

PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO RESTATE AMENDED BYLAWS OF THE MINORITY INVOLVEMENT SECTION AND TO CHANGE NAME

WHEREAS, the Minority Involvement Section (the "Section") of the Louisiana State Bar Association convened at its Special Meeting on April 23, 2025; and

WHEREAS, during said meeting, the Section reviewed its mission and determined that its historical focus on minority engagement should evolve to reflect a more inclusive vision of the legal profession; and

WHEREAS, the Section acknowledges the changing landscape of diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts both within and outside the LSBA; and

WHEREAS, in light of this shift, the Section voted to adopt a broader and practical mission, one that supports attorneys who have been historically underrepresented or marginalized, including those affected by socioeconomic challenges, geographic isolation, limited practice resources, or underrepresented practice settings, while continuing to uplift attorneys from diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences; and

WHEREAS, this mission is not exclusive but intentionally inclusive, welcoming all attorneys, regardless of personal or political viewpoints, who share in the goal of advancing professionalism, civility, and excellence within the legal community as a whole; and

WHEREAS, to reflect this renewed mission and purpose, the Section determined that a name change to the "Inclusive Practice Section" is appropriate and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Section further proposes amendments to modernize its bylaws, including provisions related to electronic voting, virtual meetings, officer roles, and other structural updates consistent with best practices; and

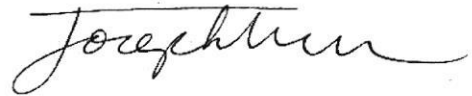
WHEREAS, the Section wishes to formally restate and amend its bylaws to reflect these substantive and non-substantive updates;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the name of the Section shall be changed from the "Minority Involvement Section" to the "Inclusive Practice Section"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the bylaws of the Section shall be restated and amended to reflect:

- (1) the new name in Article I, Section 1;
- (2) the revised and expanded purpose in Article I, Section 2; and
- (3) the additional amendments proposed and adopted by the Section membership.

Respectfully Submitted:



By: Joseph T. D. Tran, Chair

APPROVED BY HOUSE OF DELEGATES
FOR 97 (90%)
AGAINST 11 (10%)
JUNE 5, 2025
DESTIN, FL

RATIFIED UNANIMOUSLY BY BOARD OF GOVERNORS
JUNE 7, 2025
DESTIN, FL

ATTEST:



Valerie T. Schexnayder
Secretary, Louisiana State Bar Association

**RESTATED AND AMENDED BYLAWS OF THE
INCLUSIVE PRACTICE SECTION OF THE
LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION**

**ARTICLE I.
NAME AND PURPOSE**

Section 1. This Section shall be known as the Inclusive Practice Section.

Section 2. The purpose of this Section is to support attorneys in their pursuit of a successful legal profession. The Section will promote the fair treatment, visibility, and participation of all attorneys, including but not limited to, underrepresented or historically marginalized groups, including attorneys with disabilities, attorneys of diverse racial, ethnic, or national origins, various religious backgrounds, genders, ages, sexual orientations, and those practicing in rural or resource-limited areas. The Section will contribute to the continuing legal education of such attorneys by providing seminars that address issues germane to the practice of law. The Section will provide an ongoing forum for the study and discussion of those areas of interest. The Section will establish liaison with the Louisiana State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the legal academic community, and the general community, to achieve these purposes; to promote and encourage dialogue and meetings between members of this Section and other members of the Bar; and to take such actions in respect thereto as may be desirable, consistent with the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of this Section, to the end that excellence in legal services be encouraged and maintained.

**ARTICLE II
MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

Section 1. Any member in good standing of the Louisiana State Bar Association shall, upon request to the Secretary of the Louisiana State Bar Association, be enrolled as a member of the Section. Members so enrolled and whose dues are paid shall constitute the membership of this Section.

Section 2. Dues for membership in this Section shall be determined by the Section Council on an annual basis, payable upon enrollment and thereafter on the same fiscal year basis as Louisiana State Bar Association dues.

Section 3. Any member whose annual dues shall be more than three months delinquent shall immediately cease to be a member of this Section. Only Section members in good standing, with dues paid, shall be eligible to vote, hold any Section office, or receive Section publications.

ARTICLE III OFFICERS

Section 1. The general officers of this Section shall be the Chair, Chair Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past Chair, and up to three At-Large Members. These officers shall serve as members of the Council.

Section 2. Each officer shall hold office for a term of two years, to begin with the adjournment of the annual meeting of the Section at which the member was elected and to end at the close of the second succeeding annual meeting of the Section; or until such time as a successor shall have been elected.

Section 3. Upon ratification of the Section Bylaws and adoption of the Resolution creating this Section by the membership of the Association, the first Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the President of the Louisiana State Bar Association to serve for two years until the installation of officers duly elected in accordance with these Bylaws. Thereafter the officers shall be elected by the Section membership in the manner hereinafter set forth.

ARTICLE IV DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Chair, or the Chair Elect in the absence of the Chair, shall preside at all meetings of the Section and the Council. In consultation with the Council, the Chair shall establish such committees as are deemed necessary and appoint the members thereof who are to hold office during the Chair's term. The Chair shall plan and supervise the Section's programs and activities. The Chair shall keep the Council informed and carry out its decisions. The Chair shall provide a report of the work of the Section for the year at each annual meeting of the Louisiana State Bar Association, and shall perform such other acts that usually accompany the office.

Section 2. The Chair Elect shall assist the Chair, performing such tasks as shall be assigned by the Chair. In the absence of the Chair, or upon the death, resignation or disability of the Chair, the Chair Elect shall perform the duties of the Chair for the remainder of the term of

office; provided that, in the case of temporary disability, the Chair Elect shall act only during the pendency of the disability.

Section 3. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all books, papers, documents, and other property of the Section, and shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and of the Council, whether assembled or acting under submission. With the Chair, the Secretary shall prepare a summary or digest of the proceedings of the Section at its annual meeting for publication in the Annual Report of the Louisiana State Bar Association. The Secretary, in conjunction with the Chair as authorized by the Council, shall attend generally to the business of the Section.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall sign any application for and execute any bond as may be requested by any officer of the Section and/or member of the Council pursuant to any resolution duly adopted for any bond for the purpose of protecting the monies of the Section. Any cost or premium for such bond, however, shall not be borne by the officer, but shall be an expense of the Section and paid from the funds of the Section.

Section 5. The Immediate Past Chair shall support the purpose of the Section and ensure continuity of leadership and governance.

ARTICLE V THE COUNCIL

Section 1. The Council of the Section shall be composed of the officers.

Section 2. The Council shall have general duties and control as necessary for the administration of the affairs of the Section subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Bylaws of this Section.

Section 3. The Council of the Section is authorized to act in the name of the Section during intervals between meetings of the Section. All binding action of the Council shall be by majority vote of the entire Council.

Section 4. The Council, during the interim between annual meetings of the Section may, with the concurrence of the Chair, fill vacancies in its own membership and the council and, in the event of vacancy of Chair then also in the office of Chair. Members of the Council so elected shall serve until the close of the next annual meeting of the Section.

Section 5. Members of the Council shall vote in person when present at a meeting of the Council. When members contemplate absence, they may communicate their vote on any proposition to the Secretary and have it counted with the same effect as if cast personally at such meeting.

Section 6. The Chair of the Section may submit or cause to be submitted in writing to each of the members of the Council any proposition upon which the Council may be authorized to act, and the members of the Council may vote such propositions as submitted, by communicating their vote thereon, in writing over their respective signatures, to the Secretary, who shall record upon the minutes each proposition so submitted, when, how, and at whose request same was submitted, and the vote of each member of the Council thereon, and keep a file of such written and signed votes. If the votes of a majority of the members of the Council so recorded shall be in favor of such a proposition, or if such majority shall be against such proposition, such majority vote shall constitute the binding action of the Council. The Council of the Section may take action in the name of the Section whenever proposals are brought before the Council for an expression of views and recommendations to the Board of Governors of the Association.

Section 7. The President of the Louisiana State Bar Association shall appoint three members of the Section to serve on the first Council. Such members shall be selected by the president from a slate of six names furnished to the President by the officers of the Section. One member shall be appointed to serve on the Council for one year, one member to serve on the Council for two years and one member to serve on the Council for three years. At the expiration of each initial term, one member of the Council shall be elected in the manner hereafter set forth to serve a term of three years. Each term will begin with the adjournment of the annual meeting at which the member was elected and will end at the close of the third succeeding annual meeting of the Section.

ARTICLE VI ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL

Section 1. Annually, the Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three members of the Council. This Committee shall make and report one nomination for each office and council position which is to be filled by election in that year, identifying each nominee and including a brief statement of the activities undertaken by the nominee in the Section and in the law profession. Upon receipt of the Committee report, the Chair of the Section shall have it published to Section members prior to the Annual Meeting. Added nominations may be made prior to the meeting by means of a petition signed by not less than ten members of the Section.

Section 2. Ballots in such form as determined by the Section Council shall be provided by electronic means to all members of the Section. Each electronic communication shall contain the names of all nominees and shall be accompanied by a brief biographical statement of each nominee. An electronic submission method shall be provided for voting. The Section Council in consultation with the Chair, shall prescribe the method and timing of voting to ensure the receipt of all valid votes on or before the day of the annual meeting. Election shall be by plurality of the votes cast.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Section 1. The annual meeting of the Section shall be held during the annual meeting of the Louisiana State Bar Association or sometime thereafter as determined by the Council and Chair, with such program and order of business as may be arranged by the Council.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Section may be called by the Chair upon approval of the Council and held in person or virtually at such time and place as the Council and Chair may determine.

Section 3. The members of the Section present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for conducting business, and the Section shall be bound by a majority vote of the members present at such meetings.

ARTICLE VIII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Section shall be the same as that of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

Section 2. All bills incurred by the Section shall, before being paid, be approved by the Chair or Chair Elect and the Treasurer, or otherwise as the Council may direct. Checks for all disbursements shall be signed by the Treasurer or such other officer as the Council may authorize, except as to funds appropriated by the Board of Governors which shall be disbursed only by the proper officers of the Louisiana State Bar Association on bills approved by the Council.

Section 3. No salary or compensation shall be paid to any member, officer, committee or Council member.

Section 4. These Bylaws shall become effective immediately upon approval thereof, as required by the Articles and Bylaws of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

Section 5. All printing for the Section or for the Council or any committee of the Section shall be done under the supervision of the Executive Director of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting of the Section by a majority vote of the members of the Section present and voting, provided such proposed amendment shall first have been approved by a majority of the Council, and provided further that no amendment so adopted shall become effective until approved by the Board of Governors of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

Section 2. The Council may propose amendments by majority vote of the Council. Amendments also may be proposed by submission in writing to the Council in the form of a petition signed by at least ten members of the Section in time for it to be considered by the Council at its last regular meeting before the annual meeting of the Section at which it is to be voted upon. The Council shall consider the proposed amendment at said regular meeting and shall prepare recommendations thereon. The recommendations, together with a complete and accurate text of said proposed amendment, shall be disseminated to the members of the Section by the Secretary prior to the annual meeting of the Section at which they will be voted upon.