

By-Laws of the  
**SECTION OF ANIMAL LAW**  
of the Maryland State Bar Association, Inc.

*As of July 2006*

**ARTICLE I**  
*Name & Purpose*

SECTION 1. This Section shall be known as the Maryland State Bar Association's Section of Animal Law.

SECTION 2. The purpose of this Section is to:

- a. Bring together members of the Maryland State Bar Association who have an interest in the legal issues relating to animals;
- b. Provide a forum for the open exchange of ideas about legal issues that concern the treatment of all animals, the protections afforded to animals, and the rights and responsibilities of persons who have an interest in animals;
- c. Facilitate the development of good legal practice in animal-related issues by providing educational programs and resources;
- d. Participate in the legislative process, pursuant to applicable MSBA rules, on animal-related legislation and regulations;
- e. Educate and inform the public concerning the legal issues relating to animals;

**ARTICLE II**  
*Membership and Dues*

SECTION 1. All members of the Section of Animal Law shall be:

- a. Members of the Maryland State Bar Association;
- b. Pay annual dues for membership in the Association; and
- c. Pay additional Section fees as determined by the Section Council and approved by the MSBA Board of Governors.
- d. Associate membership for law students, paralegals, and other interested members of the legal profession or animal professions may be considered with the approval of the MSBA Board of Governors.

SECTION 2. Policies and Procedures governing the collection, deposit, and expenditure of Section dues, including termination of Section membership for non-payment, shall be as prescribed by the Board of Governors.

**ARTICLE III**  
*Officers and Council*

SECTION 1. The Section Officer(s) in office as of the date of approval of these By-Laws shall remain in office until the successor(s) take office as provided for in these By-Laws.

SECTION 2. The officers of this Section shall consist of a Chair, Chair-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officer positions may be combined, except that the Chair, or Chair-elect if acting as the Chair, may not be the Treasurer.

SECTION 3. There shall be a Section Council that consists of the Officers, the past Chair, and six other members, or such other number that the Section Council may determine from time to time.

SECTION 4. The members of the initial Section Council shall have terms as follows: five Section members shall have terms of one year, and five shall have terms of two years. After the expiration of these initial terms, all future Section Council members shall be elected for terms of two years.

SECTION 5. The officers are appointed by the elected Section Council.

#### **ARTICLE IV** *Officers and Council Duties*

SECTION 1. The duties of the Officers and Council are as follows:

a. The Chair shall:

- (i) Preside at all general or Council meetings;
- (ii) Appoint all committees of the Section;
- (iii) Supervise and keep the Council and general members informed of all activities of the Section committees;
- (iv) Attend the Annual Meeting of the Maryland State Bar Association to report the work of the Section for the then closing year; and
- (v) Perform other such duties that normally pertain to the Chair of a Section or as designated by the Council.

b. The Chair-elect shall:

- (i) Assist the Chair with the Chair's duties;
- (ii) Perform other duties as appropriate or as designated by the Council; and
- (iii) If the Chair is unable to conduct a meeting or to perform appropriate duties, the Chair-elect shall be responsible for the Chair's duties, including to the end of the current term if necessary.
- (iv) The Chair-elect shall automatically assume the office of Chair upon the termination of the then current Chair's term.

c. The Secretary shall:

- (i) Keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Council and the Section;
- (ii) Draft an appropriate report of Section activities for publication in the Annual Report of the Maryland State Bar Association; and
- (iii) Perform other such reasonable duties as requested by the Chair or the Council.

d. The Treasurer shall:

- (i) Keep appropriate record of the expenditures of the Section; and
- (ii) Perform other reasonable duties as requested by the Chair and the Council.

e. The Council shall:

- (i) Have general supervision and control of the affairs of the Section subject to applicable Maryland State Bar Association and Section policies and procedures;
- (ii) Act with full authority of the Section members during the intervals between meetings, reporting any activity to members by e-mail and at the general meetings;
- (iii) Appoint the officers of the Section;
- (iv) Meet at regular and special sessions at any time or place as scheduled by a majority of the Council or by the Chair;
- (v) Meet prior to or at the Annual Meeting of the Maryland State Bar Association;
- (vi) Authorize the Chair to appoint committees of Section members to perform duties authorized by applicable Maryland State Bar Association and Section policies and procedures;
- (vii) Fill vacancies of the Section officers and Council between elections to serve until successors have been elected; and
- (viii) All actions by the Council shall be by a vote of a majority of the Council members present at any meeting with no proxy voting allowed.

## **ARTICLE V**

### *Nominations and Elections of Officers and Council Members*

SECTION 1. A Nominating Committee of three (3) people shall be appointed by the Chair with approval by the Council at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Maryland State Bar Association. If there is an insufficient interest amongst the members to form a nominating committee, the Chair shall assume the role of the nominating committee.

SECTION 2. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to receive and consider the qualifications of each person nominated for the council. The nominees shall be persons who are familiar with the affairs of the Section, and with the capability and availability to serve. Nominees shall be selected from varying geographic localities to the extent feasible.

SECTION 3. The names of all nominees shall be e-mailed to the Section membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Section. By petition of ten (10) or more members of the Section, additional nominations may be added prior to or at the Annual Meeting. If no additional nominations are made, the slate of the Nominating Committee, or any nomination that is unopposed, shall stand elected.

SECTION 4. If additional nominations are made, voting shall be held:

- a. At the Annual Meeting if a majority of the membership is present; or
- b. By ballot mailed to all Section members and returned within thirty (30) days of the Annual Meeting.

SECTION 5. For the initial Council following the approval of these By-Laws only, the Chair shall accept nominations for Council membership for a period of twenty-one (21) days, pursuant to Section 2 of this Article. Members seeking nomination shall email the Chair and should select their preference to fill the one- or two-year term. The one-year term shall run to the MSBA's annual meeting in June 2007. The names of all final nominees shall then be emailed via listserv to all members of the Section. By petition of ten or more members, additional nominations may be added. If there are no additional nominations, the slate shall stand elected. The new Section Council shall then meet to fill the offices of Chair-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer.

SECTION 6. The Council shall fill any vacancy occurring in any Section office or among the Council members. A person so selected as an officer shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term of the officer whom s/he succeeds. A person so selected as a Council member shall also serve for the unexpired portion of the term of the Council member whom s/he succeeds.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### *Meeting of the Section*

SECTION 1. The Section shall meet in an Annual Meeting at the time and place of the Annual Meeting of the Maryland State Bar Association.

SECTION 2. Regular meetings with the general membership may be held as called by the Council, the Chair or by ten (10) or more general members.

SECTION 3. Committees of the Section may meet as agreed to by the Leader of the Committee, who shall report Committee activities to the Council or the Chair, as appropriate.

SECTION 4. Except as otherwise provided, all binding action of the Section shall be by majority vote of the members present at a meeting. In the absence of a meeting, the Chair may consider e-mail opinions regarding an issue.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### *Miscellaneous Provisions*

SECTION 1. The fiscal year shall be the same as the Maryland State Bar Association.

SECTION 2. All expenditures by Section members, or by the Council, shall be cleared by the Chair prior to being paid.

SECTION 3. No salary or compensation may be paid to any member of this Section by the Maryland State Bar Association. Members may receive reimbursement for certain items if prior approval is obtained before spending the funds.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### *Amendments*

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Council by a vote of at least seven (7) members thereof or at any Annual Meeting of the Section by two-thirds of the general members present and voting.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### *Effective Date*

These By-Laws shall be circulated to the Section membership for a one-week comment period. Any comments will be taken under consideration by the Animal Law Section's By-Law subcommittee. The By-laws shall become effective upon the acceptance of the Board of Governors.