

1 **ARTICLE IX**

2 **SECTIONS, COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS**

3 **Section 9.1 Sections.**

4 The BBC shall create such sections within the State Bar as it shall deem advisable, or at the
5 recommendation of the membership. A member of the State Bar who recognizes such a need shall submit
6 to the BBC the following for approval: 1) a petition signed by a minimum of 50 members; 2) proposed dues
7 amount - charter members (petitioners) will automatically be assessed initial dues; 3) draft bylaws; and 4) the
8 names of nine persons to serve as an initial board of directors from whom two shall be designated a chair
9 and budget officer. Such sections shall be open to all members of the State Bar and non-voting associate
10 members as specified in relevant section bylaws and shall be governed by policies established by the BBC.
11 Paralegals and law student members of the State Bar may have voting rights in a section in accordance with
12 Section 2.6 or 2.8. No report or recommendation or any action of any section shall be considered as the
13 action of the State Bar unless and until it has been approved by the BBC.

14 All funds generated by the section dues and activities are and shall be funds of the State Bar of New Mexico.
15 Funds shall be expended by the section only pursuant to a budget approved by the Executive Director of the
16 State Bar. The section's fund balance on December 31st of each year shall be considered carryover funds
17 and shall be included in the section's budget for the coming fiscal year. Effective December 31, 2009, all
18 funds in excess of one year's worth of dues will be forfeited and transferred to the State Bar General
19 Account. Should the section be saving funds for a future activity, the section may request of the Finance
20 Committee additional funds. The request should include a plan detailing the ways in which the excess funds
21 would be spent in the following year and a budget.

22 **Section 9.2 Committees.**

23 The President of the State Bar shall, with the approval of the BBC, as soon as practical after January 1st,
24 determine which committees he or she deems advisable and appoint and announce the membership of all
25 such committees. Paralegals and student members of the State Bar may have voting rights in a committee
26 in accordance with Section 2.6 or 2.8. The committees shall be governed by policies established by the
27 BBC. Such committees, as determined by the President with the approval of the BBC, may be either
28 standing, internal or special, as defined herein. Except as set forth in Article XI, no report or

29 recommendation or any action of any committee shall be considered as the action of the State Bar unless
30 and until it has been approved by the BBC.

31 *Subsection 9.2 a Standing Committee.*

32 Standing Committees serve to strengthen the profession, provide resources to members, improve public
33 understanding of legal issues and process, or increase access to the legal system and may be funded by the
34 committee budget pool. Membership is open to all members of the State Bar, but some committees are
35 limited in size or require particular qualifications.

36 *Subsection 9.2 b Internal Committee.*

37 Internal Committees are created to assist in the governance of the State Bar, consist only of BBC members
38 and may be funded by the BBC budget.

39 *Subsection 9.2 c Special Committee*

40 Special Committees are committees that are delegated a specific charge by the BBC or the President and
41 can be either ongoing or temporary. Special committees can consist of BBC and non-BBC members, may
42 be funded through the BBC budget and shall report back to the BBC periodically, including a final report.

43 **Section 9.3 Reports of Sections and Committees.**

44 All standing committees and sections shall present to the BBC an annual report for the previous 12 months
45 and such other reports as may be requested by the President of the BBC. Annual written reports of all
46 sections and standing committees, with their recommendations, shall be presented to the Executive Director
47 of the State Bar by December 31. If a section or standing committee does not submit an annual report by
48 December 31, it will be placed on the sunset list for the following year pursuant to Section 9.4 below.
49 Proposed budgets for the next year will be submitted at the request of the Executive Director.

50 **Section 9.4 Annual Review of Sections and Committees.**

51 The BBC or its designee shall establish a sunset date for each section and standing or special committee
52 that shall be on December 31 of a selected year. On or before September 1 of the sunset year, a member or
53 members of the Bar may petition the BBC to continue the section or standing or special committee. If no
54 member of the Bar petitions the BBC to continue the section/standing or special committee, it will
55 automatically cease to exist on its sunset date unless the BBC on its own motion votes to continue the
56 section/standing or special committee. The petition must contain reasons why the section/standing or
57 special committee should be continued. If the BBC determines that the petition contains sufficient reason to

58 continue the section/standing or special committee, it will be continued. Otherwise, the section/standing or
59 special committee will be abolished. If a section/standing or special committee is continued beyond its
60 sunset date, it will be subject to sunset again in five years, at which time the petition process set forth in this
61 section will be required to continue the section/standing or special committee.

62 **Section 9.5 Bylaw and Policy Compliance by Sections and Committees.**

63 Sections are required to follow their Bylaws, and sections and committees must comply with the Bylaws and
64 Policies of the State Bar of New Mexico. Failure to do so may result in being placed on the sunset list to be
65 heard at the next meeting of the BBC.

66 **Section 9.6 Commissions.**

67 The President, with BBC approval, shall establish Commissions as deemed advisable. The President shall, no
68 less than 30 days before the creation of the Commission is to be voted upon, set forth in writing, and distribute
69 it to the members of the BBC, the charge or purpose of the commission, its proposed makeup, specifying the
70 criteria for the members, not the individuals, themselves, the chair and the intended life span of the
71 commission. No Commission shall be created unless a motion to do so receives a 2/3 vote of a quorum
72 present. The President must set forth his proposed make up of the Commission prior to the vote for its
73 approval by the BBC. A Commission may consist of individuals who are not members of the State Bar of New
74 Mexico. Commissions are subject to the same sunset procedures as sections and committees.