



UNIFORM SECTION BY-LAWS

Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Section

ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 - NAME:

This Section shall be known as the Commercial Law & Bankruptcy Section of the Idaho State Bar.

Section 2 - FIELD:

Section activities shall pertain to the field of commercial law and bankruptcy law.

Section 3 – OBJECTIVES:

The Idaho State Bar and this Section hereby reaffirm the proposition that the practice of law constitutes a public trust and that the interest of the public requires a lawyer be skilled in the practice of his profession and dedicated to the furtherance of the public welfare in all matters affected by the law. This Section is created to enhance the skills of its members and those of the Bar at large and to inspire rendition of services as best suit the interests of the public.

In furtherance of these objectives, this Section shall:

- (a) study problems relating to the designated field of law enumerated above;
- (b) disseminate information on problems relating to such fields of law by preparation of articles for publication in the Advocate, circulating a newsletter to its members, presenting lectures or seminars at its annual meeting and at other meetings during the year which may be held for that purpose, promoting the publication of appropriate practice manuals, handbooks and forms, and meeting to discuss problems which are common to the practitioners in the above designated field of law;
- (c) propose such legislation as the Section may from time to time deem appropriate in the public interest, and offer, when requested, advice or assistance to any legislative committee or other legislative body on proposed legislation dealing with its designated field of law;
- (d) prepare statements of position on any issue affecting the public interest and pertaining to the fields of law above designated, provided, that any position taken, statements issued or legislation proposed must first be approved by the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar. The Section, or any member acting on its behalf, shall clearly state that such position, statement or proposed legislation does not represent the policy of the Idaho state Bar, but only the policy of the Section, except where the statement, position or proposed legislation has been formally approved or adopted by the members of the Idaho State Bar pursuant to the provisions of Rule 185 of the Rules of the Idaho Supreme Court and the Idaho state Bar. Statements of policy of the Section shall be adopted only in accordance with Article VII, Section IV of these by-laws; and

(e) enter upon such other activities not hereinabove enumerated which are consistent with the objectives to the Section above set forth.

Section 4 - CLE POLICY:

Any educational programs conducted by the Section shall be coordinated with and cosponsored by the Idaho State Bar or the Idaho Law Foundation, Inc., for purposes of avoiding conflicts in schedules, duplication of educational programs, and for the purposes of receiving assistance from the Idaho State Bar/Idaho Law Foundation staff in the preparation of program content and pricing. It is specifically recognized that the profits and/or losses from such continuing legal education offerings shall inure to Idaho State Bar.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1 - MEMBERSHIP:

(a) Any member of the Idaho State Bar in good standing may become a member of this Section. Any paralegal of a Section member may also become a member of this Section, provided that paralegal members shall not be qualified to vote. The Chief Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Idaho may also become a member.

(b) Any law student, law professor, bankruptcy trustee or judicial law clerk may become a non-voting member of this Section.

(c) Application for membership shall be made upon the appropriate form supplied by the Idaho State Bar.

(d) The membership shall be for the calendar year.

(e) Non lawyer section members shall be nonvoting members and shall not be eligible to serve as officers of the section.

Section 2 - DUES:

Members of the Section shall pay such annual dues as the Council of the Section may direct, subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar. Paralegal membership dues shall be one-half of said annual dues. Dues for federal bankruptcy judges and the Chief Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court are waived. The dues shall be set at a level adequate to cover the expenses of operating the Section, including, but not limited to, administrative expenses of the Idaho State Bar, Section officers' travel and meeting expenses, and publications of the Section. Sections may not charge members annual dues of more than \$50 without approval by the Board of Commissioners. (Amended 2/19/10)

ARTICLE III OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

Section 1 - OFFICERS:

The officers of the Section shall be a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and a Secretary-Treasurer. In addition, the Executive Director of the Idaho State Bar will serve as assistant treasurer without voting rights.

Section 2 - COUNCIL:

There shall be a governing council, which shall consist of the immediate past chairperson of the Section, and the current officers of the Section elected by the Section as hereinafter provided.

**ARTICLE IV
POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL**

Section 1 – ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Section shall be held during the course and at the place of the annual Winter Seminar conducted by the Section. Further regular meetings may be established by the Council, and the chairman or council may call such special meetings as may be necessary. Reasonable notice of each such meeting shall be given.

Section 2 - AUTHORITY

The council shall manage the affairs of the Section, subject to the provisions of the Rules of the Idaho Supreme Court and the Idaho state Bar, these by-laws and the right of the members to decide any issue at a duly called membership meeting. The council shall fix the Section dues subject to the approval of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State and shall authorize all commitments or contracts that entail the expenditure of funds.

Section 3 - DELEGATION

The council may authorize the chairman to make commitments or expend money and to perform such duties and exercise such powers as the council may from time to time direct, subject always to the limitations of these by-laws and the Rules of the Idaho Supreme Court and the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar.

Section4 - QUORUM

A simple majority of the Council present at any meeting shall determine any questions. One-half of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum.

Section5 - MEETINGS

Council meetings may be held in person or by means of a telephone conference call. The council may vote on any issue by email or by written ballot. (Amended 2/19/10)

Section6 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The officers of the Section shall constitute the executive committee. All powers and duties of the council shall be exercised and performed by the executive committee when the council is not in session, except as to the fixing of dues and as further limited by resolution of the council.

Section 7 - CALL

The Council shall meet at the call of the chairman or upon the request of any three members thereof. Reasonable notice shall be given for every meeting.

**ARTICLE V
POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1 - CHAIRPERSON:

The chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Section and the Council. S/He shall formulate and present to each annual meeting of the Idaho State Bar a written report of the work of the Section from the preceding year. In addition, s/he shall give such periodic written or oral reports to the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar as they may require. S/He shall perform such other acts as usually pertain to such office.

Section 2 - VICE CHAIRPERSON:

Upon the death, resignation or inability for any reason of the chairperson to act, the vice chairperson shall perform the duties of the chairperson.

Section 3 - SECRETARY/TREASURER:

The secretary/treasurer shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section, the council and the executive committee of the Section. S/He shall keep duplicate records of all the dues collected and all expenses of the Section and shall present a report to the membership at each regular meeting of the Section.

Section 4 - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ASSISTANT TREASURER:

The Executive Director of the Idaho State Bar shall serve as assistant treasurer, without voting privileges, and shall be responsible for receiving dues money, disbursing funds, keeping the books of the Section, and seeing that the Section operates in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Idaho State Bar, including, but not limited to, the expenditure of funds and the payment of expenses.

ARTICLE VI FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Section 1 - ACCOUNTING

All funds of practice sections shall be funds of the Idaho State Bar and shall be administered by the Idaho State Bar. Section funds are subject to the financial rules and procedures of the Idaho State Bar. As with Idaho State Bar funds, section funds will be accounted for by the accrual method of accounting.

Section 2 - EXPENSE POLICY

Section expenditures are subject to the same restrictions as Idaho State Bar funds. The Idaho State Bar is an integrated bar, and as such, is limited in its ability to engage in legislative and political activity. This limitation applies to section activities, programs and the expenditure of section funds. Expenditures must be for activities that are within the scope of the purposes of the Section and the Idaho State Bar.

Section 3 - GRANT REQUESTS

No section shall, without prior authorization of the Board of Commissioners, make a grant request to an outside entity in the name of the section or the Idaho State Bar.

Section 4 – FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year for section accounts shall be the calendar year.

Section 5 – SECTION FUNDING

Sections are required to comply with the Policy on Funding of Sections and the fund balance limits established by the Board of Commissioners.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1 - ANNUAL MEETING:

The annual membership meeting of the Section shall be held during the course and at the place of the annual February seminar conducted by the Section. Further regular meetings may be established by the council, and the chairman or council may call such special meetings as may be necessary. Reasonable notice of each meeting shall be given.

Section 2 - QUORUM:

Ten members of the Section shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Action of the Section shall be a majority vote of the members present and qualified to vote.

Section 3 - TERM OF OFFICE:

Officers and council members, except ex officio members, shall be elected by the Section at the annual meeting as follows:

(a) Each council member shall be elected for a seven (7) year term. In the last year of the seven-year term, the council member shall serve as the past chairperson. The sixth year term of the council member shall be served as the council's chairperson. The fifth year term shall be served as the council's vice-chairperson. The fourth year term shall be served as the secretary/treasurer. The third year term shall be served as the News Letter Editor. A council member may be removed from office by a majority vote of the council or a majority vote of the Section members at the annual meeting or at any meeting provided adequate notice has been provided as in these Bylaws.

Section 4 - POLICIES:

Statements of policy or position may be adopted by vote of a majority of the members of the Section at a regular meeting or by a majority of members voting by email so as to afford the greatest opportunity for participation of the members of the Section.

**ARTICLE VIII
IMPLEMENTATION, AMENDMENTS AND DISCONTINUANCE**

Section 1 - EFFECTIVE DATE:

These by-laws shall become effective and this Section shall be created upon the execution hereof by ten members of the Idaho State Bar and upon approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Section 2 - AMENDMENT:

These by-laws may be amended by majority vote of the Council or by majority vote of the members at any duly called meeting, but no amendment shall be effective until approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Section 3 - DISCONTINUANCE:

The Executive Director of the Idaho State Bar shall maintain a list of members of this Section. At such time as the membership of the Section shall number less than fifty (50), the Executive Director shall report that fact to the Board of Commissioners for the purpose of determining whether the Section should be continued.