ballots for Treasurer and any other officer positions that have not been assumed, shall be canvassed by a committee of tellers appointed by the Chairperson.

No proxy voting shall be permitted in any election for officers of the YLS.

Officers shall be elected by a majority of votes cast among the Council members present and voting. In the event of a tie, the tellers appointed by the Chairperson shall determine the successful candidate by lot. In the event of an uncontested election, a candidate's election may be confirmed by acclamation.

SECTION 5. DISPUTED ELECTIONS: In the event an election is disputed, a written petition shall be transmitted to the Chairperson within ten (10) days, who shall preside over a special meeting of the Council. The determination of the Council shall be final, subject to a right of appeal to the State Bar Board of Commissioners.

ARTICLE 7. COMMITTEES

SECTION 1. STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES. The Chairperson shall have power to create and appoint such standing committees and special committees as they may deem necessary, or which are recommended or created by the Council. The Council shall have the authority to create special committees upon majority vote of the Council.

SECTION 2. REMOVAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS. The Chairperson shall have power to remove any member of any committee upon written notice and upon such removal, the Chairperson or the committee chair shall immediately fill the vacancy so created.

SECTION 3. DUTIES AND POWERS. Each committee shall have the right and duty to perform the functions suggested by its title, and such other functions and duties as shall be assigned by the Chairperson or Council.

SECTION 4. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. MEDIA/MARKETING RELATIONS. The Media/Marketing Relations Committee shall be established and shall be responsible for maintaining the YLS Newsletter, *Inter Alia*. Additionally, the Committee shall be responsible for maintaining the YLS webpage, SBM Connect, marketing and promotional materials, protocol regarding the YLS listserv, and initiating and maintaining any other media and/or marketing relations items. The Chairperson shall appoint a chair for the Media/Marketing Relations Committee, who will name all other committee members and assign tasks. The Chairperson-Elect shall be a member of the Media/Marketing Relations Committee.

~~B. INTER ALIA COMMITTEE.~~ The *Inter Alia* Committee shall be led by the Chairperson-Elect and shall be responsible for collecting content for and publishing the YLS Newsletter, *Inter Alia*. The Chairperson-Elect shall name all other committee members and assign tasks.

~~C. MEDIA/MARKETING RELATIONS.~~ The Media/Marketing Relations Committee shall be established and shall be responsible for maintaining the YLS webpage, SBM Connect, marketing and promotional materials, protocol regarding the YLS listserv, and initiating and maintaining any other media and/or marketing relations items. The Chairperson shall appoint a chair for the Media/Marketing Relations Committee, who will name all other committee members and assign tasks.

D.B. DIVERSITY. The Diversity Committee shall be established and shall be responsible for promoting diversity, including initiating ideas for projects to promote diversity. The Chairperson shall appoint a chair for the Diversity Committee, who will name all other committee members and assign tasks.

ARTICLE 8. RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENT

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS. The Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the members of the YLS present and voting at any meeting of the YLS, provided such proposed amendment was first submitted to the Council for its recommendation; and further, that no such amendment

shall be effective until approved by the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar. After approval by the Board of Commissioners of the State Bar, any amendments to the Bylaws shall become effective immediately.

SECTION 2. PROCEDURES. Any proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Council by any member of the YLS in time for it to be considered by the Council at or before the last regular Council meeting before a meeting of the YLS (either the YLS Annual meeting or other meeting of the YLS) at which it is to be voted upon. The Council shall consider the proposed amendment at said regular meeting, and shall prepare recommendations thereon, which recommendations, together with a complete and accurate text of said proposed amendment, shall be published in the *Michigan Bar Journal* or *Inter Alia*, at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of the YLS at which it is to be voted upon.

Created 1940 as “Junior Bar”

Name changed to “Young Lawyers” in 1960

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