

**RESOLUTION TO THE LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
SUBMITTED BY THE YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the Young Lawyers Division Council (“YLD Council”) of the Louisiana State Bar Association undertook a comprehensive review of its Bylaws, and identified various provisions in need of clarification, modernization, and improved internal consistency;

WHEREAS, the YLD Council determined that many revisions were necessary to ensure that the Bylaws are clear, coherent, and aligned with the current structure and operations of the Young Lawyers Division and the YLD Council;

WHEREAS, the YLD Council considered its makeup and operations in the wake of the United States Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals’ opinion in *Boudreaux v. Louisiana State Bar Association, et al.*, No. 22-30564 (5th Cir. 2023);

WHEREAS, the YLD’s Bylaws currently designate two YLD Council seats to an American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Representative and a Young Lawyer Representative to the American Bar Association’s House of Delegates;

WHEREAS, the YLD Council is concerned with certain resolutions presented to the ABA and ABA YLD that could be considered non-germane under *Boudreaux*;

WHEREAS, the YLD Council wishes to conform its Bylaws to the Bylaws of the Louisiana State Bar Association, and therefore proposes to discontinue the roles of ABA Young Lawyers Division Representative and a Young Lawyer Representative to the ABA’s House of Delegates on the YLD Council;

WHEREAS, having evaluated the needs and representative structure of the Young Lawyers Division moving forward, the YLD Council determined that it is in the best interest of the Division to replace the two ABA-designated positions with three At-Large Representative positions, resulting in a nineteen-member Council, with each At-Large Representative to serve a two-year term and to be appointed by the YLD Chair, subject to approval by a majority vote of the YLD Council;

WHEREAS, the YLD Council also clarified the Bylaws governing vacancies in Officer positions to ensure consistent and orderly succession, including confirming when an Officer assumes the duties of a vacated position, preserving the right of Officers to serve their full future terms, and establishing clear procedures for filling a vacancy in the office of Secretary;

WHEREAS, the YLD Council determined that the revisions reflected in the proposed Restated Bylaws collectively promote effective governance, enhance clarity

and consistency, and are in the best interest of the Young Lawyers Division and its Members; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Delegates, as the policy-making body of the Louisiana State Bar Association, approve the request of the YLD Council to adopt the attached Young Lawyers Division Bylaws.

Respectfully submitted by:
LSBA Young Lawyers Division Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Collin Melancon".

Collin Melancon, Chair
December 11, 2025

**BYLAWS
OF
THE LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION**

Including ~~Amendments~~amendments through January 20, 2024~~XX~~, 2026¹

**ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

SECTION 1 — Qualifications of Members

Every member of the Louisiana State Bar Association (the “Association”) who has not reached the age of ~~forty~~ (40) or who has been admitted to the practice of law for fewer than five ~~(5)~~ years as of the beginning of the Association’s fiscal year on July 1, whichever is later, is by virtue thereof a member (“Member”) of the Young Lawyers Division— (“YLD”).

SECTION 2 — Functions

—A. The ~~Young Lawyers Division~~YLD shall sponsor such ~~other~~ programs as may be determined advisable and beneficial to ~~Young Lawyers Division members~~Members. The Council shall engage in all other progressive activity beneficial to all inhabitants of our ~~state~~State, in general, and ~~in particular~~, to the members of the ~~Louisiana State Bar Association~~, in particular.

SECTION 3 — Governing Authority

The governing authority of the ~~Young Lawyers Division~~YLD shall be known as the Young Lawyers Division Council (the “Council”) and shall consist of ~~a chair~~an Immediate Past Chair, a Chair, a chair-elect, a secretary, an immediate past chairChair-Elect, and ~~fourteen~~a Secretary (collectively, the “Officers”), as well as 15 representatives ~~(the “Representatives”)~~ (the Officers and Representatives are collectively the “Council Members”), as follows:

- District 1 ~~(Composed of: Two members representing Orleans Parish)~~ ~~two Members;~~
- District 2 ~~(Composed of: Two members representing the Parishes of Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, Ascension, Assumption, and St. James)~~ ~~two Members;~~
- District 3 ~~(Composed of: One member representing the Parishes of Lafayette, Iberia, Lafourche, Terrebonne, St. Mary, and St. Martin)~~ ~~one Member;~~

¹ Adoption of Bylaw Revisions approved by LSBA House of Delegates on January ~~XX~~, 2026.

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- District 4 ~~(Composed of: One member representing~~ the Parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron, Acadia, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis, St. Landry, and Vermilion) ~~—one Member;~~
- District 5 ~~(Composed of: Two members representing~~ the Parishes of East Baton Rouge, East and West Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington, and St. Tammany) ~~—two Members~~
- District 6 ~~(Composed of: One member representing~~ the Parishes of Allen, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Grant, Iberville, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Sabine, Vernon, Winn, and West Baton Rouge) ~~—one Member;~~
- District 7 ~~(Composed of: One member representing~~ the Parishes of Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East and West Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas, and Union) ~~—one Member;~~
- District 8 ~~(Composed of: One member representing~~ the Parishes of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, DeSoto, Red River, and Webster) ~~—one Member;~~
- At-Large ~~One ethnic minority Member (:~~ Four members (appointed in accordance with Article II(B), Section 1, Subsection E-)) ~~representing the Members at-large.~~

~~ABA/YLD — One Member (in accordance with Article II(B), Section 1, Subsection F).~~

~~ABA/HOD One Member (in accordance with Article II(B) —, Section 1, Subsection G —).~~

SECTION 4 — Place of Meeting

The annual meeting of the ~~Young Lawyers Division~~ YLD shall be held during the ~~Louisiana State Bar Association's~~ Annual Meeting at the time and place designated on the official agenda. The Council shall hold, at least, four ~~(4)~~ other regularly scheduled meetings during each year.

SECTION 5 — Attendance at Meetings

~~Young Lawyers Division~~ Council Members shall attend all meetings of the Council, including the Annual Meeting, ~~the four and any~~ regularly scheduled meetings, and as well as the Council ~~Orientation~~ orientation (if applicable), in person. Any Council Member who ~~shall miss~~ misses two ~~(2)~~ consecutive meetings, without cause deemed adequate by the Council, shall be subject to removal by the Council, pursuant to Article II(C), ~~Section 4)(3)~~ of these Bylaws. However, should exigent circumstances so require, the ~~chair~~ Chair may allow a Council Member to attend by ~~telephone at the Member's own expense~~ alternative means.

SECTION 6 – Eligibility To Vote

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Each Member ~~of the Young Lawyers Division~~ shall be eligible to vote in any ~~Young Lawyers Division~~ YLD election or other balloted matter. For purposes of voting, the preferred mailing address of the Member, as carried in the Association's membership database, shall control.

SECTION 7 — Quorum; Voting

A simple majority of the ~~voting members of the~~ Council Members constitutes a quorum, which is required to conduct Council business.

Each Council Member shall be entitled to one vote. There shall be no vote by proxy allowed at Council meetings.

ARTICLE II
OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

ARTICLE II(A)
—OFFICERS

SECTION 1 —~~Titles~~ Immediate Past Chair

~~—The officers of the Young Lawyers Division shall be a chair, a chair-elect, a secretary, and an immediate past chair.~~

The Immediate Past Chair shall have such powers and shall perform such duties as may be assigned to the Immediate Past Chair by the Chair or by the Council.

SECTION 2 — Chair

The ~~chair~~ Chair shall, when present, preside at all meetings of the ~~Young Lawyers Division and the Young Lawyers Division Council,~~ Council and shall see that all orders, motions, and resolutions of the ~~Young Lawyers Division~~ Council are carried into effect. The ~~chair~~ Chair shall direct the other ~~officers and~~ Council Members in the performance of their duties and shall generally perform all acts incidental to the office of the ~~chair~~ Chair. The ~~chair~~ Chair, after consultation with the Council, shall make annual appointments from ~~the membership of the Young Lawyers Division to the Louisiana Law Institute~~ among the Members, as required.

SECTION 3 — Chair-~~elect~~Elect

The ~~chair-elect~~ Chair-Elect shall have such powers and shall perform such duties as ~~shall~~ may be assigned to the ~~chair-elect~~ Chair-Elect by the ~~chair~~ Chair or by the Council ~~Members.~~ In the absence ~~or,~~ disability, resignation, or removal of the ~~chair~~ Chair, the ~~chair-elect~~ Chair-Elect shall perform the duties and ~~exercises~~ exercise the powers of the ~~chair~~ Chair for the remainder of the bar year. Notwithstanding the Chair-Elect's

assumption of these duties, the Chair-Elect shall remain entitled to serve a full term as Chair in the following bar year.

SECTION 4 — Secretary

The ~~secretary~~Secretary shall give or cause to be given written notice of all meetings of the Council and shall attach an agenda of the meeting with said notice. The ~~secretary~~Secretary shall record all the proceedings of the meetings of the Council, and shall further have such ~~other powers and shall perform such~~ duties as may be ~~delegated~~assigned to the Secretary by the ~~chair, the chair-elect,~~Chair or by the Council ~~Members~~.

In the absence, disability, resignation, or removal of the Chair-Elect, the Secretary shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Chair-Elect for the remainder of the bar year. Notwithstanding the Secretary's assumption of these duties, the Secretary shall remain entitled to serve a full term as Chair-Elect in the following bar year.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of Secretary, such vacancy shall be filled as follows:

- a. If, at the time of the vacancy, a Member has already been duly elected and certified by the Board of Governors of the Association to serve as the Secretary for the following bar year ("Secretary-Elect"), the Secretary-Elect shall immediately assume the office of Secretary. Notwithstanding the Secretary-Elect's assumption of these duties, the Secretary-Elect shall remain entitled to serve a full term as Secretary in the following bar year.
- b. If, at the time of the vacancy, no Member has been duly elected and certified by the Board of Governors of the Association to serve as the Secretary for the following bar year, the Council shall appoint a Member to serve the remainder of the vacating Secretary's term. Such Member must be someone currently serving on the Council or someone who has previously served on the Council and who meets the eligibility requirements outlined in Article II(C)(1)(B). At the end of the bar year, the appointed Secretary shall assume the role of Chair-Elect, in the same manner that the vacating Secretary would have done.

SECTION 5 — Election of Officers

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~~_____A._____~~ No voting shall be required to select the ~~chair~~Immediate Past Chair, as the ~~chair-elect shall automatically succeed to this office after having served as chair-elect for a period of one year.~~

~~A. _____~~ ~~B._____~~ No voting shall be required to select the immediate past chair, as the ~~chair~~Chair shall automatically succeed to this office after having served as ~~chair for a period of one year~~Chair.

~~B. _____~~ ~~C._____~~ No voting shall be required to select the ~~chair-elect~~Chair, as the ~~secretary~~Chair-Elect shall automatically succeed to this office after having served as Chair-Elect.

~~B.C. _____~~ No voting shall be required to select the Chair-Elect, as the Secretary shall automatically succeed to this office after having served as ~~secretary for a period of one year~~Secretary.

~~_____D._____~~ In the event the chair-elect is unable to assume the chair, a chair for the coming year shall be elected by the Council. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of secretary, a secretary shall be elected by the Council.

~~C.D. _____~~ ~~E._____~~ The ~~secretary of the Council~~Secretary shall be elected by a ballot vote of all Members ~~of the Young Lawyers Division~~.

~~D.E. _____~~ ~~F._____~~ The ~~Young Lawyers Division~~ Council shall act as the ~~nominating committee~~Nominating Committee for the ~~Young Lawyers Division~~YLD for the office of Secretary for the ~~office of secretary~~. The Council shall following bar year and submit one and only one name ~~to the secretary of the Louisiana State Bar Association as the~~ as its nominee for Secretary (the ~~position of secretary~~. “Nominee”).

~~_____G._____~~ When the names of the nominees are sent to the secretary of the Louisiana State Bar Association, the ~~secretary of the Council shall~~The current Secretary shall (i) communicate the ~~names~~name and a brief ~~biographical sketch of each nominee to the Members of the Young Lawyers Division~~. At the same time, the secretary of the Council shall biography of the Nominee to all Members and (ii) solicit additional nominations from the ~~membership of the Young Lawyers Division~~. Members. The nominations shall close in conjunction with the dates adopted by the Board of Governors of the ~~Louisiana State Bar Association~~ in connection with ~~the Louisiana State Bar Association~~its general elections.

~~E.F. _____~~ ~~H._____~~ Any ~~person~~Member who timely presents a petition to qualify for ~~office~~Secretary signed by at least ~~fifteen (15)~~ Members ~~of the Young Lawyers Division~~ shall be included on the ballot along with the Nominee.

~~F.G. _____~~ ~~I._____~~ The ~~first~~ If no other Member qualifies for Secretary when nominations close, the Nominee shall be declared elected to the office of Secretary for the following bar year. If more than one Member qualifies for Secretary when nominations close, the election for ~~officers of the Young Lawyers Division~~Secretary will be held in conjunction with the ~~first~~ general election for the Louisiana State Bar Association. ~~The secretary of the Council shall submit to each Member with the ballots a brief biographical sketch of each candidate for the office of chair-elect and secretary.~~ If any candidate receives more than ~~fifty percent~~50% of the votes cast, in the general

election, that candidate will be declared elected. If no candidate receives more than fifty50% percent of the votes cast in the general election, a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the greatest percentage number of the votes in the general election will be held in conjunction with any runoff of the Louisiana State Bar Associationthe runoff election for the Association, and the candidate who receives more than 50% of the votes cast in the runoff election will be declared elected. If the runoff election results in a tie, the candidate receiving the greater number of votes in the general election will be declared elected.

~~J. If the Young Lawyers Division Council submits only one name for any position, and if no other person qualifies for that position by the time the nominations close, the person submitted by the Council shall be declared elected to that position.~~

ARTICLE II(B) **—REPRESENTATIVES**

SECTION 1 — Selection of The Representatives

A. ~~_____ A. The Representatives of for~~ Districts 1 ~~through 8~~ of the Young Lawyers Division Council shall be elected from ~~each of the~~ their respective districts, as delineated in Article I, ~~Section 2(3),~~ by a ballot vote of all Members of ~~the Young Lawyers Division of the~~ their respective districts. Nominations shall be solicited by the ~~secretary of the Council~~ Secretary from the ~~membership of the Young Lawyers Division~~ Members in each ~~representative~~ district in which elections are to be held. ~~Nominations~~ The nominations shall close in conjunction with the dates adopted by the Board of Governors of the ~~Louisiana State Bar Association~~ its general elections. Any qualified ~~person~~ Member requesting to be included on the ballot shall be included on the ballot. The election procedure for the Representatives ~~of Districts 1—8~~ shall be as set forth in this Article II(B).

B. If only one ~~person~~ Member qualifies for any position ~~by the time the~~ when nominations close, that ~~person shall be declared elected to that position~~ Member shall be declared elected. If more than one Member qualifies for any position when nominations close, an election for that position will be held in conjunction with the general election for the Association. If any candidate receives more than 50% of the votes cast in the general election, that candidate will be declared elected. If no candidate receives more than 50% percent of the votes cast in the general election, a runoff election between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of the votes in the general election will be held in conjunction with the runoff election for the Association, and the candidate who receives more than 50% of the votes cast in the runoff election will be declared elected. If the runoff election results in a tie, the candidate receiving the greater number of votes in the general election will be declared elected.

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~~C. _____ B. _____~~ Each If no Member qualifies for a position as Representative of Districts 1–8 shall maintain his or her preferred mailing address in a parish ~~with~~when nominations close, the Representative's ~~incoming~~ Chair will appoint a Member from the respective district to serve as the Representative, subject to approval by a majority vote of the Council.

~~_____ C. _____~~ Elections for the Representatives from the odd numbered districts, with the exceptions of Districts 1, 2, and 5 shall be held on even years, and elections for the Representatives from even numbered districts shall be held on odd numbered years. ~~One each~~ elect one Representative ~~from~~ with a term beginning each bar year. Districts ~~1, 2, 3~~ and ~~5~~7 shall ~~be elected~~ each year.

~~D. _____ D. _____~~ If no person qualifies ~~for~~elect one of the Representative positions, then the chair assuming office in the year in which the term begins will ~~appoint a~~ with a term beginning in even numbered bar years. Districts 4, 6, and 8 shall each elect one Representative ~~from the district's membership~~with a term beginning in odd numbered bar years.

~~E. _____ E. _____~~ After consultation with the Council, the ~~Each~~ year, the incoming Chair shall also appoint two At-Large Representatives, subject to approval by a majority vote of the Council. Each At-Large Representative shall ~~be appointed from among~~serve a two-year term, and shall have the same rights and responsibilities as all other Representatives.

~~E.F. _____~~ In making any appointment to the Council, the Chair and the Council shall endeavor to ensure that the overall composition of the Council reflects ~~the ethnic minority Members~~breadth of the Young Lawyers Division ~~by Members~~. In evaluating potential appointees, ~~the chair assuming office in~~Chair and the year in which a vacancy in Council may consider factors such as differences in geographic location, areas of practice, professional background, and other perspectives that contribute to a Council that is balanced and representative of ~~the office occurs~~.Members.

~~_____ F. _____~~ After consultation with the Council, the ABA/YLD Representative shall be appointed ~~from American Bar Association Members of the Young Lawyers Division by the chair assuming office in the year in which a vacancy in the office occurs, unless the ABA/YLD mandates another method of selection for the ABA/YLD Representative, in which event the ABA/YLD Representative shall be selected according to the method prescribed by the ABA/YLD.~~

~~_____ G. _____~~ One Member of the Young Lawyers Division shall be included in the Louisiana delegation to the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association. That member, the ABA/HOD Representative, shall be selected according to the rules promulgated by the Louisiana State Bar Association and shall be a *de facto* Member of the Council.

ARTICLE II(C)
—QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE,
TERMS OF OFFICE, VACANCIES, AND REMOVAL

SECTION 1 – Qualifications for Office

A. Subject to the other requirements contained in these Bylaws, any individual who ~~is~~will be a Member of the Young Lawyers Division, as defined in Article I(1), when ~~the such individual's~~ term of office ~~begins~~would begin is eligible to be elected or appointed as a Representative.

B. To be eligible for election ~~to the Council~~ or appointment as an Officer, an individual must be a Member, as defined in Article I(1), for the full duration of such individual's term as Secretary, Chair-Elect, and Chair. For removal of doubt, an individual need not be a Member for the duration of such individual's term as Immediate Past Chair.

A.C. For purposes of qualifying for office under Article II(A) and Article II(B), the preferred mailing address of the Member, as carried in the Association's membership database, shall control.

D. Beginning with the nomination for Secretary for the 2026–27 bar year, the Secretary nominee may maintain a preferred mailing address in any parish within the State. For the 2027–28 bar year, the Secretary nominee may not maintain a preferred mailing address in the Parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, or Plaquemines. For the 2028–29 bar year, the Secretary nominee must maintain a preferred mailing address in the Parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, or Plaquemines. This three-year rotation shall continue, unless and until amended. If in any year there is no qualified nominee for Secretary from the prescribed districts, the Nominating Committee may nominate a Member from anywhere in the State.

SECTION 2 – Terms of Office

A. ~~_____~~ A. The term of office for ~~the chair, chair-elect, secretary~~Immediate Past Chair, Chair, Chair-Elect, and ~~immediate past chair~~Secretary shall be for a period of one year running from Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting of the Association.

~~_____ B. Beginning with the nomination for secretary in 2016–17, the nominee shall maintain his or her preferred mailing address in the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, or Plaquemines. The following year, 2017–18, the secretary may maintain his or her preferred mailing address anywhere in the state, and in 2018–19, the secretary shall not maintain his or her preferred mailing address in the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines. This three—year rotation shall continue until amended. As set forth in the rotation, if in any year—the area from~~

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~~which a nominee is specified has — no nominee qualified or willing, then the nominee may come from anywhere in the state.~~

~~_____ C. With the exception of the ABA/YLD and ABA/HOD Representatives, the term of office for the~~

~~B. The term of office for the Representatives shall be for a period of two years running from one Annual Meeting to and expiring at the Annual Meeting of the Association. No held two years thereafter.~~

~~B.C. No Member shall be eligible to be elected or appointed as a Representative shall be if such Member has previously been elected or appointed to any specific Representative position on the Council to serve in excess of two two, complete, consecutive terms. Notwithstanding the foregoing for the same position as a Representative. For removal of doubt, an appointment made to fill a vacancy in a position on the Council for a period less than a complete term shall not be considered a complete term.~~

~~_____ D. The term of office and term limit of the ABA/YLD Representative and the ABA/HOD Representative are governed by the Bylaws of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and the Bylaws of the American Bar Association respectively.~~

SECTION 3 — Vacancies in Office

~~_____ Whenever, for any reason, a Council Member's seat is vacated, except as provided in Article II(A), Section 5(C), the chair shall appoint a replacement from the Section's membership for that District.~~

SECTION 4 — Removal for Cause

Any Council Member may be removed from office for cause, ~~as hereinafter defined,~~ on the two-thirds affirmative vote of the Council—. For the purposes of this Section, the term "cause" shall mean any of the following: (i) the Council Member's physical or mental illness rendering him/her the Council Member incapable of performing duties ~~to the Young Lawyers Division of office~~ for a period of more than three consecutive months; (ii) the Council Member's absence at two ~~(2)~~ consecutive meetings, without cause deemed adequate by the Council; (iii) the Council Member's continued neglect or failure, after written demand, to discharge his/her the Council Member's duties or to obey a specific written direction from the Council; (iv) conflicts that render the Council Member incapable of fulfilling his/— her the Council Member's duties ~~to the Young Lawyers Division of office~~; (v) the Council Member's engaging in misconduct that is injurious to the YLD or the Association; (vi) the Council Member's conviction of any felony or any crime involving moral turpitude; or (vii) conduct that would seriously impair the Council Member's ability to perform his/her the Council Member's duties to the ~~Young Lawyers Division or would impair the reputation of the Young Lawyers Division~~ YLD.

~~_____ In the event of removal, such position shall be filled pursuant to Article II(C), Section 3 of these Bylaws.~~

SECTION 4 – Vacancies in Office

In the absence, disability, resignation, or removal of any Representative, the Chair will appoint a Member from the respective district, if applicable, to serve as the Representative for the unexpired portion of such Representative's term, subject to approval by a majority vote of the Council.

ARTICLE III
MODIFICATION OF BYLAWS

SECTION 1

The Bylaws of the ~~Young Lawyers Division~~YLD may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Council at any regular or specially called meeting ~~held by~~of the Council.

SECTION 2

The Bylaws of the ~~Young Lawyers Division~~YLD may also be amended during ~~the~~ annual ~~business~~-meeting of the YLD by a three-fourths vote of the membership of the ~~Young Lawyers Division~~YLD attending such meeting.