



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FLORIDA GOVERNMENT BAR ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I.

NAME

This association shall be known as the FLORIDA GOVERNMENT BAR ASSOCIATION (incorporated in the State of Florida as the Florida Government Bar Association, Inc.), and shall hereinafter be referred to as "the association."

ARTICLE II.

OBJECT

The association is formed to advance the philosophy and science of jurisprudence, to promote reform in the law with emphasis on government practice and administrative law, to facilitate the administration of justice, to promote the standards of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession, to encourage legal education, to cultivate a spirit of cordiality and unity among the members of the Florida Bar employed in Florida government, and to pursue any other purpose authorized by the applicable laws of the State of Florida.

ARTICLE III.

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: QUALIFICATION AND CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP -
There shall be four classes of membership in the association, as follows:

Subsection (a): REGULAR MEMBERS -Any member of the Florida Bar in good standing, or retiree, whose practice areas include or included Federal, State or local government, may become a regular member of the association in the manner hereinafter provided.

Application for regular membership shall be made and processed in accordance with the enacted Bylaws of the association.

Subsection (b): HONORARY MEMBERS - Any member of the Florida Bar in good standing who is a justice, judge, elected or appointed official in the State of Florida, or who has retired from employment in Florida government may become an honorary member of the association. A member of any other Bar Association other than The Florida Bar may also become an honorary member of the association. Applications or nominations for honorary membership shall be made and processed in accordance with the Bylaws of the association.

Subsection (c): AFFILIATE MEMBERS - Any person who, though not a member of the Florida Bar, works alongside members of the Florida Bar whose practice areas include Federal, State, or local government, in any professional capacity may become an affiliate member of the association. This term includes but is not limited to paralegals, clerks, and other equivalent professionals. Privileges of affiliate membership shall be determined pursuant to

section 2 of this article.

Applications or nominations for affiliate membership shall be made and processed in accordance with the Bylaws of the association.

Subsection (d): LAW STUDENT MEMBERS - Any person enrolled in and attending an accredited law school, including law school graduates awaiting admission to the Florida Bar may become a law student member of the association. Law student membership is not limited to only students of accredited law schools based in Florida, provided that such student intends to apply for admission to the Florida Bar. Privileges of law student membership shall be determined pursuant to section 2 of this article.

Applications or nominations for law student membership shall be made and processed in accordance with the Bylaws of the association.

Law student members may not be granted regular membership until they provide a valid Florida Bar number and confirm their practice areas include Federal, State or local government.

Subsection (e): Any member who is disbarred or otherwise disciplined by The Florida Bar shall automatically cease to be a member of the association but may petition the full membership of the association for reinstatement.

Subsection (f): A member who retires from the practice of

law may continue their membership in the association so long as they are current on their dues.

Section 2: PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Subsection (a): Regular members may vote upon any and all matters in the association.

Subsection (b): Any regular member may hold office in the association, except for the offices of President and Vice President, which may only be held by a regular member who is then currently, or who was for at least five years, a full-time employee of a branch of Florida (State) government. Should the President or Vice President cease to satisfy this requirement during their term of office, a vacancy in such office shall be deemed to exist, and a successor will be chosen as provided herein.

Subsection (c): Honorary, affiliate, and law student members shall not vote or hold office in the association.

Subsection (d): All members shall have the privilege of the floor at all meetings of the association subject to the right of the Chair to limit discussion which may only be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Council.

**ARTICLE IV.
OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Section 1. The officers of the association shall be president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and four at-

large members whose position titles shall be established in the Bylaws of the association. The duties of the officers shall be described in the Bylaws.

Section 2. There shall be an Executive Council consisting of the officers of the association.

Section 3. The officers of the Executive Council shall be elected at the annual meeting of the association, shall take office at the succeeding meeting, and shall hold office until their successor assumes office or their resignation or removal.

Section 4. If there are more than two candidates for any position, runoff voting shall occur until candidates receive a majority.

Section 5. No person shall hold more than one of the positions on the Executive Council, except that the offices of the secretary and treasurer may be held by the same person.

Section 6. No person shall be elected to the office of the president for more than two consecutive terms. Otherwise there shall be no prohibition against any person holding the same or different positions for any number of consecutive terms.

Section 7. Any member of the Executive Council who shall neglect or fail to perform the duties of such member's office shall be removed by a 2/3 vote of the remaining members of the Executive Council.

Section 8. If the office of president becomes vacant, the vice president shall become president until the next election of officers. If the office of vice president, secretary, or treasurer becomes vacant, or any of the at-large positions becomes vacant, such vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the Executive Council, unless such vacancy occurs less than 30 days prior to the annual meeting, in which case such vacancy may be filled if the Executive Council deems it necessary.

**ARTICLE V.
GOVERNANCE OF THE ASSOCIATION**

Section 1. THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL-

Subsection (a): POWERS - The Executive Council shall have the following powers:

- (1) to direct the investment of the funds of the association.
- (2) to authorize any member of the association to travel on business for the good of the association, within guidelines established by the Bylaws.
- (3) to approve and pay reimbursement expenses for food, transportation, lodging, seminar or convention registration fees, and other related expenses in connections with such travel, within guidelines established by the Bylaws.
- (4) to carry on the day-to-day activities of the

association, including, but not limited to, opening and closing financial accounts in the name of the association; reproducing letters, announcements and other documents; mailing correspondence and meeting notices; arranging for dining facilities for meetings of the association; maintaining the digital presence of the association; arranging social and educational activities for the membership; promoting legal aid and legal education, including, but not limited to reasonable charitable contributions; and to make expenditures of association funds for such purposes.

(5) to make expenditures of association funds which it deems necessary for miscellaneous matters not otherwise enumerated in this section, in the amount of \$1000.00 or less for each such miscellaneous matter.

(6) to remove members of and fill vacancies on the Executive Council, as provided in Article V above.

(7) to create such committees as it deems necessary. Committee chairmen shall be appointed by the Executive Council; committee chairmen shall appoint other members of their committee as they see fit.

(8) to determine the times, dates and places of meetings of the members, and other related matters, as provided in Article VI below.

(9) to recommend amendments to this Constitution or the Bylaws of the members of the Association.

Subsection (b) MEETINGS - The Executive Council shall meet at the call of the President. Business may be conducted by contemporaneous telephonic communication or electronic communication such as a group chat.

Subsection (c) QUORUM - A majority of the individuals who are members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum for voting on any motion; however no vote shall be taken by fewer than four individuals.

Subsection (d) MOTIONS - Motions shall generally be adopted upon a majority vote of those present and entitled to vote. In the case of telephone or electronic meetings, every effort shall be made to include as many individuals entitled to vote as possible; motions at such meetings shall be adopted by a majority vote of those contacted,

Section 2: OTHER MATTERS - All other matters, including but not limited to, the position of the association on bar activities; the filing of lawsuits or briefs with any court; and the expenditure of funds for matters other than those listed in Section 1 above, shall be decided by the members of the association.

Subsection (a) CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS - No candidate for

elected or appointed office shall be endorsed by the Association except upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all dues paying members of the association; abstentions and non-responsive voters shall count as no votes for the purposes of this subsection.

Subsection (b) LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS - The Association shall not take legislative positions unless there is a two-thirds affirmative vote of dues paying members present and voting on the issue; non-responsive members and abstentions shall not count against adopting a position.

ARTICLE VI.
GENERAL MEETINGS

Section 1. ANNUAL MEETING - An annual meeting of the membership of the association for the election of members of the Executive Council shall be held annually at a time to be determined by the Bylaws. If the time of the annual meeting is changed by the Bylaws, such change shall in no case result in an annual meeting held less than six months subsequent to the annual meeting immediately preceding such change. No more than one such change to the Bylaws shall be made in any one calendar year.

Section 2. OTHER MEETINGS - Other meetings shall be held once each month, except the Executive Council may vote to

cancel meetings as they deem it appropriate. The Executive Council shall determine the times, dates and places of such meetings. When deemed necessary by the Executive Council, a vote of the members may be taken by mail or electronic ballot, which shall be provided to all members entitled to vote. The Executive Council shall set a deadline of not less than fourteen days from the date the ballots are mailed for the tabulation of the votes.

Section 3. QUORUM. The total of all votes cast, either by regular members present and voting at a regularly noticed meeting of the membership of the Association, or by ballots returned, will satisfy quorum requirements for any motion, except in the case of a proposed amendment to this constitution.

Section 4. MOTIONS - Motions shall generally be adopted upon a majority vote of the regular members present and voting, unless some other threshold is specified in the Constitution or Bylaws. In the case of ballot voting, motions shall be adopted upon a majority vote of the regular members who return their ballot by the deadline established by the Executive Council.

ARTICLE VII.
DUES

The dues of the association shall be as provided in the

Bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII.

BYLAWS

Section 1. Appropriate Bylaws to carry out the provisions of this Constitution may be adopted or amended by a unanimous vote of the Executive Council provided there is no objection from those present when the membership is advised of the change at the following monthly meeting, and provided the changes are not effective until such an opportunity to object has been provided. If there is objection, such change shall only be effective upon ratification of two-thirds of the members present and voting at a regularly convened meeting of the association.

Section 2. Bylaws may also be adopted or amended upon a motion on the floor made by any member adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

ARTICLE IX.

AMENDMENTS

Section 1: This Constitution may be amended at any meeting of the members or by mail or electronic ballot on recommendation of the Executive Council by a 2/3 vote of at least 51% of the regular members, or without such recommendation by a 3/4 vote of at least 51% of the regular members; provided that all regular members of the association are given notice

that an amendment will be proposed, stating or fairly summarizing such amendment, and the time and place of the meeting during which it will be proposed (unless by mail ballot), not later than 30 days prior to such meeting or deadline for mail ballot.

Section 2: AMENDMENT HISTORY - For informational purposes only.

This constitution was substantially revised on the 19th day of October, 2016, upon a recommendation of the Executive Council and an affirmative vote of the membership.

Article III, Section 2, Subsection (b) of this constitution was revised on the 23rd day of May, 2022, upon a recommendation of the Executive Council and an affirmative vote of the membership.

This constitution was substantially revised on the 27th day of June, 2023, upon a recommendation of the Executive Council and an affirmative vote of the membership.