

WYANDOTTE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Wyandotte County Bar Association.

ARTICLE II – Objects and Purposes

1. The purposes of this Association are to exert and influence for good on the life of the community; to promote the efficient administration of justice and the constant improvement of the law; to elevate the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession; and to cultivate a spirit of brotherhood and good fellowship among its members.
2. The Code of Professional Responsibilities established by the Rules of the Kansas Supreme Court as the standard of professional conduct of attorneys in this state are hereby adopted and made a part of this constitution.

ARTICLE III – Membership

1. *Eligibility.* Any lawyer, who is a member of the bar of Kansas in good standing, may become a member of this Association upon application and payment of dues.
2. *Classes of Membership.* The by-laws may provide for classes of membership.
3. *Termination of Membership.* Membership may be terminated by resignation, by non-payment of dues, or by expulsion by a three-fourths vote of the Board of Governors or of the members present at a meeting called for the purpose of considering the matter. There shall be opportunity for a hearing before a vote to expel is taken, and expulsion by the Board of Governors may be appealed to the membership.

ARTICLE IV – Officers

1. The officers of this Association shall be a president, a president-elect, a secretary, and a treasurer.
2. *Board of Governors.* The management of the affairs of the Association shall be vested in a Board of Governors composed of the president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, immediate past-president, and four elected members of the Association.
3. *Terms of Office.* The president-elect shall be elected for a two-year term, secretary and treasurer shall be elected for one-year terms at the annual meeting, in the manner provided in the by-laws; two of the remaining four members of the Board of Directors shall also be elected at the annual meeting to serve two-year terms.

ARTICLE V – Committees

1. *Standing Committees.* Standing committees of this Association shall be a membership committee, grievances and ethics committee, program committee, public relations committee, continuing legal education committee, and budget committee. Each committee shall consist of a chairman and as many members as the president shall designate, to be appointed by him. Unless otherwise designated in the by-laws, all committee appointments shall be for a one-year term. Duties of committees shall be specified in the by-laws.
2. *Special Committees.* The president may appoint special committees and define their duties. Special committees shall automatically cease to exist at the end of the term of office of the appointing president, unless continued by the new president.

ARTICLE VI – By-laws

The Association shall adopt by-laws for the conduct of its affairs, in harmony with this constitution.

ARTICLE VII - Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting or at any special meeting called for the purpose, provided that written notice of proposed amendments shall have been mailed to members not less than ten days in advance of such meeting.

WYANDOTTE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS

1. **Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting of this Association shall be held in November at a place and on a date to be selected by the Board of Governors. Time and place of the annual meeting shall be announced at least one month in advance in the official publication of the Association. At that meeting, annual reports of officers and committees shall be delivered and officers shall be elected.
2. **Regular Meetings.** Regular meetings shall be held monthly or bi-monthly at a time and place to be designated by the Board of Governors. Members shall be given ten days advance notice of regular meetings. Business may be transacted at such meetings if a quorum is present.
3. **Special Meetings.** Special meetings may be called by the president and shall be called by the secretary on request by any five members in writing. Members shall have ten days advance written notice of the time, place and object of the meeting.
4. **Quorum.** The majority of those present at a regular meeting will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The latest edition of **ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER** shall govern the proceedings.
5. **Order of Business.** At the annual meeting the order of business may include:
 - a. Report of the Board of Governors.
 - b. Report of the Treasurer.
 - c. Report of standing committees.
 - d. Report of special committees.
 - e. General business.
 - f. Election of officers.
6. **Dues.** Annual dues shall be set by the Board of Governors.
 - a. Attorneys employed solely by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County shall receive a fifty percent (50%) discount on annual dues.
 - b. Attorneys employed solely by a 501(c) not-for-profit organization located in Wyandotte County shall receive a fifty percent (50%) discount on annual dues.
 - c. Student Members, Honorary Members, and Life Members shall be exempt from annual dues unless the Board of Directors or the Association shall provide otherwise.
7. **Classification of Membership.** Memberships in this Association shall be of five classes: active, student, honorary, life, and inactive.

- a. ACTIVE MEMBERS – Members of the judiciary and attorneys admitted to the practice of law in the State of Kansas or elsewhere and who are engaged in the legal or judicial profession in Wyandotte County, Kansas, shall be eligible for active membership with voting privileges.
 - b. STUDENT MEMBERS – Any person currently enrolled in law school and pursuing a J.D. degree or someone who has been granted a J.D. degree and has taken a bar exam within 12 months of becoming eligible to take a bar exam, shall be eligible for membership as a Student (non-active, non-voting) Member until bar examination results are received.
 - c. HONORARY MEMBERS – Any person chosen by the Board of Governors may be eligible for Honorary Membership (non-active, non-voting) upon such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Board of Governors.
 - d. LIFE MEMBERS – Any active member of the Association, age 70 or over, and all Federal Judges in the District of Kansas, shall be eligible for Life Membership (active, voting) in the Association, upon such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Board of Governors.
 - e. INACTIVE STATUS MEMBERS – Any active member of the Association who has voluntarily taken inactive status with the Kansas Supreme Court and is no longer actively engaged in the practice of law shall be eligible for Inactive Status Membership (non-active, non-voting).
 - f. Any person desiring to become a member, except Life Membership and Honorary Membership, shall make written application to the Association's membership, setting forth the full name, business and residence address, and date of admission to practice before the Supreme Court of Kansas.
 - g. Members of the Association while on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States are considered members but are exempted from payment of dues.
 - h. Only active members shall be entitled to vote at any business meeting.
8. ***Professional Ethics.*** The canons of professional ethics adopted by the American Bar Association and as set forth in the code of Professional Responsibility by the Rules of the Supreme Court of Kansas, as from time to time amended, are hereby declared to be the standards required of members of this Association. Willful and repeated disregard of them shall be sufficient cause for expulsion from membership.
9. ***Officers***
- a. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Governors and shall perform all duties ordinarily incident to the office of president, and shall recommend such action as the president deems proper.
 - b. The president-elect shall act as president in the absence of the president and shall perform such other duties as may be from time to time prescribed for the president-elect by the Board of Governors.

- c. The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings and of all other matters of which a record shall be deemed advisable by the Association. The secretary shall be required to turn over to the secretary's successor in office, all the records and files of the Association that come into the secretary's possession.
 - d. The treasurer shall collect and disburse all funds upon voucher, and shall make such reports as shall be requested by the Association or its president; and, in addition thereto, the treasurer shall keep a membership roster, showing the date of admission, payment of dues, date of suspension or expulsion and reinstatement, and the treasurer shall on the first day of each month and at such other times as the secretary may request, advise the secretary of the status of the membership of the Association or of any individual member thereof. The treasurer shall be required to turn over to the treasurer's successor in office all of the records and files of the Association that come into the treasurer's possession.
10. **Board of Governors.** The Board of Governors shall have such powers as are normally exercised by such bodies, and shall have general charge of the affairs of the Association between meetings, with power to act.
11. **Elections and Vacancy.** The election of all officers and the Board of Governors, unless by unanimous vote, shall be by ballot. Any vacancy arising in office shall be filled by election by the Association at the next monthly or special meeting, and such officer shall serve until the next annual meeting; except if such vacancy is the office of president the same shall be automatically filled by the president-elect. Ballots may be cast on the day scheduled for any election, prior to the time of commencement of the meeting held for purpose of the election, the mechanism for which shall be established by the Board of Governors, and notification of which shall be established by the Board of Governors, and notification of which shall be given to the membership at least ten days in advance of the scheduled meeting.
12. **Committees.** It shall be the duty of the president, within thirty days from the date of the president's election, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors, to appoint from the membership, members of the following standing committees to serve for a term of one year or until their successors are appointed.
- a. A **Membership Committee**, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, who shall solicit and receive all applications for membership in the Association, and investigate the candidates for membership.
 - b. A **Committee On Grievances And Ethics**, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, who shall be broadly representative of the Association, whose duty it shall be to investigate and hear grievances made against members of the Association and to hear and consider complaints as to the ethical conduct of any member of the Association and to recommend to the Board of Governors suspension or expulsion of any member of the Association. The committee shall also make recommendations as may from time to time become necessary, to the Board of Governors or the Association of questions pertaining to the ethics of the profession. All recommendations

concerning the ethics within the professional shall be made in writing and shall be filed within the records of the Association as a permanent record and the committee shall, when requested by the Board of Governors, submit reports on the Association of any regular or special meeting thereof concerning complaints received, action taken or recommendations made. The committee shall have the right to form sub-committees for the purpose of considering any specific matter. All complaints made against a member of the Association shall be in writing and signed and verified by the complainant, and the members against whom the complaint is made shall be furnished a copy thereof with a notice of time and place of hearing which shall be held not less than ten days from date of service of said notice. This committee will conduct investigations into matters presented to this Association by the Office of the Disciplinary Administrator of the State of Kansas.

- c. A **Program Committee**, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, who shall be responsible for the programs and entertainment at all regular or special meetings or legal seminars of the Association, and shall arrange the details of all meetings.
 - d. A **Public Relations Committee**, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, who shall be responsible for the editing and publication of the Association's Newsletter, and who shall prepare for publication in the news media and shall otherwise disseminate information as to the activities of the Association and in all proper ways shall endeavor to cultivate the goodwill of the public toward the legal profession.
 - e. A **Continuing Legal Education Committee**, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, which will establish and be responsible for presenting to the membership sufficient continuing legal education programs each year to fulfill the minimum continuing education requirement of the Kansas Supreme Court. This committee will arrange speakers and materials for each continuing legal education program of the Association, seeking approval thereof for credit from the Kansas Supreme Court.
 - f. A **Budget Committee**, consisting of its chairperson and as many members as the chairperson deems necessary, who shall prepare a proposed budget for the forthcoming year to be submitted to the Board of Governors at the beginning of the fiscal year for their approval. The immediate past-treasurer shall be an ex-officio member without a vote.
13. **Amendments.** These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the active members of the Association present at any annual or regular meeting or at any special meeting called to that purpose, provided that notice of the proposed amendment or amendments, subscribed by the Board of Governors or by three members of the Association, shall be given at the last preceding regular meeting and notice shall be mailed to the membership at least twenty days prior to the meeting at which the vote will be held.