



## **BYLAWS OF THE**

# **COASTAL BEND CRIMINAL DEFENSE LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**

### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Coastal Bend Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSES**

The purposes of the Association shall be to: encourage cooperation among lawyers on a local basis to achieve the purpose of the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association; sponsor educational programs and seminars on a local basis that do not conflict with the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association; receive reports on legislation on the State level involving criminal law and promote legislation in furtherance of justice and the common good in criminal law; promote local court rules and procedures in furtherance of the common good; promote relations with local judicial and law enforcement officers; maintain a local appellate brief “bank”; and other wise further the common goals, interest and education of the criminal defense bar of Coastal Bend Counties

### **ARTICLE III – MEMERSHIP**

Section 1 Qualifications for membership shall be:

- (1) Licensed in good standing in the Supreme Court of the State of Texas; and
- (2) Not employed by any city, county, state, or federal governmental body that prosecutes criminal

cases.

Section 2. Any member meeting the above qualifications and current on payment or dues shall be entitled to vote in the Association.

Section 3. Student membership may be extended to students in good standing of an accredited law school.

### **ARTICLE IV - MONEY**

Section 1. Dues shall be \$25.00 per year. (Student dues shall be \$10.00 per year)

Section 2. Annual dues shall be paid on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of March each year. The calendar year shall be March 1<sup>st</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup> (or 29<sup>th</sup>) of each year.

Section 3.

(a) Administrative cost shall be paid by the Treasurer upon submission to and approval of the Board of Directors.

(b) Any funds collected over and above regular dues shall be expended only for the purposes for which they were collected, pursuant to the same procedure in Section 3 (a).

#### **ARTICLE V - MEETINGS**

Section 1. Monthly meetings shall be held on the second Thursday of each month at a time and place to be designated by the President.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Notice of meetings shall be given in writing one week in advance by the Secretary. This notice will be through email.

Section 4. Quorum– Those members present at any monthly meeting or special meeting shall constitute a quorum of the Association for the purposes of the transaction of business except that a quorum for a vote regarding local court rules and procedures or any vote to change these bylaws shall consist of one-half of the members in good standing of the Association.

#### **ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Officers: The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, and Director of Technology and Education.

Section 2. The President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-President, and Director of Technology and Education, shall form the Board of Directors, which shall manage the day-to-day affairs of the Association and shall be authorized to act in emergencies by a majority vote of the Board of Directors on matters in furtherance of the Association, except that no pronouncement or action shall be taken by the Board of Directors regarding local rules and procedures until voted by the Association at a monthly or special meeting.

Section 3. Duties:

(1) **The President** shall be the chief executive officer of the Association, and it shall be his/her responsibility to supervise and coordinate the activities of the Association, preside at its meetings, call special meetings, coordinate the Board of Directors, appoint members to committees and act as a spokesman for the Association. The President shall be responsible for the coordination of relations with all judicial and law enforcement agencies, including but not limited to working with the judges on local court rules and procedures. He/she shall act as spokesman for the organization with judges, law enforcement agencies and the District Attorney.

(2) **The Secretary** shall keep the minutes, track the agenda of month meetings, and send notice of monthly or special meetings.

(3) **The Treasurer** shall keep books of the organization, collect dues, and make disbursements as directed by the Board of Directors pursuant to these bylaws. He/she shall also maintain a bank account under the name of the organization and make records regarding accounting available to any member.

(3) **The Vice-President** is in charge of membership. He/she shall preside at meetings in the absence of the President and shall succeed to the position of President in case of the vacancy of said office during the regular term of said office. He/she shall promote enrollment in the Association of qualified prospects. He/she shall also be responsible for obtaining speakers for the meetings of the Association.

(4) **The Director of Technology and Education** shall arrange and supervise educational seminars and programs for continuing legal education of the local members in the area of criminal law and shall open discussion at each meeting on reports of legislation, significant developments or problems in the law. He/she shall also operate and maintain the listserv, and any other data repository of the Association.

#### **ARTICLE VII - ELECTIONS**

Elections of officers shall be held at the February meeting of each year. Officers and Directors shall hold office for one year. Election shall be by a majority vote of those members present and voting.

#### **ARTICLE VIII - ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER**

The meetings of the organization shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised Edition, unless otherwise governed by these bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of a quorum of members present at a meeting of the organization after submission of the proposed change by the Secretary in writing at least two weeks prior to any

meeting. These proposed changes must also be distributed to all members at least two weeks before any meeting. The Secretary must submit to the membership any proposed changes timely made in writing by a member of the association. The proposed changes will be sent by email.

## **ARTICLE X - AFFILIATE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

**Sec. 1. Other Associations.** The Board of Directors may establish procedures and requirements by which other voluntary bar associations may affiliate with this the Association.

**Sec. 2. Qualifications of Affiliate Associations.** To be eligible to become an affiliate association, a voluntary bar association must:

(a) Be composed of persons of professional competence, integrity, and good moral character, who are actively engaged in the defense of criminal cases, and who would otherwise qualify for membership in this association.

(b) Have objectives and purposes, as part of its own bylaws or operating rules, which are consistent with the bylaws, objectives, and purposes of the Association, as determined by the Board of Directors.

(c) Not accept or allow members who are employed by any city, state or federal government or other entity as a prosecutor of the criminal law, or who work in any other capacity which is in conflict with the objectives and purposes of the Association. Notwithstanding this provision, affiliate associations may accept or allow members who accept an appointment as a temporary prosecutor or as a temporary police legal advisor, so long as their acceptance of that position is not inconsistent with the objectives and purposes of this association as set forth in Article II of these bylaws. This provision shall not place a more restrictive membership requirement on an affiliate association than the association places on itself under Article III, Sections 1-7 of these bylaws.

**Sec. 3. Application for Affiliation.**

(a) Voluntary bar associations may request affiliation with this association by submitting an application, on a form available from the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association Executive Director.

(b) An application for affiliation shall be referred by the Executive Director to the executive committee, which shall review it and make a recommendation for approval or denial to the Board of Directors.

(c) Approval or denial of an application for affiliation shall be by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**Sec. 4. Rights and Privileges of Affiliate Associations.**

(a) The Board of Directors of this association may, by a majority vote, grant such rights and privileges to affiliate associations as it deems necessary and proper, but said rights and privileges shall be no greater than that combined within the bylaws of the Association.

(b) Any rights and privileges granted to an affiliate association shall be reduced to writing as a standing board policy, and shall be made available to any member of affiliate association upon request.

**Sec. 5. Revocation of Affiliation.** Affiliate association status may be revoked after due notice and opportunity to be heard, for good cause, by three-quarters majority vote of the Board of Directors in any lawfully called meeting.