



Staff Memorandum

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Agenda Item #2(b)
(Consent Calendar)

REQUESTED ACTION: Approval of proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Family Law Section.

The Family Law Section has proposed amendments to the section Bylaws to (1) update the names of the section's standing committees; (2) give the chair the ability to disband ad hoc committees, give appointment powers to committee chairs, and set forth terms for appointments; and (3) enable the section to amend its Bylaws at any section meeting. As with all section Bylaws, your approval is required in order for the amendments to take effect.



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January 13, 2014

David M. Schraver, Esq.
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Dear President Schraver:

Last year the Family Law Section Executive Committee made amendments to their bylaws, and requests approval of the Executive Committee on these modifications.

Attached is a a red-line version of the changes to the bylaws.

Article VI, Section 1 of the Family Law Section Bylaws would update the names of the Standing Committees of the Section, to include:

Annual Meeting, Amicus, Ethics, and Review and Publications Committees. It would also discharge the Committee on Family Court, Supreme Court, Substantive and Family Law Relating to the Family.

Article VI Section 2 would give the chair the ability to disband ad hoc committees and appointment powers for committee chairs and co-chairs. It also sets forth the terms of appointments for committee chairs and co-chairs.

Finally, **Article VI Section 4** would include the ability of the Section to amend their bylaws at any meeting of the section, not limited it to the annual meeting.

If you have any questions about any of the changes, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Pamela Sloan

The Following redlined version is provided to illustrate the proposed Amendments:

ARTICLE VI Committees

Section 1. There shall be the following standing committees of the Section:

- a. Committee on Membership
- b. Committee on ~~Family Court~~Annual Meeting
- c. Committee on ~~Supreme Court~~Amicus
- d. Committee on Legislation
- e. Committee on Finance
- f. Committee on Continuing Legal Education
- g. Committee on Long Range Planning
- h. Committee on ~~Substantive~~Ethics
- i. Committee on Family Law Relating to the Family: Review and Publications

Section 2. The Chair may appoint *ad hoc* committees to advise the Chair and the Executive Committee on such matters as the Chair deems appropriate.

The Chair may disband *ad hoc* committees as the Chair deems appropriate.

Section 3. The Chair of the Section shall appoint committee chairpersons or co-chairpersons as he or she shall determine. No person shall serve as a chair or co-chair of a committee of the Section for more than six consecutive years, but may be re-appointed as a chair or co-chair of that same committee after one year has elapsed following such six consecutive year period. The six year consecutive term limit shall apply retroactively but shall not be effective until the June 1, 2015 appointment of committee chairpersons or co-chairpersons. All committee chairpersons and co-chairpersons shall serve at the discretion of the Chair of the section.

ARTICLE IX Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 4. These bylaws may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the Section or at any Regional Meeting of the Section by a majority vote of the members of the Section present, provided that no amendment shall be effective until approved by the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association.