

# BYLAWS

OF THE

\_\_\_\_\_ CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

## ARTICLE I

### NAME

The name of this organization shall be the \_\_\_\_\_ Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

## ARTICLE II

### PURPOSES

The purposes of the Association shall be to: encourage cooperation among lawyers on a local basis to achieve the purpose of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association; sponsor educational programs and seminars on a local basis that do not conflict with the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association; receive reports on legislation on the State level involving criminal law and promote legislation in furtherance of justice and the common good in criminal law; promote local court rules and procedures in furtherance of the common good; promote relations with local judicial and law enforcement officers; maintain a local appellate brief "bank"; and other wise further the common goals, interest and education of the criminal defense bar of \_\_\_\_\_ County. \_\_\_\_

## ARTICLE III

### MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications for membership shall be:

(1) Licensed in good standing in the Supreme Court of the State of Texas; and

(2) Residency or office in \_\_\_\_\_ County or counties that are entirely or partially located with in a seventy-five (75) mile radius of \_\_\_\_\_, Texas.

Section 2. Any member meeting the above qualifications and current on payment or dues shall be entitled to vote in the Association.

Section 3. Student membership may be extended to students in good standing of an accredited law school, whose dues shall be \$10.00 per year.

## ARTICLE IV

Section 1. Dues shall be \$25.00 per year.

Section 2. Annual dues shall be paid on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of March each year. The calendar year shall be March 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup> (or 29<sup>th</sup>) of each year.

Section 3.

(a) Administrative cost shall be paid by the Secretary-Treasurer upon submission to and approval of the Board of Directors.

(b) Any funds collected over and above regular dues shall be expended only for the purposes for which they were collected, pursuant to the same procedure in Section 3 (a).

**ARTICLE V**

**MEETINGS**

Section 1. Monthly meetings shall be held on the third Thursday of each month at a time and place to be designated by the President.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Notice of meetings shall be given in writing one week in advance by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 4. Quorum— Those members present at any monthly meeting or special meeting shall constitute a quorum of the Association for the purposes of the transaction of business except that a quorum for a vote regarding local court rules and procedures shall consist of one-half of the members in good standing of the Association.

**ARTICLE VI**

**OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Officers: The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Secretary-Treasurer, Vice-President in Charge of Membership, Vice-President in Charge of Education, Vice-President in Charge of Courthouse Liaison, and three Directors at Large.

Section 2. The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary-Treasurer and Directors shall form the Board of Directors, which shall manage the day-to-day affairs of the Association and shall be authorized to act in emergencies by a majority vote of the Board of Directors on matters in furtherance of the Association, except that no pronouncement or action shall be taken by the Board of Directors regarding local rules and procedures until voted by the Association at a monthly or special meeting..

Section 3. Duties:

(1) The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association, and it shall be his responsibility to supervise and coordinate the activities of the Association, preside at its meetings, call special meetings, coordinate the Board of Directors, appoint members to committees and act as a spokesman for the

Association. He shall be an ex officio member of every committee and shall only vote at any meeting of the Board of Directors in case of a tie.

(2) The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the minutes and books of this organization, collect dues; and make disbursements as directed by the Board of Directors pursuant to these bylaws.

(3) The Vice-President in Charge of Membership shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President and shall succeed to the position of President in case of the vacancy of said office during the regular term of said office. He shall promote enrollment in the Association of qualified prospects. He shall also be responsible for obtaining speakers for the meetings of the Association.

(4) The Vice-President in Charge of Education shall arrange and supervise educational seminars and programs for continuing legal education of the local members in the area of criminal law and shall conduct and open discussion at each meeting on reports of legislation, significant developments or problems in the law.

(5) The Vice-President in Charge of Court Liaison shall be responsible for the coordination of relations with all judicial and law enforcement agencies, including but not limited to working with the judges on local court rules and procedures. He shall act as spokesman for the organization with judges, law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney. In this vein, he shall be restricted to the position previously adopted by the Association.

(6) There will be three Directors at Large elected for three year staggered terms, who shall sit and vote on the Board of Directors and perform other special functions as designated by the President.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **ELECTIONS**

Elections of officers shall be held at the February meeting of each year. Officers, except for Directors at Large, shall hold office for one year. Election shall be by a majority vote of those members present and voting.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER**

The meetings of the organization shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised Edition, unless otherwise governed by these bylaws.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at any meeting of the organization after submission of the proposed change by the Secretary-Treasurer in writing at least seven days prior to any meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer must submit to the membership any proposed changes timely made in writing by a member of the association.