

RULES OF THE STATE BAR

**Title 3. Programs and Services**

**Division 1. Attorney members**

Chapter 2. Sections of the State Bar

(Adopted by the Board of Governors May 16, 2008.)

Rule 3.120 Definition

“Sections” are voluntary organizations of State Bar members and associates that share an area of interest.

Rule 3.121 Scope of Sections

Sections serve the profession, the public, and the legal system by helping their members maintain expertise in various fields of law and expanding their professional contacts. Specific purposes and duties of sections are described in their bylaws.

Rule 3.122 Section membership

- (A) Section membership is open to members of the State Bar or judges of courts of record.
- (B) A section’s bylaws may authorize enrollment as associate members. No more than one-fourth of all section members may be associates. An associate member has all the privileges of section membership but may not
  - (1) serve as an officer;
  - (2) serve as a member of a committee; or
  - (3) nominate, select, or serve as a member of its executive committee.

Rule 3.123 Section membership fees

Section membership requires payment to the State Bar of an annual fee. The fees are set by the Sections Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Governors to defray the cost of administering the sections.

Rule 3.124 Executive Committee

- (A) A section must have an executive committee of at least fifteen members appointed by the Board of Governors to govern the section and to assist the board as it directs. A seventeen member Executive Committee is permitted for the purpose of permitting service as an officer, in a fourth year, or as

Chair, Vice Chair or Chair-elect in a fifth year, or as Chair, in a sixth year. Executive committee members must take an oath of office and are not entitled to compensation for their services.

- (B) Each year the board appoints five members of the executive committee for a three-year term. If the section is new, the board appoints five members for three years; five for two years; and five for one year. Executive committee members assume office on the last day of the State Bar's annual meeting and serve until their successors assume office. A vacant position is filled by the board for the unexpired term.
- (C) Nominations for the executive committee may be made by the executive committee or by at least fifteen members of the section upon petition.
- (D) A majority of the section executive committee constitutes a quorum for transacting business at a committee meeting or by poll.
- (E) The executive committee may appoint non-voting advisors who serve at the pleasure of the committee.

Rule 3.125 Officers of the section executive committee

- (A) The Board of Governors must appoint as chair and vice-chair of the executive committee members who have served on the committee at least a year at the time of assuming office. The committee must recommend candidates for these offices to the board.
- (B) The chair and vice-chair assume office on the last day of the State Bar's annual meeting and serve until their successors assume office. A vacant position is filled by the board for the unexpired term.

Rule 3.126 Section committees

One or more standing or ad hoc committees composed of section members may be established as provided by the bylaws of the section.

Rule 3.127 Bylaws

- (A) Each Section's bylaws must be approved by the Board of Governors. After the Board of Governors has approved the bylaws of a new section, the bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the executive committee.
- (B) An amendment must be filed with the Secretary at the San Francisco office of the State Bar and will not take effect until approved by the Board of Governors.