

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SECTION**  
**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION AND BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I**

Name

Section 1: The name of this Section shall be “The Intellectual Property Law Section of The State Bar of Georgia.”

Section 2: The purpose of this Section shall be to promote the objects of The State Bar of Georgia within the field of intellectual property law, including patent, trademark, trade secret, copyright; and related areas of intellectual property law; to actively sponsor the continuing education of the members of The State Bar of Georgia in this field; to study, review or initiate proposed legislation or administrative policy for the improvement of the law and practice in this field and to make appropriate recommendations thereon to The State Bar of Georgia.

**ARTICLE II**

Members

Section 1: Active Members: Any member of the State Bar of Georgia in good standing, upon application and payment of required Section dues, shall be eligible and may become members in this Section.

Section 2: Honorary Members: Judges of the Federal Courts of the several Districts of Georgia, all judges of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and all judges for the Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit maintaining an office in Georgia shall during their tenure in office be Honorary Members of this Section; other qualified persons may be proposed for Honorary Membership and upon approval by the Executive Committee, shall be enrolled as Honorary Members of this Section for one year unless otherwise specified. Honorary Members shall be entitled to all of the privileges of the Section, except that of voting or holding office, and shall be exempt from paying dues.

Section 3: Associates and Student Associates: Any associate or student associate of The State Bar of Georgia, including Patent Agents who are associate members of the State Bar of Georgia, shall be eligible and may become an associate or student associate of this Section upon application and payment of the required dues. Associates and student associates shall be entitled to all of the privileges of this Section, except that of voting or holding office.

**ARTICLE III**

Dues

Section 1: The dues for the members, associates, and student associates shall be as set by the members of the Section from time to time and may be changed in amount only by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee and only with the approval of the board of Governors of The State Bar of Georgia. All dues shall be paid into the Treasury of The State Bar of Georgia concurrently with dues for membership in The State Bar of Georgia and shall be disbursed as directed by the Chair.

Section 2: A portion of all dues paid by members, associate or student associates of the Section shall be transferred to the general overhead account of The State Bar of Georgia to cover administrative and similar expenses of the State Bar related to the Section. The portion transferred shall be as periodically specified by the Board of Governors of The State Bar of Georgia.

Section 3:

Member's dues shall be paid at a time set by The State Bar. Members, associates, and student associates who are delinquent in their dues will be automatically dropped from membership or association. Any member, associate, or student associate who has been dropped from membership or association in the Section for non-payment of dues may be readmitted upon application and payment of the required dues as set forth in Article II, Section 1.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### Officers

Section 1: The officers of this Section shall be a Chair, a Chair-Elect, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer who shall perform the usual duties of their respective offices and the duties hereafter specified. These officers, together with the immediate past Chair, shall comprise the Executive Committee, and shall have general charge of the affairs of this Section.

Section 2: The Chair or his or her designee shall preside at meetings of the Section, appoint appropriate committees of the Section to serve during his or her term as Chair, perform any executive and administrative duties necessary or proper to the organization and functioning of the Section; including any duty as from time to time may be prescribed by the Section or by the State Bar.

Section 3: The Chair-Elect shall assist the Chair, and, in the absence or disability of the Chair, perform the duties of the Chair, and perform such other duties as prescribed by the Chair.

Section 4: The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair and perform such other duties as prescribed by the Chair.

Section 5: The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Section, maintain the permanent records, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Chair.

Section 6: The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of moneys received, appropriated to, and expended for the use of the Section and shall perform such other duties as prescribed by the Chair.

## **ARTICLE V**

### Meetings of the Section

Section 1: The meetings of the Section may be held from time to time on the call of the Chair, Chair-Elect or Vice Chair or of any four members of the Executive Committee or of any twenty-five active members of the Section.

Section 2: At any meeting of the Section, seven active members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3: The procedure at all meetings of this Section shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise provided herein.

Section 4: The Secretary shall preserve the official copies of the Articles of Association, the minutes, and any other records which the Executive Committee shall designate for preservation.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### Executive Committee

Section 1: The Executive Committee of the Section shall consist of the Officers of the Section and other members of the Section appointed by the Chair, whose term shall be co-existent with that of the Chair.

Section 2: The Executive Committee shall have full authority to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself would be authorized to act.

Section 3: All committees, except as otherwise provided herein, shall be appointed by the Chair as needed. Members of the Executive Committee, other than the officers, and any other members of the Section may serve as Chair of an appointed committee.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### Elections

Section 1: The Section officers, other than Chair, shall be elected by written or electronic ballot. Ballots providing selections from among all duly nominated candidates for each office shall be delivered by mail or otherwise to all members of the Section between thirty (30) and sixty (60) days after the conclusion of the mid-year meeting of The State Bar of Georgia. Each member of the Section wishing to participate in election shall complete his or her ballot by

casting at least one vote for a candidate of his or her choice and returning the completed ballot to the State Bar of Georgia in accordance with the instructions delivered with the ballot.

Completed ballots must be returned to the Section within thirty (30) days of the date on which they were originally mailed to Section members. Ballots not returned to the Section within thirty (30) days shall not be counted. Within thirty (30) days of the due date for return of completed ballots, votes of Section members shall be tallied and elected candidates shall be informed of their election. An election to any office requires a majority of the votes cast. If more than two candidates are nominated for any office and no candidate so nominated receives a majority of the votes cast upon the first ballot, then the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes cast upon such first ballot shall be voted upon again in a second ballot, and the candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast upon such second ballot shall be declared to be elected to the particular office.

Section 2: All newly elected officers and members of the Executive Committee shall serve for a term of one (1) year beginning from the adjournment of the annual meeting of The State Bar of Georgia until their successors have been duly elected and qualified. The Chair-Elect shall become Chair of the Section at the adjournment of the next succeeding annual meeting of The State Bar of Georgia after the date of his or her installation as Chair-Elect. The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, fill a vacancy in any elected office except that of Chair-Elect for the balance of the unexpired term of such office. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chair-Elect, a Chair shall be elected by the membership of the Section at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Section.

Section 3: Not less than sixty (60) days before the midyear meeting, the Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee to consist of at least three (3) members of the Section who are not officers. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to select from the membership a proposed slate of candidates, one for each of the various offices to be filled. The Nominating Committee shall obtain the consent and agreement of each member selected that such member will undertake the duties of the office if elected. Having obtained such consent and agreement, the Nominating Committee shall report its proposed slate of candidates to the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the midyear meeting and the Secretary shall present the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates at the midyear meeting or by publication to the members of the Section at or about the time of the midyear meeting if a Section meeting is not held at the midyear meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the midyear meeting and may also be made in writing within thirty (30) days after the midyear meeting. Nominations shall be closed on the 31st day after adjournment of the midyear meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### Finances

Section 1: Funds of the Section shall be deposited in the treasury of the State Bar of Georgia and shall be disbursed as directed by the Chair to pay bills of the Section, which have been approved for payment by any other Officer of the Section.

Section 2: Officers and members of the Section shall not be compensated for service thereto.

Section 3: A financial report of the funds of the Section shall be rendered at each annual meeting of the State Bar. This Section shall have the same fiscal year as the State Bar.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### Action by Section

Section 1: No action, policy determination or recommendation of this Section shall be deemed to be or referred to as the action of The State Bar of Georgia prior to the submission of same to and approval by the Board of Governors of The State Bar, or in accordance with the rules and regulations governing The State Bar, by members of the Bar in a duly authorized referendum or in a general assembly of The State Bar in annual convention, subject to the rules and regulations governing the same.

Section 2: The Section may from time to time, subject to the Rules, Bylaws and Standing Board Policies of the State Bar, sponsor, promote, study or review proposed legislation. The Section may from time to time report on its legislative activities to the State Bar.

## **ARTICLE X**

### Property

Section 1: Any interest in the property of the Section of persons resigning or otherwise ceasing to be members shall vest in the Section.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### Amendments

Section 1: These Articles of Association may be amended at any meeting of the Section by a two-thirds vote of those members in good standing who may be present, provided the proposed amendment has first been approved by a majority of the Executive Committee, and provided that a copy of the proposed amendment approved by the Executive Committee has been mailed to the membership not less than ten days prior to such meeting. The ten-day mailing requirement shall not apply if the meeting is the midyear meeting where a quorum is present.

Section 2: No Amendment to these Articles shall become effective until approved by the Board of Governors of The State Bar of Georgia.