TEXAS LAWYERS AUXILIARY BYLAWS

Amended June 22, 2023

ARTICLE ONE

NAME

1.01  **General.** The name of this Corporation shall be the Texas Lawyers Auxiliary.

ARTICLE TWO

PURPOSE

2.01  **General.** Texas Lawyers Auxiliary is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as Amended (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Laws) including but not limited to the following:

A. To recommend projects to Affiliates and members in cooperation with the organized Bar of the State of Texas;

B. To recognize outstanding volunteer service;

C. To promote an understanding and appreciation of the American Legal System;

D. To promote law-related education, citizenship awareness and public service advocacy;

E. To provide information network among Affiliates; and

F. To seek funding to implement the purposes of the Texas Lawyers Auxiliary.

2.02  **Dissolution.** Upon the dissolution of the organization the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all of the assets of the organization exclusively for the purpose stated in Section 2.01 or to such groups organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as Amended, (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by any Court of competent jurisdiction of the state or county thereof in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to organizations operated exclusively for such purposes as have been stated in Section 2.01.
2.03 **Non-Discrimination.** This organization shall be non-profit, non partisan, non sectarian, and non- discriminatory as to race or sex.

**ARTICLE THREE**

**NON-PROFIT CORPORATION**

3.01 **General.** The Corporation shall be a non-profit Corporation and shall be organized and operated exclusively for non-profit purposes. No part of its net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any Trustee, Director, Officer, “Member,” “Governor,” or “Advisor” or any other private individual. The Corporation shall never declare or make to any such persons any dividend or other distribution provided, nevertheless, that nothing herein shall prevent the payment of reasonable compensation for services actually rendered or the reimbursement of reasonable expenses actually incurred in connection with fulfilling the Corporation’s purposes.

**ARTICLE FOUR**

**PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**

4.01 **General.** The Corporation shall neither have nor exercise any power, nor shall it engage directly or indirectly in any activity, that would invalidate its status as a Foundation, which is exempt from Federal Income Taxation as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code, or as a Foundation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2), 2055, or 2522 of the Code.

4.02 **Political Activities.** No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publication or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

4.03 **Self-Dealing.** If the Corporation is a private foundation as defined in Section 509 of the Code then, during the period of time while the Corporation is such a “private foundation”, the Corporation shall not engage in any act of self-dealing as defined in Section 4941(d) of the Code.

4.04 **Annual Income Distribution.** If the Corporation is a private foundation as defined in Section 509 of the Code then, during the period of time while the Corporation is such a “private foundation”, the Corporation shall distribute its income for each taxable year at such time and in such manner as not to become subject to the tax on the undistributed income imposed by Section 4942 of the Code.

4.05 **Jeopardy Investments.** If the Corporation is a private foundation as defined in Section 509 of the Code, then during the period of time while the Corporation is such a “private foundation”, the Corporation shall not make any investment in such manner as to subject it to tax under Section 4944 of the Code.
4.06 Business Holdings. If the Corporation is a private foundation as defined in Section 509 of the Code then, during the period of time while the Corporation is such a “private foundation”, the Corporation shall not retain any excess business holdings as defined in Section 4943(c) of the Code.

4.07 Taxable Expenditures. If the Corporation is a private foundation as defined in Section 509 of the Code then, during the period of time while the Corporation is such a “private foundation”, the Corporation shall not make any taxable expenditures as defined in Section 4945(d) of the Code.

4.08 Loans to Officers and Directors Prohibited. No loans shall be made by the Corporation to its officers and directors, and any directors voting or assenting to the making of any such loan, and any officer participating in the making thereof, shall be jointly and severally liable to the Corporation for the amount of such loan until repayment thereof.

ARTICLE FIVE

MEMBERS

5.01 Membership. Membership shall be open to the following:

A. Affiliate Members – Any local Bar Auxiliary, organization of lawyers' spouses or law student spouses who will adhere to the Bylaws of the Auxiliary in support of its objectives, as defined in Article Two, is eligible for membership. Such membership shall not interfere with nor jeopardize the autonomy of the Affiliate.

B. Individual Members – as defined in Article Two, is eligible for membership.

C. Life Members – Life membership is available to those who qualify under the above categories either singly or as a Spouse Couple Life Membership. Life Membership is for life and a later change in one of the above qualifications does not affect the Membership. The cost for Life Membership will be determined by the Board of Directors. All Life Membership fees will be deposited in a separate account as a permanent endowment fund. Only the yearly interest on the account may be withdrawn and added to the Operating Account.

D. Sustaining Life Members – Sustaining Life Membership shall be open to any Life Member who may choose to continue to make an annual contribution that is not less than the amount determined by the Board of Directors. Sustaining Life Membership shall be recognized for each year in which such annual contribution is made.

5.02 Honorary Membership. Honorary membership may be extended at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Honorary members shall be exempt from payment of dues and shall have no voting privileges.
5.03 **Voting.** All Affiliate members, individual members, and Directors-at-Large shall be entitled to one vote at the Annual Meeting or at any special meeting called by the Board of Directors. Votes of local Affiliate members shall be cast by their respective Presidents or by a duly authorized representative of such affiliate. Dues must be current to maintain voting privileges.

5.04 **Dues, Fees and Assessments.** All dues, fees and assessments shall be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors at the meeting prior to the Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

**ARTICLE SIX**

**OFFICERS**

6.01 General. The officers shall be President, President-Elect, two Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, an Advisor who shall be the Immediate Past President, and a Parliamentarian appointed by the President who shall have no vote. These officers comprise the Executive Committee.

6.02 **Election and Term.** Election of officers shall be by the outgoing Board of Directors of the Corporation at the meeting preceding the Annual Meeting of the Corporation and shall serve from the adjournment of the Annual Meeting until the adjournment of the succeeding Annual Meeting or until their successors are qualified.

6.03 **Consecutive Term.** All officers shall be eligible to serve consecutive terms in the same office.

6.04 **Resignation.** Any officer may resign by giving written notice to the Secretary.

6.05 **Removal and Filling of Vacancies.** Any officer may be removed at any time by the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Corporation will be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person so removed. If the office of any officer becomes vacant, it shall be filled by the President with approval of Executive Committee, such newly elected officer to serve out the unexpired term of the former officer whose position is filled. The officer then becomes eligible to be elected to that office for the next term.

6.06 **Powers and Duties of Officers.** Officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by this Corporation.

A. **The President.** The powers and duties of the President shall be as follows:

1. To preside at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and any other meetings of these groups which may be called;
2. To attend, ex-officio, meetings of all committees, except the Nominating Committee;

3. To call meetings of the Directors and/or the Executive Committee in accordance with these bylaws at such time and place as deemed proper;

4. To execute for and in the name of the Corporation all written instruments and documents that may be necessary;

5. To supervise officers and all agents of the Corporation;

6. To nominate members and designate the powers and duties of all committees, except the Nominating Committee, that may be provided for in these bylaws;

7. To supervise the business and affairs of the Corporation;

8. To name replacements for unexpired terms of office with Executive Committee approval;

9. To give all notices that may be necessary or proper with the assistance of the VP Communication and Membership;

10. To initiate all correspondence with the Board of Directors and membership with the assistance of the VP Communication and Membership; and

11. To initiate, assign, and oversee all Projects with the assistance of the individual project chairs.

B. The President-Elect. The powers and duties of the President-Elect shall be as follows: The President-Elect shall generally assist the President and shall have such powers and perform such duties and services as shall be prescribed or delegated by the President or the Board of Directors.

C. The Vice Presidents. The powers and duties of the Vice Presidents shall be as follows:

1. Vice President Communication and Membership shall be responsible for all digital communication including, but not limited to the TLA website, social media, notifications, yearbook and shall forward all membership updates dues and contributions to the Treasurer.

2. Vice President Annual Meeting shall be the responsibility of the host city auxiliary and their appointed representative shall serve as VP Annual Meeting. If there is no local auxiliary in the host city the President of TLA will appoint a member in the region to assist with the annual meeting responsibilities. TLA Board will assist with these duties.
D. **The Recording Secretary.** The powers and duties of the Recording Secretary are as follows:

1. To keep full and complete records of all meetings of the Corporation, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee;

2. To join the President in the execution and delivery of deeds, contracts and other instruments when appropriate; and

3. To keep and preserve the Minute Book, the book of bylaws, all other books and records of the Corporation and the Corporate Seal.

E. **The Corresponding Secretary.** The powers and duties of the Corresponding Secretary shall be as follows:

3. To give all non-digital notices that may be necessary or proper, without command or direction from anyone. In case of failure, for any reason, of the Secretary to give any such notice, then such notice may be given by the President or by any persons authorized by the President.

4. To correspond with the affiliate members, individual members, and honorary members as deemed necessary by the President, the Executive Committee and/or the Board of Directors.

F. **The Treasurer.**

1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the collection and custody of all membership dues, donations, gifts and monies belonging to the Corporation. The treasurer shall receive dues checks from the Membership Chairman. The treasurer shall disburse funds as provided by the annual budget, or as determined proper and necessary by the Board of Directors. The treasurer shall keep complete and accurate financial records in the manner designated by the Board of Directors.

2. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the timely filing of all Internal Revenue Service reports, annual and as otherwise required.

3. The Treasurer shall arrange for a review or audit of the books upon assuming the office.

4. The outgoing Treasurer shall consult with the Executive Committee to prepare the annual budget. Upon approval by the Board of Directors, it is then presented to the general membership at the Annual Meeting.
ARTICLE SEVEN

MEETINGS

7.01 General. The Annual Meeting of the Corporation shall be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the State Bar of Texas.

7.02 Election of Directors-at-Large. At the Annual Meeting this organization shall elect Directors-at-Large, whose number shall be determined by the Board of Directors, who shall serve a one-year term and may be reelected.

7.03 Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the President or by the Executive Committee and shall be called upon the written request of ten members of the Corporation. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. Except in case of emergency, at least 10 days notice shall be given.

7.04 Quorum. Eight members of the Corporation shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, the presiding officer of that meeting may take a vote on essential matters through contact by telephone or email with all members of the Board of Directors. Votes must be taken within ten days of the meeting and recorded in the minutes of the meeting. An addendum to the minutes will show a list of all those contracted along with their votes.

ARTICLE EIGHT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

8.01 General. The primary governing of this organization shall be vested in the Board of Directors. The Board shall include all the elected officers, the Immediate Past President, the current Presidents of all Affiliate Members (or their designated representative), the Permanent Finance Advisor, the Standing Committee Chairmen, Directors-at-Large, whose number shall be determined by the Board of Directors, and a nonvoting Parliamentarian.

8.02 Standing Committees. The Standing Committees are Advisory; Awards; Bylaws; Finance; Future Planning; History and Traditions; Law-Focused Education; Memorial, Tribute, and Scholarship Fund; Nominating; Now You Are 18; Operations; Teacher of the Year; and Your Legal Rights.

8.03 Resignation. Any Director may resign by giving written notice to the Secretary.
8.04 **Removal and Filling of Vacancies.** Any Director may be removed at any time by the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interest of the Corporation will be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person so removed. Any vacancy caused by removal shall remain vacant until the next Annual Meeting unless the Board must act to fill an elected office.

8.05 **Meetings.** The Board of Directors shall meet prior to the Annual Meeting of the Corporation and shall also meet the first Mondays in October and March. Additional meetings may be called by the President or by written request of ten of the Board members.

8.06 **Quorum.** At each meeting of the Board of Directors a quorum shall consist of eight members of the Board and must include at least a majority of the elected officers. In the absence of a quorum, the presiding officer of that meeting may take a vote on essential matters through contract by telephone or email with all members of the Board of Directors. Votes must be taken within ten days of the meeting and recorded in the minutes of the meeting. An addendum to the minutes will show a list of all those contacted along with their votes.

8.07 **Authority.** The Board of Directors shall have primary responsibility for carrying out the policies of the organization, for authorizing the expenditure of funds, for supervising the agenda of the Annual Meeting, and for making recommendations to the Annual Meeting regarding any other business of this Corporation.

8.08 **Compensation of Directors.** No Director shall receive compensation for services as director or as a member of a committee of the Board. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any Director from receiving reimbursement for expenses incurred on behalf of the Corporation or in attending meetings of the Board of Directors or any such committee or from serving the Corporation in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefor.

**ARTICLE NINE**

**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

9.01 **General.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers [Art. 6, Sec. 6.01], the Immediate Past President who shall act as Advisor, and the non-voting Parliamentarian.

9.02 **Meetings.** The Executive Committee shall meet as necessary at the call of the President or, in the absence of the President, at the call of the President-Elect.

9.03 **Budget.** The Executive Committee shall assist the Treasurer in preparing an annual budget for recommendation to the Board of Directors and shall exercise all powers of the Board of Directors between meetings of the Board.
ARTICLE TEN

FINANCES

10.01 Chairman. The Finance Permanent Advisor shall call and chair the Finance Committee meetings and shall prepare reports and recommendations for the Board of Directors. The Chairman shall also keep copies of the financial reports from the Treasurer as well as Internal Revenue Information Forms, copies of applications for grants or donations and all information pertaining thereto, including copies of checks or drafts.

10.02 Funds. The Corporation shall be authorized to raise funds by admissions, solicitations, benefits, lectures, exhibits, sales or exchanges of property, or other legitimate methods in furtherance of its purpose. The Corporation may set a price for any treatise, thesis, book, pamphlet, or other publication which it makes available to the public. The Corporation may also charge a nominal amount for admission to any public discussion group, forum, panel, lecture or other similar activity which it may conduct. However, payment of such charge shall not be a condition to admission and any person choosing not to pay such charge will nonetheless be freely admitted to such activity.

10.03 Bank Account. Deposits shall be maintained at such bank(s) and checks and notes shall be signed by such person(s) as the Board of Directors shall determine.

10.04 Gifts. The Corporation shall be authorized to receive gifts, legacies, and bequests (for general or specified purposes), subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.

10.05 Reserves; Endowment Funds. The Board of Directors may create reserves for such purposes as it shall think beneficial to the Corporation and may abolish the reserves in the manner created. The Board of Directors may create an initial and permanent endowment fund. The Board of Directors may later add to this endowment fund or may create other permanent or temporary endowment funds in amounts and at times it deems feasible. The purpose of such endowment funds is to assure the future operations of the Corporation.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

INDEMNIFICATION

11.01 Non-Liability of Directors, Officers and Members in Certain Cases. No director or officer shall be liable for his/her acts as such if he/she is excused from liability under any present or future provision or provisions of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act; and, in addition, to the fullest extent now or hereafter permitted by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, each officer, director or member shall in the discharge of any duty imposed or power conferred upon him/her by the Corporation, be fully protected if, in the exercise of ordinary care, he/she acted in good faith and in reliance upon the written opinion of an attorney for the Corporation, the books of account or reports made to the Corporation by any of its officers or by an independent certified public accountant or by an appraiser selected with reasonable care of the Board of Directors, or in reliance upon other records of the Corporation.
11.02 When Indemnification is Required, Permitted and Prohibited.

A. The Corporation will indemnify a director, officer, member, committee member, employee, or agent of the Corporation who was, is, or may be named defendant or respondent in any proceeding as a result of his/her actions or omissions within the scope of his/her official capacity in the Corporation. For the purposes of this article, an agent includes one who is or was serving at the Corporation’s request as a director, officer, partner, venturer, proprietor, trustee, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, trust, employee-benefit plan, or other enterprise.

B. The Corporation will indemnify a person only if he or she acted in good faith and reasonably believed that his/her conduct was in the Corporation’s best interests. In case of a criminal proceeding, the person may be indemnified only if he/she had no reasonable cause to believe that the conduct was unlawful. The Corporation will not indemnify a person who is found liable to the Corporation or is found liable to another on the basis of improperly receiving a personal benefit from the Corporation. A person is conclusively considered to have been found liable in relation to any claim, issue, or matter if the person has been adjudged liable by a court of competent jurisdiction and all appeals have been exhausted. Termination of a proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or on a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent does not necessarily preclude indemnification by the Corporation.

C. The Corporation will pay or reimburse expenses incurred by a director, officer, member, committee member, employee, or agent of the Corporation in connection with the person’s appearance as a witness or other participation in a proceeding involving or affecting the Corporation when the person is not a named defendant or respondent in the proceeding.

D. In addition to the situations otherwise described in this paragraph, the Corporation may indemnify a director, officer, member, committee member, employee, or agent of the corporation to the fullest extent permitted by law. However, the Corporation will not indemnify any person in any situation in which indemnification is prohibited by 11.02 B., above.

E. The Corporation may advance expenses incurred or to be incurred in the defense of a proceeding to a person who might eventually be entitled to indemnification, even though there has been no final disposition of the proceeding. Advancement of expenses may occur only when the procedural conditions specified in 11.04 C., below, have been satisfied. Furthermore, the Corporation will never advance expenses to a person before final disposition of a proceeding if the person is a named defendant or respondent in a proceeding brought by the Corporation, or one of more members, or if the person is alleged to have improperly received a personal benefit or committed other willful or intentional misconduct.

11.03 Extent and Nature of Indemnity. The indemnity permitted under these Bylaws includes indemnity against judgments, penalties, (including excise and similar taxes), fines, settlement,
and reasonable expenses (including attorney’s fees) actually incurred in connection with the proceeding. If the proceeding was brought by or on behalf of the Corporation, the indemnification is limited to reasonable expenses actually incurred by the person in connection with the proceeding.

11.04 Procedures Relating to Indemnification Payments.

A. Before the Corporation may pay any indemnification expenses (including attorney’s fees), the Corporation must specifically determine that indemnification is permissible, authorize indemnification, and determine that expenses to be reimbursed are reasonable, except as provided in subparagraph C., below. The Corporation may make these determinations and decisions by any one of the following procedures:

1. Majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who, at the time of the vote, are not named defendants or respondents in the proceeding.

2. If such quorum cannot be obtained, by a majority vote of a committee of the Board, designated to act in the matter by a majority vote of all directors, consisting solely of two or more directors who at the time of the vote are not named defendants or respondents in the proceeding.

3. Determination by a special legal counsel selected by the Board by the same vote as provided in subsubparagraphs 1 or 2, above, or if such a quorum cannot be obtained and such a committee cannot be established, by a majority vote of all directors.

4. Majority vote of members, excluding directors or other members who are named defendants or respondents in the proceeding.

B. The Corporation will authorize indemnification and determine that expenses to be reimbursed are reasonable in the same manner that it determines whether indemnification is permissible. If special legal counsel determines that indemnification is permissible, authorization of indemnification and determination of reasonableness of expenses will be made as specified by subparagraph A. 3, above, governing selection of special legal counsel. A provision contained in the articles of incorporation, or a resolution of members or the Board that required the indemnification permitted by 11.02, above, constitutes sufficient authorization of indemnification even though the provision may not have been adopted or authorized in the same manner as the determination that indemnification is permissible.

C. The Corporation will advance expenses before final disposition of a proceeding only after it determines that the facts then known would not preclude indemnification. The determination that the facts then known to those making the determination would not preclude indemnification and authorization of payment will be made in the same manner as a determination that indemnification is permissible under subparagraph A. above.

In addition to this determination, the Corporation may advance expenses only after it receives a written affirmation and undertaking from the person to receive the advance.
The person’s written affirmation will state that he/she has met the standard of conduct necessary for indemnification under these Bylaws. The written undertaking will provide for repayment of the amounts advanced by the Corporation if it is ultimately determined that the person has not met the requirements for indemnification. The undertaking will be an unlimited general obligation of the person, but it need not be secured and may be accepted without reference to financial ability to repay.

D. Any indemnification or advance of expenses will be reported in writing to the Corporation’s members. The report will be made with or before the notice or waiver of notice of the next membership meeting, or with or before the next submission to members of a consent to action without a meeting. In any case, the report will be sent within the 12-month period immediately following the date of the indemnification or advance.

ARTICLE TWELVE

MISCELLANEOUS

12.01 Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules or Order Newly Revised shall govern the Corporation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Corporation may adopt.

12.02 Waiver of Notice. Any notice required, by the laws of the United States or of Texas or by the Corporation’s Articles of Incorporation or bylaws, to be given to a person, shall be deemed for all purposes to have been given to such person if she/he executed in writing a waiver thereof, whether before or after the time such notice is ordinarily required to be given.

12.03 Employees. The Board of Directors shall hire any employee that may be needed and shall fix the terms of employment.

12.04 Fiscal Year. The fiscal year shall be set by Resolution of the Board of Directors.

12.05 Registered Office. The Corporation shall continuously maintain in Texas a registered office and agent in compliance with the Texas Non Profit Corporation Act. The Board of Directors shall review this matter at least annually and make any changes which become necessary.

12.06 Code. Within this document, the term “Code” shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended. All references to any section of the Code shall be made by section number only and shall be deemed to include any corresponding provisions of any subsequent Federal Tax Laws.

12.07 Headings. The headings used in these bylaws have been inserted for administrative convenience only and do not constitute matter to be construed in interpretation.
ARTICLE THIRTEEN

AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

13.01 General. These bylaws or any provisions thereof may be altered, repealed or amended, or new or additional bylaws adopted by action of the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote provided that there has been given at least ten days in advance a notice clearly indicating the nature of the meeting and setting forth the text of such repeal, amendment, or addition to be considered.