

HERKIMER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BY- LAWS

I. NAME

The name of this association shall be THE HERKIMER COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION.

II. OBJECTS

The association is formed to cultivate the science of jurisprudence, to promote reform in the law, to facilitate the administration of justice, to elevate the standard of integrity, honor and courtesy in the legal profession, to cherish a spirit of brotherhood among the members thereof., and to found, continue and perpetuate a law library.

III. MEMBERS

Any member of the legal profession in good standing residing in the County of Herkimer may become a member by two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting at which these By-Laws are adopted on open nomination and thereafter any member of the legal profession in good standing practicing in the County of Herkimer may become a member by two-thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting, after a report of the Committee on admissions, or by two-thirds vote of the Directors, upon recommendation of the Committee on admissions, between regular meetings of the association and on paying the annual dues which shall also constitute the initiation fee.

IV. DIRECTORS

There shall be nine directors to transact the business and manage the affairs of the association, who shall be elected by the members of the association by ballot. The said nine directors so elected shall immediately after their election divide themselves by lot into three classes to serve respectively as follows: First class for one year; second class for two years; third class for three years.,and until their successors are respectively elected and at each annual meeting thereafter three directors shall be elected in the same manner for three years and until their successors are elected.

A majority of said directors shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. Said directors shall determine and approve of the form and amount of the security to be given by the Treasurer for the safe keeping add accounting of the moneys of the association coming into his hands., and also 'the form and manner in which his accounts and those of the Secretary shall be kept, and shall at least once in each year examine and audit the accounts of the Secretary and Treasurer and report thereon to the association at its annual meeting.

It shall be the duty of the directors to meet at such place and hour as they may designate on the First Tuesday of May and November in each year and at such other times as they may designate, besides which, the President shall have the power, on two days notice, to call special meetings whenever he sees fit.

The directors, at any regular or special meeting, shall have the same power and authority to transact business as could be transacted by the association itself.

V. OFFICERS

The officers of the association shall be a president, first vice-president, second vice-president, secretary and treasurer, all of whom shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the association and shall

respectively take and hold office for one year from and after their election and until their successors are elected. All the officers and the members of the committees of this association shall be selected from the members thereof.

VI. STANDING COMMITTEES

The standing committees shall consist of a Committee on Admissions, a Committee on Grievances, a Committee on Legislation and Law, Reform, a Committee on Legal Biography and a Committee on Purchase of Books, the members of which shall be appointed by the President immediately after the annual meeting in each year and shall hold their respective offices until the next annual meeting and until their successors are appointed.

All of said officers and said committees shall perform the duties usually prescribed for such officers and committees.

The President shall be a member ex officio of all standing committees.

The association may at any time provide for the formation of additional committees and prescribe their duties.

VII. PRESIDENT

The president, or in his absence the first vice-president, or in his absence the second vice-president, or in the absence of all of them, one of the directors, shall preside at meetings of the association and of the directors, but unless such presiding officer is a director he shall not have a vote at any meeting of the directors.

VIII. SECRETARY

The secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of all meetings of the association and of the Board of Directors, shall collect all initiation fees and dues and pay them over to the treasurer and shall take a receipt therefore, and shall give 10 days notice of meetings of the association and of the Board of Directors, shall draw all orders on the treasurer pursuant to directions of the Board of Directors and shall discharge such other duties as shall be required of him by the association and by the Board of Directors, and shall receive for his services such annual sum as the association shall fix from time to time by vote at any duly called meeting.

IX. TREASURER

The treasurer shall receive all moneys from the secretary and deposit the same in a bank to his credit as such treasurer and shall pay out such moneys only on orders drawn by the secretary and countersigned by the president or acting president and shall discharge such other as shall be required of him by the association or the Board of Directors.

Said treasurer shall give security in such sum and in such form for safekeeping and account of all moneys of the association coming into his hands and for the discharge of his duties as such treasurer as shall be required by the Board of Directors.

X. COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS

The Committee on Admissions shall consist of three members, not more than one of whom shall reside in

the same city or village, whose duty it shall be to investigate and report upon all applications for membership. The proceedings of this committee shall be deemed confidential and shall be kept secret except so far as written or printed reports of the same shall be necessarily and officially made to the association.

XI. COMMITTEE ON GRIEVANCES

The Committee on Grievances shall consist of three members, not more than one of whom shall reside in the same city or village, whose duty it shall be to investigate and report upon all complaints made, and all matters referred to it by the association or the Board of Directors. The proceedings of this committee shall be deemed confidential and shall be kept secret except so far as written or printed reports of the same shall be necessarily and officially made to the association.

XII. COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION AND LAW REFORM

The Committee on legislation and Law Reform shall consist of three members, whose duty it shall be to become familiar with the nature and conduct of legislation, both State and Federal, and to perform such other duties as the association may from time to time impose upon them.

XIII. COMMITTEE OF LEGAL BIOGRAPHY

The Committee on Legal Biography shall consist of three members whose duty it shall be to provide for the preservation among the archives of the association of suitable written or printed memorials of the lives and characters of deceased members of the association.

XIV. COMMITTEE ON PURCHASE OF BOOKS.

The Committee on the Purchase of Books shall consist of three members.

XV. MEETINGS

The regular annual meeting shall be held at such date and time in December as the President shall fix, upon two weeks' written notice to the members, at the Surrogate's Court Room in the Court House in the Village of Herkimer.

Special meetings may be called by the President, or at the written request of three members, at any time.

The Secretary shall give at least ten days written notice of each annual meeting., and at least three days notice of each special meeting, except in unusual cases, when one day's notice will be sufficient.

XVI. PROCEEDINGS CONFIDENTIAL

All proceedings of this association shall be considered confidential and no member shall in any way by word or intimation expose the vote, opinion or action of himself or any other member.

XVII. ANNUAL DUES

The annual dues shall be \$3.00, beginning January, 1937 and be payable in advance on the 1st day of January in each year. If any member fails to pay his yearly dues within one month from the date when the same become payable, the Secretary shall serve upon him personally, or by mail, a copy of this By-Law and a notice that unless the same are paid within one month thereafter his name will be stricken from the rolls and

his membership and all rights in respect thereof shall thereupon cease. But upon his written application, satisfactorily excusing the default, and upon payment of all dues then due, the association may remit the penalty of this By-Law.

The Secretary shall keep a register, alphabetically arranged, showing when dues are paid and such other information as may be properly contained therein and shall report to each annual meeting the names of all members in arrears and the amount thereof.

XVIII. EMERITUS MEMBERS

Any member of the Herkimer County Bar who has or shall reach the patriarchal age of seventy years may be a member to this association emeritus without payment of initiation fee or annual dues.

XIX. EXPULSION

Any member may be disciplined or expelled for misconduct in his relations to this association or in his profession by the following manner of procedure: Every complaint shall be made in writing, signed and verified by the complainant, and be delivered to the Secretary, who shall without delay deliver the same to the Chairman of the Grievance Committee, which committee shall, if they entertain the same, fix a time and place for a hearing before the committee, and cause notice thereof, with a copy of the charges to be served upon the accused, either personally or by mail, at least ten days before the time appointed. At the time and place so appointed or to which the hearing may be adjourned, said committee shall proceed to trial, either party may offer evidence and said committee shall consider the case upon the complaint and answer, if any, and evidence taken. Upon the hearing each party may appear personally and by counsel.

If witnesses summoned by or under authority of said committee are members of the association, refusal or neglect to obey said summons shall be reported to the association for its action. Said committee, after hearing the evidence, shall make its decision and if said complaint is dismissed such decision shall be final; but if said committee finds the complaint or any material part of it true, it shall make its report, with recommendation, together with the pleadings, proceedings and evidence, to the association at its next meeting.

The association shall take such action on the report as it shall see fit, but no member shall be expelled unless by vote of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting.

In case any member of the Grievance Committee is disqualified for any reason that disqualifies a Judge from presiding at a trial, the President shall substitute in said committee qualified members in place of those disqualified.

XX. VACANCIES

In case of vacancy in any office it shall be filled by the Board of Directors until the next annual meeting.

Vacancy in office shall occur by reasons of resignation, failure to act or ceasing to be a member of the association.

A person shall cease to be a member of this association by reason of death, removal from the county, non-payment of dues, expulsion or accepted resignation, and all interest in the property of the association of members ceasing to be members as aforesaid shall thereupon vest absolutely in the association.

XXI. ORDER OF BUSINESS

At all meetings of the association the following shall be the order of business:

- Reading of minutes of previous meeting for instruction only.
- Nominations for membership.
- Correspondence.
- Unfinished Business.
- Reports of committees.
- Report of Treasurer.
- Election of Officers.
- General Business.
- Minutes of meeting read and adopted.

XXII. AMENDMENTS.

These By-Laws as amended shall go into effect immediately. They can be amended only by a two-thirds vote of all members present at any meeting of the association, provided a written notice of the proposed amendment be given to each member personally or by mail at least ten days before the same is voted upon.

Adopted: 1936

Amended: July 8, 1983