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**BY-LAWS
of the
FAMILY LAW SECTION
of the
LOS ANGELES COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

Section 1. Title. This organization shall be known as the Family Law Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

Section 2. Scope. The Family Law Section shall embrace all areas of the practice of family law.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSES**

The purpose of the Family Law Section shall include the following: 1. Arranging and conducting Section activities. 2. Disseminating knowledge and information to Section members with respect to all of the facets of the family law practice and procedure. 3. Considering and making recommendations on legislation and proposed legislation relative to family law. 4. Encouraging ethical conduct in all matters pertaining to the family law practice. 5. Developing and improving standards of practice in the family law areas. 6. Otherwise furthering the best interests of the community and the general public, as well as the legal profession as a whole and the Los Angeles County Bar Association in particular, with respect to all areas of family law.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Members. In order to be eligible for membership in the Section, one must be a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association in good standing and pay the dues required of the Section members for the current fiscal year.

Section 2. Associates. Distinguished persons who are not lawyers shall be eligible, nonetheless, for associate status in the Family Law Section upon approval of the Section's Executive Committee or its designated representative or committee. Associates may participate in all Section activities but shall not be eligible to serve as Section officers or to participate in the election of officers. A prerequisite to associate status shall

be the payment of dues in an amount to be set by the Executive Committee of the Family Law Section.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

The officers of the Section shall be as follows: 1. Chair. 2. Chair-Elect. 3. Vice-Chair. 4. Secretary. 5. Treasurer

In accordance with Article X, of the By-Laws of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the officers of the Section shall be elected annually by the Section's members.

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. CHAIR. The Chair, as chief executive officer, shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee and shall have such other executive powers and perform such other duties as are not inconsistent with these By-Laws or with the By-Laws of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

Section 2. CHAIR-ELECT. The Chair-Elect shall serve as the Acting Chair during the Chair's absence, resignation or inability to act, and when so acting shall have all the powers of, and be subject to all the restrictions upon, the Chair. The Chair-Elect shall be a member, ex officio, of all committees and sub-committees, standing or ad hoc. The Chair-Elect need not attend all meetings of committees but shall be responsible for obtaining reports as to the material decisions reached at such meetings, and promptly transmitting such reports to the Chair and the Secretary.

Section 3. VICE-CHAIR. The Vice-Chair shall serve as the active chair of the Section's Annual Family Law Symposium, and be the person principally responsible to the Chair and the Executive Committee for all aspects of planning, coordinating and expediting of the symposium and all activities related thereto.

Section 4. SECRETARY. The Secretary shall be responsible for the preparation, posting to the Section Web Site, and distribution of minutes of each meeting of the Section and of the Executive Committee, as well as for the preparation and timely distribution of all notices provided for by these By-Laws, including without limitation timely notices of all meetings of the Section and Executive Committee.

Section 5. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall be responsible for reviewing and analysis of all event budgets, financial reports given to the section by the Bar Association, monitoring time expended by Association Staff charged to the section, to coordinate section membership growth and to report to the Executive Committee on any financial issues requested.

Section 6. TERM. The term of office of each of the officers shall commence on the first day of July each year, and shall end on the last day of June of the succeeding year. No officer may serve more than one year in any office.

Section 7. VACANCY. The Chair shall have the power to fill a vacancy in any office for the unexpired portion of the year in which such vacancy occurs, subject to

approval by a majority vote of the Practitioner Members of the Executive Committee. Such vote shall be by secret ballot.

ARTICLE VI
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. MEMBERSHIP

A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chair, Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, up to twenty-seven members of the Los Angeles County Bar Association in good standing, each of whose preponderance of practice is in Family Law, (“Practitioner Members”), up to five active members of the Los Angeles Superior Court judiciary assigned to Family Law matters, including the Supervising Judge (“Supervising Judge”) of the Family Law Department of the Central District of the Los Angeles Superior Court (“Judiciary Members”), and up to ten Liaison Members who must be Associate Members of the Family Law Section (“Liaison Members”).

B. The Practitioner Members of the Executive Committee, with the exception of such members as may be elected to hold any office set forth in Article IV hereof, shall be appointed by the Chair and shall serve for a term of three years. It is the intent, but not the mandate, of these By-Laws that as nearly as practicable at any time, the terms of the Practitioner Members of the Executive Committee be so arranged that approximately one-third of the Practitioner Members be new appointments each year. Upon being elected as an officer of the Executive Committee, the term of the Practitioner Member so elected shall be deemed stayed to cover the period that he or she serves in such office, provided that upon conclusion of service as an officer, the Practitioner Member shall be deemed to have concluded his or her term of service to the Executive Committee. Each Practitioner Member shall serve on no fewer than two Standing Committees

C. The Judiciary Members and Liaison Members of the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the Chair and shall serve for a term of two years; provided, however, that the Supervising Judge shall be a member so long as he or she holds that position. Neither the Judiciary Members nor the Liaison Members shall be eligible to vote on matters considered by the Executive Committee.

D. A Practitioner Member who is not excused by the Chair and is absent from three (3) regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the Executive Committee during any single year (computed from July to June), shall be deemed to have resigned irrevocably from office and shall be replaced forthwith by appointment by the Chair of a replacement Practitioner Member for the remainder of the unexpired term of the resigned member.

E. A person who has served as Chair of the Executive Committee, may continue indefinitely thereafter to attend all meetings and participate actively in all functions and discussions of the Executive Committee and the Section, including the making and seconding of motions, but may not vote on any Executive Committee decisions and shall not be counted as one of the Practitioner Members of the Executive Committee or be subject to the three (3) Absences Rule.

Section 2. DUTIES. The Executive Committee shall supervise and direct the affairs and determine the policies of the Section, subject to and in accordance with these

By-Laws and the By-Laws of the Los Angeles County Bar Association. The Executive Committee is authorized to issue communications and to take action in the name of the Section when necessary or desirable, consistent with the policies and By-Laws of the Los Angeles County Bar Association pertaining to public positions of sections.

Section 3. MEETINGS.

A. In accordance with the Bylaws of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, the Executive Committee may act at a meeting duly called or by a poll of each member of the Executive Committee by mail or telephone. A majority of the Practitioner Members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum to transact business. No meeting may transact business in the absence of a quorum at the outset of the meeting.

B. Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chair, or by a majority of the Executive Committee. Notice of any such special meeting shall be given to the members of the Executive Committee not less than five working days prior to such meeting.

C. Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held commencing at 5:15 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month or such other regular monthly date and time as may be determined by a majority vote in advance by the Executive Committee.

D. Except as otherwise provided by these By-Laws, all meetings of the Executive Committee, regular or special, shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order (revised).

ARTICLE VII
COMMITTEES

Section 1. STANDING COMMITTEES. There shall be the following standing committees of the Section to be comprised of not fewer than three members of each standing committee who shall be selected by the Chair of the Section. Standing committees shall include:

- (1) Annual family law symposium
- (2) Child custody colloquium
- (3) Continuing legal education program production and development
- (4) Court liaison/Family court services
- (5) Legislation/Amicus Brief
- (6) Web site development/News and Review
- (7) Section membership outreach and development
- (8) State and local bar liaison
- (9) Mediation/ADR
- (10) Forms and court rules

Section 2. INTERIM COMMITTEES. The Chair of the Section shall have the power, without Executive Committee approval, to appoint such interim committees as may be necessary or desirable for the purposes of furthering the objectives of the Section.

Section 3. TERM. The term of the Chair and Vice-Chair of each committee and the members of each committee shall run concurrently with the term of office of the Chair of this Section.

ARTICLE VIII
MEETING OF MEMBERS

Section 1. MEETINGS. The Section may hold meetings of its members during each year. Meetings may be called by the Chair, the Chair-Elect in the Chair's absence, or by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. NOTICES. Notice of the time and place of all Section meetings shall be given to all Section members at least five days prior thereto.

Section 3. QUORUM. A majority of the Practitioner Members of the Section shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Section.

Section 4. RULES. Except as otherwise provided by these By-Laws, all meetings of the Section shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order (revised).

Section 5. APPROVAL OF ACTIONS. No report, recommendation, news release or other action of the Section or of any committee thereof shall be considered as the action of the Los Angeles County Bar Association unless and until it has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Section and the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County Bar Association or its designated representative or committee.

ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of a quorum present at an Executive Committee meeting duly called or by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Executive Committee polled by telephone or in writing; provided, that Executive Committee members shall receive at least thirty days advance notice of any intended amendments and the date at which such amendments shall be voted upon, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees of the Association.

ARTICLE X
ELECTIONS

Section 1. TIME OF ELECTIONS. The Section shall hold an annual election of Officers which shall be completed by May 15th of each year, unless the same falls on Saturday, Sunday or a holiday in which event the next business day shall be the election day. The terms of Officers shall begin on July 1st. The annual election shall be conducted in accordance with the election schedule set forth in Section 5 of this Article X.

Section 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE. There shall be a Nominating Committee of seven persons appointed by the Chair of the Section from Practitioner members of the Executive Committee, including no more than three prior chairs of the Executive Committee.

A. The Nominating Committee shall be chaired, ex-officio, by the Chair of the Section and shall include the Chair-elect and five other Practitioner Members of the Executive Committee, selected as provided hereinabove. The Nominating Committee shall meet together in person at least once before submitting its written report to the Chair, as provided in Section 2, C, hereinbelow.

B. Each nominee for the office of Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer must have served on the Executive Committee for more than one year prior to the time of nomination for said position.

C. The written report of the Nominating Committee, stating the names of the persons so nominated, shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Section, and the members of the Section shall be notified of such nominations at least 25 calendar days prior to the date of such election.

Section 3. ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS. Additional nominations for any office of a person who meets the qualifications required as provided by these By-Laws for nomination by the Nominating Committee, may be made by filing with the Chair of the Section a written nomination signed by at least fifty members of the Section in good standing and entitled to vote.

Section 4. BALLOTS. A ballot containing the names of the nominees for each office with a blank write-in space after each office shall be mailed to each member of the Section entitled to vote. The ballots shall be in such form and shall contain such instructions as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee. Each Section member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote for a qualified nominee or other qualified member of the Section for each office to be filled at the election. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, there shall be no mailing of ballots if no additional nominations, as provided under Section 3 hereinabove, have been filed with the Chair within the prescribed time.

Section 5. ELECTION SCHEDULE. The annual election shall be conducted in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Election Step</u>	<u>To be Completed By</u>
1. Appointment of Nominating Committee	March 17
2. Nominating Committee's selection of nominees	April 1
3. Member's submission of written nominations	April 16
4. Distribution of Annual Election Ballots (if necessary)	May 1
5. Annual Election (if necessary)	May 15

If any of the above dates falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the next business day shall be the effective date.

Section 6. VOTING. Ballots must be received by the Chair of the Section, in care of the office of the Los Angeles County Bar Association with the instructions written on or furnished with the ballot not later than 4:00 o'clock P.M. on the election day, at which time the voting shall cease and the polls shall close.

Section 7. COUNTING. Immediately upon the close of the polls, the vote shall be canvassed and counted by a committee of at least three Section members, to be appointed by the Chair. The results of such voting shall be reported by the Chair in writing to the members of the Section.

Section 8. VOTES TO ELECT. A plurality of votes cast shall elect. In the event two or more candidates for one office shall receive an equal number of high votes, a special ballot shall be immediately sent to the Section for the purpose of resolving the election between such candidates, and the one securing the largest number of votes as a result of said special ballot shall be elected. Said special ballot shall require that the vote thereon be returned to the office of the Los Angeles County Bar Association within fourteen days of its mailing to be valid and counted. All other non-conflicting rules regarding ballots, voting and counting shall apply to the special ballot.
