

## **BYLAWS**

### **AMERICAN INNS OF COURT FOUNDATION CHARTER NO. 166 OF**

#### **THE LEO A. DEEGAN AMERICAN INN OF COURT**

#### **AT RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA**

Inasmuch as Sharon Waters, Hon. Robert J. Timlin, Stanley Orrock, James Heiting, and Terry Bridges have made due and proper application to the American Inns of Court Foundation for a charter to organize, establish, and carry on activities as a participating Inn of the American Inns of Court Foundation, and,

Whereas, the aforesaid applicants have agreed to abide by and conduct their activities consistent with the requirements of this Charter, and the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation, as they now exist or may be hereafter interpreted, modified or amended by the Board of Trustees of said Foundation, and

Whereas, applicants have requested that their member Inn be granted use of the American Inns of Court name, service mark, seal, and copyrighted materials and be designated as the Leo A. Deegan American Inn of Court, and

Whereas, the American Inns of Court Foundation, by and through its Board of Trustees, has granted American Inns of Court Foundation Charter No. 166 to the above-named applicants, their successors and to such others as are or shall be joined with them as members of the within described Inn to be known as The Leo A. Deegan American Inn of Court at Riverside, California,

NOW THEREFORE, the Attorney Masters of the Leo A. Deegan American Inn of Court hereby approve and accept the following revised Bylaws for the organization and operation of this Inn, effective September 27, 2017.

## **ARTICLE I**

### **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this Inn are:

- 1 . To be a membership of judges, lawyers, legal educators, and others as may be consistent with this Charter, to promote excellence in legal advocacy at the trial and appellate court levels.
- 2 . To foster greater understanding of, and appreciation for, the adversarial system of dispute resolution in American law, with particular emphasis on ethics and professional standards of excellence.
- 3 . To provide significant educational experiences that will improve and enhance the skills of lawyers as counselors and advocates, and of bench officers as adjudicators and judicial administrators.
- 4 . To promote interaction among members of all categories in order to minimize misapprehensions, misconceptions, and failures of communication that may obstruct the effective practice of law.
- 5 . To facilitate the development of law students, recent law school graduates, and less experienced lawyers as skilled participants in the American court system.
- 6 . To build upon the genius and strengths of the common law and the English Inns of Court and to renew and inspire joy and zest in legal advocacy as a service worthy of constant effort and learning.
- 7 . To promote collegiality among professionals and to transmit ethical values from one professional generation to another.

## **ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION**

A. Nature of Association. This Inn shall be and remain chartered and affiliated with the American Inns of Court Foundation as a member Inn and shall be an unincorporated association composed of bench officers, practicing lawyers, law school educators, recent law school graduates, and law students who accept an invitation to membership as hereinafter described.

B. Governing Body and Officers. The Board of Directors of this Inn shall be a President, a Past President, a President-Elect, a Vice-President, a Secretary-Treasurer, a Financial Secretary, and At-large members of the Board of Directors.

C. Term of Office for President, Past-President, President-Elect, and Vice-President. The term of office for the President, Past-President, President-Elect, and Vice-President shall be one year each. Each shall be selected by the Board of Directors. The Past-President assumes their position following their term as President. The President-Elect shall assume the position of President following the completion of the term. The Vice-President shall assume the position of President-Elect following the completion of the term. Should a President or President-Elect be unable to complete their duties or term of office, the next officer in line shall assume the duties either temporarily or for the remainder of the term.

D. Secretary-Treasurer. The term of office for the Secretary-Treasurer shall be one year, and a member may serve up to four terms. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be selected by Board of Directors.

E. Financial Secretary. The term of office for the Financial Secretary shall be one year, and a member may serve up to four terms. The Financial Secretary shall be selected by the Board of Directors.

F. Term of Office for Board of Directors. The term of office for the At-large members of the Board of Directors shall be four years. Up to four members shall constitute the At-large members of the Board of Directors. The At-large members of the Board of Directors shall be

elected by members of the Inn through a duly-noticed election. The Board of Directors will strive to select at least one Judicial Master to serve on the Board of Directors. At-large members shall remain in their position until removed by the Board, selected for another office by the Board of Directors, or the At-large member resigns.

G. Operative Year. The Board of Directors shall designate the dates for the commencement and termination of the operative year. The final meeting of each operative year typically shall be designated as the meeting for elections, unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors.

H. Duties of President, President-Elect, and Vice-President. The President, President-Elect, and Vice-President shall have the following duties which shall be allocated by the Board of Directors:

- 1 . Any duties imposed by the Attorney Masters and/or the Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation;
- 2 . Schedule and preside at all meetings of the Inn;
- 3 . Ensure that an annual curriculum and agenda for Inn meetings and activities are developed and furnished to members;
- 4 . Notify members of their appointment to serve on Inn of Court committees;
- 5 . Call and conduct meetings of the Board of Directors and committees as required to plan and conduct activities of the Inn;
- 6 . Conduct all Inn activities in accordance with the Articles, Bylaws, and Policies of the American Inns of Court Foundation and this Charter;
- 7 . Supervise and monitor Team activities in order to encourage the proper functioning of this important aspect of Inn organization;
- 8 . Encourage attendance at all Inn meetings;

9 . Serve as liaison with other Inns of Court as they may be established;

10 . Extend invitations for membership in the Inn of Court as authorized by the Board of Directors.

I. Duties of Secretary-Treasurer and Financial Secretary. The Secretary-Treasurer and Financial Secretary shall:

1 . Prepare, maintain and forward to the American Inns of Court Foundation Executive Secretary, at least annually, a complete roster of all present and past members of the Inn specifying name, last known address, telephone number, and membership;

2 . Prepare and maintain minutes of each meeting of the Inn;

3 . Receive and disburse monies and other property paid to the Inn;

4 . Prepare and maintain accurate financial records for the Inn;

5 . Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President.

J. Duties and Authority of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors, acting by majority vote of its members, shall:

1 . Establish such committees as may be necessary to carry out, or assist the Board of Directors in carrying out, the responsibilities imposed by this Charter, or by the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies or Directives of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

2 . Confer and terminate membership in the Inn.

3 . Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President, President-Elect, or Vice-President.

K. Duties of Members. Members have a duty to:

1. Attend each monthly Inn meeting.

2. Meet as pupillage groups periodically, at times other than the monthly Inn meetings, to foster increased professionalism, legal knowledge, and ethics among each pupillage groups of members.

3. Participate actively in the meetings of the Inn and of their pupillage groups.

4. Pay appropriate dues to the Inn. Emeritus and honorary members are exempt from this requirement.

5. Be a member in good standing with the State Bar of California and the Riverside County Bar Association. Bench officers, students, honorary members, and emeritus members are exempt from the requirement of membership in the State Bar of California and the local bar.

L. Relationship with Courts. This Inn shall be and remain outside the jurisdiction of the courts; but, shall endeavor to work in close cooperation with the trial and appellate courts. Federal, state, and local trial and appellate bench officers will participate in the organization in the tradition of the common law.

### **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

A. Invitations for Membership. Memberships shall be conferred upon those accepting invitations extended by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors' discretion in extending invitations to membership is absolute and non-reviewable. Such invitations may be extended on the basis of recommendations made to the Board of Directors by any member of the Inn or in response to a written application filed with the Membership Committee of the Inn. Membership invitations and applications shall not be denied to any person on account of race, color, creed, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or national origin.

B. Designation of Categories of Membership. Members shall be selected in the following five categories:

1. Judicial Masters. Membership as Judicial Masters may be held by bench

officers who have demonstrated superior character, ability, and competence. Retention of Judicial Master status is contingent upon reasonable Inn activity to be periodically reviewed by the Board of Directors.

2 . Attorney Masters. Membership as Attorney Masters may be conferred upon active attorneys by the Board of Directors. Membership as Attorney Masters may be held by attorneys who have demonstrated superior character, ability, and competence as trial or appellate advocates. Retention of Attorney Master status is contingent upon reasonable Inn activity to be periodically reviewed by the Board of Directors.

3 . Emeritus Members. Membership as Emeritus Members may be conferred upon judicial masters or attorneys by the Board of Directors. Such membership status may be granted on the basis of long and distinguished service to the Inn. Emeritus Judicial and Attorney Masters shall be under no obligation to pay dues, attend meetings, or participate in other programs of the Inn; but, will enjoy all privileges of active membership except the right to vote. Emeritus Members will retain such membership status for life if they so desire.

4 . Barristers. Active membership as Barristers may be held by attorneys who have been in active practice for at least five (5) years prior to selection as a Barrister unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors. Attorneys must have demonstrated good character and a desire to improve and refine their skills as trial and appellate advocates.

5 . Associates. Membership as Associates shall be held by attorneys who are recent law school graduates admitted to the practice of law for not more than five (5) years unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors.

6 . The Honorable Douglas A. Weathers Honorary Members. Each year, Douglas A. Weathers Honorary members may be selected by the Board of Directors. The term will be one year. Consideration for selection is on the basis of distinguished service to the bench or

bar, furtherance of Inn of Court objectives, or other noteworthy achievements. Honorary members shall be under no obligation to pay dues, attend meetings, or participate in other programs of the Inn; but, will have all privileges of membership except the right to vote.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **FINANCES**

A. Financial matters within this Inn shall be managed and controlled in accordance with policies and directives established by the American Inns of Court Foundation and this Charter.

B. This Inn shall remit annually to the American Inns of Court Foundation a reasonable amount to be levied by the Board of Trustees of said Foundation for the purpose of paying its proportionate share of operating expenses of the said Foundation.

C. The Board of Directors is empowered to levy and collect assessments in the form of dues in amounts which it may deem appropriate in order to meet its obligations to the American Inns of Court Foundation as well as the Inn's operating needs. Failure to pay assessments and dues within a reasonable time and after reasonable notice may be considered by the Board of Directors as a ground to terminate membership of the person in default.

D. For financial reporting purposes, the Fiscal Year shall be the same as the Operative Year set by the Board of Directors.

E. The Board shall designate signatories on the Inn's financial accounts from amongst the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Financial Secretary.

#### **ARTICLE V**

#### **MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES**

A. Schedule for Meetings. Regular meetings of the membership of the Inn shall be called by the Board of Directors at least six times per year at such intervals as it may determine.

B. Content of Meetings. The main themes and subject matter of regular meetings shall be practical legal advocacy with emphasis on legal ethics and excellence in lawyering. Programs should present, demonstrate, teach, and explain the principles, skills, techniques, and relationships involved in the courtroom and in activities preliminary to courtroom appearances. Furthermore, meetings should involve critiques and questions from the membership of the Inn. Meetings are designed to assist members in better discharging their duties to clients and society. Programs should ordinarily be presented by Teams assigned at the start of the Operative Year.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **TEAMS**

As an American adaption of the system which is basic to the English Inns of Court, each Associate and Barrister will be assigned to work with at least one (1) Attorney Master during meetings and at other times throughout the year. At least one (1) Attorney Master, one (1) Barrister, and one (1) Associate, appropriate to the numbers in the Inn, shall comprise the Team. Each Team shall be assigned to a Judicial Master. The Judicial Master shall exercise general supervision over the team assigned to him or her; and shall monitor the team's attendance at meetings, encourage its meaningful participation at meetings and at scheduled events, and oversee presentations of assigned meeting topics. At least during team meetings, all Attorney Masters should strive to make contact with Associates and Barristers. On such occasions Associates and Barristers should be advised about pertinent points of trial or appellate advocacy as is appropriate.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **OTHER INNS OF COURT**

This Inn shall promote or cooperate in the establishment of similar Inns in the same or different localities of the state or elsewhere, to meet existing or developing needs in order to more widely achieve the objectives of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
**AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS**

These Bylaws may only be amended with the approval of the Board of Trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation following a two-thirds vote of the active Attorney Masters present at a meeting called and reasonably noticed for such purposes, or upon written consent of at least two-thirds of such membership.