

BY-LAWS
ASA SECTION ON SOCIOLOGY OF LAW
1992

The purpose of the section of Sociology of Law is to encourage and enhance research, teaching and other professional concerns in the study of law and society. The section seeks to promote communication, collaboration, and consultation among scholars in the field of the sociology of law.

I. *Officers of the Section:*

The officers of the Section shall consist of a Council that includes a Chair, a Chair-elect, a Past-Chair, a Secretary-Treasurer, a Newsletter Editor serving *ex officio*, and six other members. All Officers shall serve a two-year term except the Chair who will be on Council for three years. The Chair-elect will serve in the first year as the Chair of the Program Committee for the ASA meeting the following year. The Chair will serve as Chair for one year, and will act as Chair of the Council and shall preside at the annual business meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer shall take and circulate minutes of meetings, and keep and present the documents and financial records of the Section. One member of Council shall be elected and serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee and a second shall be elected and serve as Chair-elect of the Nominating Committee. The Newsletter Editor shall Chair the Publications Committee.

In the first year of the Section's existence, special procedures will be used to establish a rotation of Council membership. In the first election of the Council following establishment of the Section, both the Section Chair (who will be on Council for only two years) and the Chair-elect will be elected. Three Council seats shall be allocated to two year terms; one of these will be the chair-elect of the nominating committee. Three Council seats will be allocated to one-year terms only; one of these will be the Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the chair with the concurrence of Council for a term that will commence immediately and expire at the end of the next business meeting, at which time the Editor may be reappointed or a new Editor appointed to a two year term. This paragraph shall be removed from the Section's bylaws following the first election held under it.

Officers cannot succeed themselves. No member can hold two elective offices simultaneously. No member may be a member of Council for more than a continuous five-year period, nor may any member hold Council positions for more than seven years of any ten-year period.

All voting members of the Section are eligible for election Officers. If an elected office is vacated before the end of its term, it will be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of the Chair with the concurrence of the Council. If the Chair's office is vacated, the Chair-elect shall fill the functions of Chair. If a Past-Chair cannot serve on Council, no replacement shall be appointed.

II *Powers of the Officers:*

The Council is vested with the power to carry out all necessary operations of the Section, acting as the representative of the membership of the Section. The Council shall make decisions at its scheduled meetings by a majority vote of its attending members and between meetings by mail, e-mail, conference phone call or any similar method designed to allow all Council members a chance to register their votes. Any action to be made on behalf of the Section will be brought to the next Section-Business Meeting for a vote if requested by three or more Council members. In addition, an action to be made on behalf of the Section may be brought to the next Section Business Meeting for a vote by a petition signed by 10 percent of the members of the Section or by 25 members, whichever is less.

Unless otherwise provided in these bylaws, all appointments to Committees shall be made by the Chair with the concurrence of Council.

III. *Elections and Voting:*

The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated with its schedule. Newly elected officers and Council members shall assume office on the day following the annual Business Meeting of the Section at the American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting.

IV. *Committees:*

There shall be a Nomination Committee of at least two members appointed for one year terms and a Chair and Chair-Elect who shall be members of Council elected to serve in those positions. At least two candidates will be presented for each office by the Nominations Committee.

There shall be a Program Committee consisting of at least three members appointed for one year terms by the Program Committee Chair with the concurrence of Council. The Chair-elect of the Section shall serve as Chair of the Program Committee. Other members of the committee shall be appointed by the program Committee Chair in concurrence with the Council. The Program Committee shall develop sessions of interest to the Section at each annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in cooperation with the Program Committee of the association. The Program Committee may also develop programs outside of this framework with the consent of the Council.

There shall be a Publications Committee consisting of the Newsletter Editor who shall be appointed for two years and serve as Chair and at least two other members appointed for one-year terms. The Newsletter Editor shall edit the Section newsletter and serve, ex officio as a member of Council. Other members of the Publications Committee shall serve as Contributing Editors of the newsletter. The purpose of the Publications Committee shall be to prepare a Section newsletter to be distributed to all Section members through the American Sociological Association. This committee shall also

compile periodic reports as requested by the Council of the Section or the Committee on Publications of the Association and deal with any other publications-related business of the section.

Other committees may be established by the Chair of the Section on an ad hoc basis, subject to approval by the Council.

V. *Membership:*

The membership of the Section is open to any member of the American Sociological Association without regard to the classification of the membership. Members who do not pay their Section dues shall be suspended, and dropped from the rolls after two years.

VI. *Dues:*

Dues shall be set by the Council to cover the operation of the Section in accordance with the requirements of the American Sociological Association.

VII. *By-law Changes:*

Proposed changes in these by-laws must first be discussed at an annual meeting of the Section. Next, the changes must be approved by a majority of the entire Council. Finally, the changes must be submitted to vote of the Section members through a mailed ballot and approved by a majority of those submitting valid ballots.

If the Council members fail to approve a proposed by-law change but there are three or more dissents, the change shall be submitted to those members attending the next subsequent annual Business Meeting. If the change is approved by a majority of those voting at this meeting, it shall be submitted to the general membership via mailed ballot and shall take effect upon approval of a majority of those submitting valid ballots.