# RESOLUTION OF THE SOLO AND SMALL FIRMS SECTION: OF THE LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the current Bylaws of the Solo and Small Firms Section do not reflect the rules under which the Section has been operating for several years.

WHEREAS, the Bylaws have been redrafted to reflect the recognition of the gender neutral terms regarding Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson; to allow the annual section meeting to be convened at the Annual Solo & Small Firm Conference or at the Annual meeting of the Louisiana State Bar Association; and to restrict the participation of officers to one person per law firm or law office in keeping with the goal of the Solo and Small Firm Section.

WHEREFORE, the Section requests that the LSBA House of Delegates approve the new Bylaws of the Solo and Small Firms Section. This language, set forth on the attached sheets, details the operational rules of the Section provided in a word and a compare word document.

Respectfully submitted,

LSBA Solo and Small Firms Section

Richard W. Martinez, Char

Solo and Small Firms Section

APPROVED HOUSE OF DELEGATES JUNE 11, 2015 DESTIN, FL

APPROVED BOARD OF GOVERNORS JUNE 12, 2015 DESTIN, FL

#### BY-LAWS OF THE SOLO AND SMALL FIRMS SECTION

#### OF THE LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

### ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. This Section shall be known as the Solo and Small Firms Section.

Section 2. The purpose of this Section is to provide a forum for the study and discussion of the problems and concerns involved in the practice of law by solo practitioners and members of small firms; to contribute to the continuing education of the attorneys so engaged in such practices; to disseminate information regarding potential legislation and/or litigation that might affect such attorneys; to encourage study, publication of legal writings and make recommendations regarding areas of interest to such attorneys; to establish liaison with the Louisiana State Bar Association. the American Bar Association. and the legal academic community, and the general community, to achieve these purposes; to promote and endourage dialogue and meetings between members of this Section and other members of the bar; and to take such actions in respect thereto as may be desirable, consistent with the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws of this Association, to the end that excellence in legal services be encouraged and maintained.

# ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Any member in good standing of the Louisiana State Bar Association shall, upon request to the Secretary of the Association, be enrolled as a member of the Section. Members so enrolled and whose dues are paid shall constitute the membership of this Section.

Section 2. Annual dues for membership in this Section shall be no more than \$20.00 per year. Section officers will determine on an annual basis what amount will be collected for that year. Dues are payable upon enrollment and thereafter annually on the same fiscal year basis as Louisiana State Bar Association dues.

Section 3. Any member whose annual dues shall be more than three months delinquent shall i mmediately cease to be a member of this Section. Only Section members in good standing, with dues paid, shall be eligible to vote, hold any Section office, or receive Section publications.

### ARTICLE III OFFICERS

Section 1. The general officers of this Section shall be a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, and a Secretary-Treasurer. The officers shall be members of the Section Managers.

Section 2. Officers shall be dues-paying Members of the section who volunteer for the positions. When necessary they will be chosen by election by the members.

Section 3. Each officer shall hold office for a term of two years, or until such time as a successor assumes office.

Section 4. No more than one Officer, or Managers may be from the same firm or law office.

Constitution and By-Laws of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the By-Laws of this Section.

Section 3. The Section Managers are authorized to take action in the name of the Section during intervals between meetings of the Section. All binding actions of the Section Managers shall be by majority vote of the Section Managers voting.

Section 4. The Section Managers, during the interim between annual meetings of the Section may, with the concurrence of the Chairperson, fill vacancies in its own membership or in the offices of the Vice-Chairperson or Secretary-Treasurer and, in the event of vacancies in the offices of both Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, then also in the office of Chairperson. Members of the Section Managers and officers so elected shall serve until the close of the next annual meeting of the Section or until a successor assumes office.

### ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1. The annual meeting of the Section shall be held at either the annual meeting of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the LSBA annual Solo and Small Firm Conference or at such time, location, and manner as may be decided by the Chair The Chair will announce the location of the section annual meeting at least two (2) months prior to the date of the section annual meeting. The Section Managers, and all members of the section may suggest agenda items, programs and the order of business o f the annual meeting.

Section 2. The members of the Section present voting at any Section activity as described in Section 3, herein, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of

business, and the Section shall be bound by a majority vote of the such members present at such meeting voting.

Section 3. The business of this Section may be conducted in person, via electronic discussion group, email, telephone conference, or web conference, or such other reasonable method designated by the Section Managers or the Chairperson.

Section 4. The Section may schedule meetings, activities, and events at which business can be discussed, subject to the previous section.

Section 5. Voting allowed or authorized by these By-Laws may occur through any of the methods authorized in Section 3.

Section 6. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible of taking and reporting the minutes of the meetings. However, the duty of the secretary-treasurer may be relieved of this obligation by the Chairperson and the Chairperson will assign the duties of this section to the person conducting the meeting.

# ARTICLE VII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Section shall be the same as that of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

Section 2. All bills incurred by the Section shall, before being paid, be approved by the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson, or otherwise as the Section Managers may direct, and checks for all disbursements shall be signed by the Secretary-Treasurer or such other officer as the Section Managers may authorize, except as to funds appropriated by the Board of Governors which shall be disbursed only by the proper officers of the Louisiana State Bar Association on bills approved by the Section Managers.

Section 3. No salary or compensation shall be paid to any officer, committee or Section Managers member.

Section 4. These By-Laws shall become effective immediately upon approval thereof, as required by the Articles and By-Laws of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

Section 5. All printing for the Section or for the Section Managers or any committee of the Section shall be done under the supervision of the Executive Council of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

# ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Section by a majority vote of the members of the Section present and voting, provided such proposed amendment shall first have been approved by a majority of the Section Managers, and provided further that no amendment so adopted shall become effective until approved by the Board of Governors of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

Approved	by resolution	on the	_da
of		. 2015.	

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