THE REGIONAL BYLAWS
OF THE
NBLSA MID-ATLANTIC REGION

ARTICLE I. ELECTED AND APPOINTED REGIONAL OFFICER DUTIES, POWERS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section A. *The Regional Chair*

1. The general executive power of the Region shall be vested in its Regional Chair, who shall be elected by the Regional Assembly in a manner consistent with the Regional Governing Articles and Bylaws.

2. The Regional Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Region, charged with the overall execution and enforcement of the policies, principles, programs, initiatives, and strategic direction of the Region. The Chair shall exercise general executive authority over the business of the Region, pursuant to Article I, Section 2, Subsection J of the NBLSA Bylaws.

3. The Regional Chair shall serve as the official representative and spokesperson of the Region, promoting and addressing advocacy efforts on any relevant academic, systemic, and community issues to that end.

4. The Regional Chair shall have power to propose administrative policies for the proper operation of the functions and affairs of the Regional Board and the Region, generally. These policies shall be made public and may be reviewed by the Regional Assembly, at its discretion.

5. The Regional Chair shall be empowered to nominate eligible students, except for first-semester, first-year law students, for all vacancies on the Regional Board, with the advice and consent of the Regional Board. The Chair may directly appoint the members of any regional committee, except where otherwise stated in the Bylaws.

6. The Regional Chair shall be the presiding officer of the Regional Assembly and the Regional Board, as well as an *ex-officio* member of all Regional Committees. The Regional Chair shall be empowered to create ad-hoc committees with the concurrence of the Regional Board.

7. The Regional Chair shall have power to authorize and sign for the expenses and expenditures of the Region, in accordance with NBLSA's financial policies, and may review financial transactions in addition to the Regional Treasurer. The National Treasurer shall be informed, as applicable and prescribed by NBLSA policies.

8. The Regional Chair may delegate any express or implied authority to other Regional officers, committees, or groups. Such delegation does not absolve the Regional Chair of ultimate responsibility for the tasks, duties, and assignment given to their charge.

9. The Regional Chair may exercise any and all authority, responsibilities and privileges inherent or delegated to the office by the policies of NBLSA.

10. The Regional Chair shall exercise any duties, obligations, or missions that NBLSA, the Regional Assembly, or the Regional Board may assign.

Section B. *The Regional Vice-Chair*

1. There shall be a Regional Vice-Chair, who shall be elected by the Regional Assembly in a manner consistent with the Regional Governing Articles and Bylaws.

2. The Regional Vice-Chair shall be a senior executive officer of the organization, charged with assisting the Regional Chair with the overall operational management, direction, and advocacy efforts of the Region, as directed by the Regional Chair.

3. The Regional Vice-Chair shall serve as the chairperson of the Regional Grievance Committee, as well as manage the internal operations of the Regional Board, including coordinating internal deadlines, tracking progress on regional initiatives, and ensuring follow-through on officer deliverables, subject to the direction of the Regional Chair.

4. In the temporary absence or incapacitation of the Regional Chair, either realized or directly communicated, at least 48 hours in advance, the Regional Vice-Chair shall be empowered to carry out the duties and powers of the Regional Chair until the absence or incapacitation is resolved.

5. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Regional Vice-Chair, the Regional Chair shall nominate a replacement, who shall require confirmation by the Regional Board.

6. The Regional Vice-Chair may exercise any authority, responsibilities and privileges inherent or delegated to the office by the policies of NBLSA or the Region.

7. The powers, authority, and responsibilities of the Regional Vice-Chair shall be those expressly stated in these Bylaws. The Regional Assembly may, through duly passed legislation, assign additional duties that are consistent with the Vice-Chair's core functions of internal operations management, grievance oversight, and executive support.

8. The Regional Vice-Chair shall exercise any duties, obligations, or missions that NBLSA, the Region, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board may assign.

Section C. *The Regional Treasurer*

1. The Regional Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer, empowered to manage the expenditures and monitor the financial health of the Region. They shall be elected by the Regional Assembly in a manner consistent with the Regional Governing Articles and Bylaws.

2. The Regional Treasurer, along with the Regional Chair, shall be the primary officer in control of Regional assets and materials, and shall appropriately enforce Regional policies on their use.

3. They shall, in coordination with the Regional Chair, administer NBLSA financial policies, procedures, and controls pertaining to regional funds.

4. The Regional Treasurer shall be a signatory to all expenditures, along with the Regional Chair, in accordance with NBLSA financial policies and procedures.

5. The Regional Treasurer shall prepare such financial reports, layouts, and projections as may be required by NBLSA, the National Treasurer, the Regional Chair, and the Regional Board.

6. The Regional Treasurer shall, with the Regional Board, determine and allocate budgeted Regional funds for the purposes of executing the duties and responsibilities of the Region.

7. The Regional Treasurer shall be responsible for the creation of the Regional Budget, and shall submit it to the Regional Chair for review and approval two weeks prior to the National Board's deadline.

8. The Regional Treasurer shall report on the organization's financial status to the Regional Board at each of its meetings, and shall present a final financial report to the Regional Assembly at its annual meeting.

9. The Regional Treasurer shall be the *ex-officio* chair of the Regional Finance Committee, and shall serve on the NBLSA Finance Committee.

10. The Regional Treasurer shall ensure our region receives the annual default revenue disbursement rates pursuant to Section F. Revenue Regulations, Subsection 2 of the NBLSA Bylaws consisting of the regional allocated fifty (50) percent from NBLSA dues and forty five (45) percent for Moot Court and Mock Trial Competitions.

11. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Board, or the Regional Chair.

Section D. *The Regional Secretary*

1. The Regional Secretary shall be the chief correspondence and records officer of the Region, and shall be elected by the Regional Assembly in a manner consistent with the Regional Governing Articles and Bylaws.

2. The Regional Secretary, or their designee, shall be responsible for taking minutes of the meetings of the Regional Board and recording the plenary sessions of the Regional Assembly.

3. The Regional Secretary shall maintain and administer the communications tools of the Region, including the email system, mass distribution lists, stationary, and other items.

4. They shall sign necessary documentation, in consultation with the Regional Chair.

5. The Regional Secretary shall, in coordination with the Regional Vice- Chair and Director of Programming, maintain the Regional Programming Calendar and make it publicly available to the Regional Board and chapters of the Region at the first month of classes per semester.

6. The Regional Secretary shall compile, format, and maintain the reports of the Regional Board, and shall maintain a central repository of current and past reports.

7. The Regional Secretary shall, in consultation with the Regional Chair and Regional Vice-Chair, format and construct the agenda for the meetings of the Regional Board, as well as take part in the logistical planning of said meetings.

8. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Board, or the Regional Chair.

Section E. *The Regional Attorney General*

1. The Regional Attorney General shall be the chief external affairs officer of the organization, having purview over the social, political, and civic engagement agenda of the Region. They shall be elected by the membership in a manner consistent with the Regional Governing Articles and Bylaws.

2. The Regional Attorney General should work with the NBLSA Attorney General in executing NBLSA programming, initiatives, and objectives taking place in the Region and elsewhere. The Regional Attorney General, or their designee, shall take part in any NBLSA committees or working groups within the purview of their responsibilities.

3. The Regional Attorney General shall coordinate with local, state, and national political and civic leaders on addressing issues of concern within the Region. The Region's activities in this regard shall adhere to Regional and National policies on appropriate engagement with political, civic, and legal entities, and shall not lobby for or against any particular policy, legislative act, or item of business before a political body.

4. The Regional Attorney General shall, in consultation with the Regional Chair, Regional Vice-Chair, and Regional Secretary, be empowered to prepare statements, memoranda, press releases, and "calls to action" on issues of concern.

5. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Board, or the Regional Chair.

Section F. *Regional Chief of Staff*

1. The Chief of Staff will work with the Regional Board on various strategic initiatives and special projects for the Region.

2. The Regional Chief of Staff shall work with the Regional Chair, Regional Vice-Chair, and Regional Secretary on the logistics and planning of Regional Board meetings.

3. They shall support the Regional Director of Programming on planning and executing major Regional events, banquets, and meetings.

4. They shall work with the Regional Chair on organizational strategy formulation across the academic year and on the creation of organizational objectives and plans.

5. Under the direction of the Regional Vice-Chair, they shall follow up on logistical and operational aspects of Regional programs and initiatives, providing support to the appropriate officer or program lead.

6. The Chief of Staff shall work with the Regional Chair, Regional Attorney General, Regional Director of Corporate Relations and Regional Board at large to maintain and cultivate important strategic relationships with corporate, political, and civic contacts and entities.

7. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section G. *Regional Director of Communications*

1. The Regional Director of Communications shall be the chief marketing and publicity officer of the Region, working with the Regional Secretary to manage the internal and external communication for the Region.

2. They shall be responsible for working with the Regional Board and appropriate officers, thereof, in providing a marketing strategy for Regional events, initiatives, and programs.

3. The Regional Director of Communications shall manage the public facing communication interfaces of the organization, including social media outlets, the Regional website and blog pages, and like instruments.

4. The Regional Director of Communications shall maintain, in consultation with the Regional Secretary and the Regional Director of Membership

5. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Board or by the Regional Chair.

Section H. *Regional Director of Community Service*

1. The Regional Director of Community Service Initiatives shall be responsible for planning and executing a strategy for the Region's community service outreach and programming.

2. The Director shall be empowered to advise the Regional Board of short-term and long-term organizational partnerships with non- profit and community organization.

3. They shall be empowered to assist the Regional Attorney General, Regional Director of Social Action, and the Regional Director of Programming in providing opportunities for social awareness programming and initiatives pertaining to relevant current events.

4. The Director of Community Service Initiatives shall be empowered to work with chapter counterparts to develop and execute Regional strategies, as well as develop chapter community service programs.

5. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section I. *Regional Director of Programming*

1. The Director of Programming shall be the chief programming officer of the Region, working with the Regional Board to implement the annual programming strategy of the Region and NBLSA, and to provide logistical support to substantive Regional officers carrying out programs under Regional initiatives.
2. The Director of Programming shall work with the Regional Convention Director to lay out the substantive program of the Regional Convention.
3. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section J. *Regional Director of Social Action*

1. The Director of Social Action shall work with the Regional Attorney General to promote the social advocacy efforts of the Region.
2. They shall be empowered to create programming and highlight initiatives to bring awareness to issues pertaining to diversity, civil rights, and other relevant issues in the broader community, and may work with the Regional Board and individual chapters to achieve those ends.
3. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section K. *Regional Director of Alumni Affairs*

1. The Director of Alumni Affairs shall work with the Regional Chair to cultivate strong partnerships and maintain an active Regional alumni network.
2. They shall work with the Regional Board to create programming opportunities for chapters and individual members to interact and network with Regional alumni.
3. They shall work with the Regional Chair and relevant officers to involve alumni in relevant events, initiatives, and programming. The Director shall work with the Regional Secretary and Regional Director of Communications to maintain robust communication outlets which reach these groups.
4. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section L. *Regional Director of Membership*

1. The Director of Membership shall administer the membership operations of the Region.

2. They shall maintain the Region's membership databases and administer the chapter voting strength certification process for the Regional Assembly at the Regional Convention.

3. They shall work with the Regional Chair and relevant officers to identify inactive chapters or chapters with low membership and develop strategies for reactivation or further membership development.

4. They shall advise the Regional Board and Region's chapters on the status of NBLSA membership policies, including dues levels.

5. They shall serve as the chair of the Regional Membership Committee.

6. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section M. Regional Director of the MABLSA Pre-Law Division

1. The Regional Director of the Region's Pre-Law Division, with support from the Regional Director of Membership, is responsible for developing and strengthening the MABLSA Pre-Law Collegiate Chapter Network. This includes identifying institutions without a BLSA pre-law chapter and serving as the primary point of contact for existing pre-law chapters.

2. They advise the Regional Chair and the Regional Board as to the status of the collegiate chapters and their membership.

3. They shall be empowered to devise and execute programs, projects, activities, and initiatives targeted at Pre-Law collegiate chapters, including organizing and hosting the annual Pre-Law Symposium at the Regional Convention. These efforts shall promote networking, law school preparedness, and other topics relevant to the development and advancement of pre-law students.

4. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section N. Regional Convention Director

1. The Regional Convention Director shall lead and primarily execute the development of the annual Regional Convention.

2. They shall serve as chair of the Regional Convention Steering Committee, and shall coordinate its work in furtherance of conference development.

3. They shall work with the Regional Director of Corporate Relations, the Regional Treasurer, and the Regional Chair to develop a budget and sponsorship strategy for the Convention and associated events to the Regional Board at least six months before the proposed convention date.

4. The Regional Convention Director shall be empowered, under the direction of the Regional Chair and Regional Board, to review and select sites for future regional conventions, develop the programming agenda, and devise a marketing strategy.

5. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section O. Regional Director of Career and Professional Development

1. The Regional Director of Career and Professional Development shall be responsible for the development of the Region's annual job fair event, and shall be empowered to work with individual chapters on the development of similar programs, initiatives, and strategies for BLSA members.
2. They shall direct, plan, and coordinate the exhibit hall floor events related to career development at the site of the annual Regional Convention.
3. They shall be responsible for maintaining and cultivating contacts with private sector firms, public sector agencies and firms, and other avenues of employment for the purposes of future events, collaboration, and other joint initiatives of merit for Regional participation.
4. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section P. Regional Financial Secretary

1. The Regional Financial Secretary shall work under the direction of the Regional Treasurer to monitor and manage the Region's financial operations and administer Regional and National financial procedures.
2. They shall be responsible for the receipt of Regional revenue, a thorough accounting of received funds, and its prompt deposit into the Region's chosen financial institution(s).
3. They shall administer the Regional Board's banking relationship database, working with the Regional Treasurer to maintain the Region's relationships with its financial institution(s).
4. The Regional Financial Secretary shall, upon request, prepare with the Regional Treasurer a set of financial projections for Regional convention expenses, competition expenses, and other projections as the Regional Chair or the Regional Board may require.
5. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section Q. Regional Director of the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition

1. The Regional Director of the Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition shall be the Regional officer in full charge of the execution, management, and administration of the competition as set forth by NBLSA policies.
2. They shall attend and participate in all NBLSA committees, meetings, and working sessions relevant to their administration of the competition.
3. They shall be in close and frequent contact with their counterpart on the NBLSA Executive Board and regional equivalents.

4. They shall be empowered to appoint two (2) non-voting specialists to support their operations during their term. Such appointments must be made with the concurrence of the Regional Chair and shall be subject to the final approval of the Regional Board.

5. They shall serve as a member of the Convention Steering Committee and work in coordination with the Convention Director and Regional Board to secure all necessary logistics, venues, and personnel to administer the competition, including bailiffs, judges, and other required individuals. First attempts for logistics are due to the Regional Board and Convention Committee two months prior to the start of the Convention.

6. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section R. Regional Director of the Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition

1. The Regional Director of the Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition shall be the Regional officer in full charge of the execution, management, and administration of the competition as set forth by NBLSA policies.

2. They shall attend and participate in all NBLSA committees, meetings, and working sessions relevant to their administration of the competition.

3. They shall be in close and frequent contact with their counterpart on the NBLSA Executive Board.

4. They shall be empowered to appoint two (2) non-voting specialists to support their operations during their term. Such appointments must be made with the concurrence of the Regional Chair and shall be subject to the final approval of the Regional Board.

5. They shall work with the Regional Board to secure all necessary logistics, venues, and personnel to administer the competition, including bailiffs, judges, and other necessary persons.

6. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section S. Regional Historian

1. The Regional Historian shall be the primary officer in charge of the archives and other documents of the Region. They shall be empowered to record and collect various pieces of Regional business, programs, and initiatives for posterity.

2. They shall work with the Regional Board to create a central repository of older Regional documents, Regional pictures and media, as well as more antiquated business records.

3. They shall work with the Regional Chair and the Regional Board to provide a narrative account of the history of MABLSA, and may utilize the resources of the Region to develop such history in a manner that may be shared on the local, regional, and national levels.

4. They shall work with the Regional Secretary and the Regional Director of Communications to maintain the social media presence of the Region.

5. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section T. Regional Parliamentarian

1. The Regional Parliamentarian shall be the primary resource to the Regional Assembly, the Regional Board, and the Regional Chair on parliamentary procedure and the interpretation of Regional and National policies.

2. They shall chair the Regional Governing Articles and Bylaws Committee.

3. They shall serve as an *ex-officio* member of all Regional Committees.

4. The Parliamentarian shall advise the presiding officer and the Regional Assembly of the rules of the Convention and Regional policy, where necessary and appropriate.

5. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section U. Regional Director of Corporate Relations

1. The Director of Corporate Relations shall develop and execute the Region's business development efforts and its corporate sponsorship strategy for Regional programs, events, and initiatives.

2. With the Regional Board, the Director shall develop a robust sponsorship program with sufficient benefits, recognition, and access to attract and maintain corporate sponsorship relationships.

3. They shall maintain a robust network of past, present, and targeted corporate sponsors, as well as past documentation of sponsorship correspondence.

4. They shall develop sponsorship materials and marketing for use with potential sponsors, and shall serve as the Regional point of contact for corporate sponsors and their affiliates.

5. They shall maintain a close relationship with the National Director of Corporate Relations, as well as work with Regional chapters on developing sponsors for local events.

6. They shall be empowered to appoint one (1) corporate relations specialist for each sub-region to assist in the execution of the Region's corporate relations strategy. Such appointments must be made with the concurrence of the Regional Chair and shall be subject to the final approval of the Regional Board.

7. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

Section V. Sub-Regional Directors

1. Sub-Regional Directors shall be liaisons from each sub-region to the Regional Board.

2. They shall create programming opportunities for local chapters within their respective sub-regions. Each Sub-Regional Director shall serve as the lead coordinator for a minimum of two programming events within their sub-region, with the support of the Regional Director of Programming and the Regional Board. They shall also serve as the primary point of contact for local chapter presidents within their sub-region and maintain consistent communication through one-on-one meetings, group forums, or other structured methods of engagement.

3. They shall work with the Regional Chair and Regional Director of Membership to promote active participation among the leadership and membership of local chapters in Regional events.

4. Sub-Regional Directors shall be empowered to advise the chapters under their jurisdiction on Regional and National policies.

5. They shall be empowered to work with other sub-regional directors to promote Regional unity through events and programming.

6. They shall perform any other duties as assigned by the Regional Assembly, the Regional Chair, or the Regional Board.

ARTICLE II. THE REGIONAL CONVENTION

Section A. General Provisions

1. The Regional Convention shall be the business meeting and educational symposium of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Held annually, the event shall be executed in the spring semester of each academic year prior to the date of the National Convention, unless otherwise ordered by the Regional Board or by the NBLSA National Executive Board or General Assembly.

2. There shall be a steering committee, led by the Regional Convention Director, which shall be responsible for the planning, structure, and implementation of the Convention. They shall be guided on necessary logistics (e.g., budgeting, speaker procurement, vendors, etc.) by members of the Regional Board, where appropriate.

3. Each sub-region shall, in turn (as listed in Article I, Section D of the Regional Governing Articles), serve as the host sub-region for the Convention, which shall entitle the presidents (or their designee) of the local chapters located therein and the applicable sub-regional director to be *ex-officio* "hosts" of the convention and members of the convention steering committee.

4. At no time shall the Regional Convention be held in the same subregion as an impending National Convention being held in the same academic year. The Regional Convention shall only be held in a subregion that satisfies at least two of the following conditions: (1) a current member of the Regional Board is enrolled at a law school within the host subregion and participates as a member of the Convention Steering Committee; (2) a duly serving Sub-Regional Director represents the host subregion and participates as a member of the Convention

Steering Committee; or (3) no fewer than two local law schools within the host subregion formally agree to serve as ex officio hosts and participate as members of the Convention Steering Committee. This provision may be waived with sufficient reasoning by the Regional Board.

5. The Regional Chair shall retain general oversight and management authority over the execution of the Convention, and shall serve as an ex-officio member of the convention steering committee.

6. The Convention shall be the site of the annual meeting of the Regional Assembly, and the Regional Chair shall be responsible for ensuring that adequate provisions are made for the efficient execution of the business meetings of the Assembly.

7. The Region shall be empowered to create and enforce rules, protocols, and conference policies to guide and govern the conduct of members at the convention. BLSA members attending Regional conventions are charged with constructive knowledge of the rules of the convention.

Section B. *Meetings of the Regional Assembly*

1. The presiding officer of the Assembly shall be addressed as Mr./Madam Regional Chair and all comments, questions, points, and motions shall be addressed through the presiding officer. At all times, the presiding officer shall be empowered to maintain order and decorum through means available through these Bylaws, Convention policies, and *Robert's Rules of Order.* The presiding officer of a Regional committee shall be addressed as Mr./Madam Chair, and shall have the same powers as the Assembly presiding officer, in the context of their own committees, where applicable.

2. The meetings of the Assembly shall be governed by the Regional Convention Rules of Order and the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order,* in addition to the dictates of the governing documents and duly passed legislation.

3. Persons wishing to be recognized in meetings of the Assembly, or any subset thereof, shall be acknowledged by the presiding officer prior to speaking before the body, unless stating a point or motion that obviates such recognition.

4. At no time shall a member be allowed to use slanderous, unprofessional, or otherwise offensive language towards members of the Assembly, the chair, or members of the public in the course of speaking in the Assembly. The presiding officer shall have sufficient authority to enforce this rule.

5. The presiding officer shall be required to step away from the Chair and yield the gavel on any question in which there is a conflict of interest or where they wish to endorse a particular position. The presiding officer may then return to the Chair after the body has dispensed with the item in question.

Section C. *Regional Assembly Debate & Speaking Rights*

1. For each legislative item before the Regional Assembly, there shall be a presentation by the sponsor or author of the item, a period of questions, and a

period of debate. The Regional Assembly may place restrictions or dispense with these items, at its discretion, by motion.

2. Delegates of the Regional Assembly shall not forward argumentative statements during the period designated for questions. The presiding officer shall have sufficient authority to enforce this provision.

3. Delegates of the Regional Assembly shall enjoy full speaking and voting rights during the meetings of the Regional Assembly and its committees, which shall include the rights to speak in debate, make and second motions, as well as present legislation. Voting by Regional Assembly members may only be circumscribed in the case of a clear conflict of interest. Delegates shall hold themselves to the highest integrity in assessing such conflicts and act accordingly.

4. Regional officers, as listed in the Regional Governing Articles, shall be empowered to speak during debate and ask questions in the meetings of the full Regional Assembly or its committees, but shall not make motions or vote. The Assembly may grant speaking rights to any person it so chooses.

5. The Regional Assembly, alone, shall have power to limit the speaking rights, time, or frequency of any attendee to its meetings. The presiding officer, in the interest of efficiency, may recommend motions for limitations on speaking rights, time, or frequency.

6. For the regular debate periods on legislative items, each speaker may raise two speeches for each question before the body; however, the Regional Assembly may extend, further limit, or suspend regulations on the frequency and/or length of points of debate by motion. In recognizing members for debate, the presiding officer shall give preference to persons having not spoken on the question before the Regional Assembly prior to returning to previous speakers.

7. All debate, points of information, i.e. inquiries of a non- parliamentary nature, and motions to amend shall be germane to the question or legislative item before the body. In addition, members of the Regional Assembly shall not be empowered to make motions that are found to be dilatory or to otherwise prevent the orderly and prudent conduct of Regional business, in explicit nature or implicit intent. The presiding officer shall have power to rule out of order debate, questions, points, motions and other speech not in compliance with this provision and those rules adopted by the Regional Assembly or provided by Robert's Rules of Order.

Section D. *Regional Assembly Agenda*

1. The agenda of Regional Assembly meetings shall be crafted by the Regional Chair and Regional Parliamentarian, or their designee, and made available to the members of the Regional Assembly before the opening plenary session.

2. Submissions to the agenda shall be due by noon (12:00 pm) thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. The Regional Chair, or their designee, shall have sufficient authority and flexibility to enforce this rule. Additional amendments or modifications to the agenda may be

entertained by the Regional Assembly at the appropriate time in the agenda.

3. Agenda materials shall be compiled and distributed to the attending chapters within fourteen (14) days of the plenary session. The Regional Board may utilize electronic means of distribution, but shall have copies available for delegates to view said materials at the site of the Regional Assembly meeting.

Section E. Legislation & The Legislative Process

1. Regional Assembly legislation shall be comprised of resolutions written to enforce or enact policies under the powers granted to the Assembly under Article II, Section C of the Regional Governing Articles.

2. The Regional Assembly may also pass motions, under Assembly rules and *Robert's Rules of Order*, on procedures or ordering action on members, officers, or other regulated entities, in order to effectuate the smooth regulation of business before it. These motions shall be recorded in the minutes, and shall be binding on the internal procedures of the Assembly only.

3. Any chapter shall enjoy the privilege to author and submit legislation, but may only present or propose such legislation on their own accord or by proxy on the floor of the Regional Assembly, as provided within the Bylaws or applicable Regional policy.

4. Resolutions submitted to the Region for Regional Assembly consideration shall be referred to the Regional Governing Articles and Bylaws Committee which shall review the legislation for compliance and report out the intended effects of the legislation. The Committee may reject any legislation that is inherently in violation of the Regional Governing Articles and/or Bylaws of the Region or NBLSA.

5. The Regional Governing Articles and Bylaws committee, in its consideration of the resolution, may propose amendments or changes. It may report out the original or an amended version of the submitted legislation with a favorable recommendation, by majority vote. Amendments to legislation, either proposed by the committee or heard as motions on the Regional Assembly floor shall be relevant and germane to the subject and purpose of the resolution being considered.

6. Legislation receiving a favorable vote in committee may be brought forward by the committee chair to the Regional Assembly for second and final consideration. A presentation by the sponsor, remarks from the committee chair, questions, and debate will be held on the legislation, and the Regional Assembly shall be empowered to vote on the legislation.

ARTICLE III. REGIONAL COMMITTEES

Section A. General Rules

1. The Regional Chair and/or the Regional Board shall be empowered to create committees for the purpose of working on specific projects or program areas of the organization.

2. Committees shall be made up of at least three (3) members of the Regional Board or the Regional Assembly, unless otherwise specified by these Bylaws or Regional Assembly action. The chair shall be included as a voting member. Each member of a committee shall exercise one (1) vote.

3. The chair of the committee shall coordinate the committee's work; however, the committee shall vote collaboratively on directions, recommendations, and courses of action.

4. The chairpersons of all committees shall be appointed by the Regional Chair.

5. The duties of committee chairs, along with other duties specified in the Bylaws, shall be to:

   (i) Preside over the meetings of the committee

   (ii) Oversee committee activities

   (iii) Report on the activities and actions of the committee, when necessary

6. All committees shall be expected to report regularly to the Regional Board and Regional Assembly on progress made. Recommendations and other relevant items of business shall be included in the report.

7. The Regional Chair and Regional Vice-Chair shall be an *ex-officio* member of all committees, except where specified in these Bylaws.

8. All committees whose mandate is not explicitly defined by these Bylaws shall be given their responsibilities by directives formulated by the Regional Chair or the Regional Board.

9. No Regional Board Member shall serve on more than three (3) committees with the exception of the Regional Chair, Vice Chair or ex-officio Board Member, unless necessary.

Section B. The Regional Finance Committee

1. The Finance Committee shall be the central budgetary and financial planning group, and shall be responsible for providing support to the Regional Treasurer in managing the financial health of the organization and preparing the Budget.

2. The committee shall be composed of the Treasurer, as its chairperson, the Regional Chair, Director of Programming, the Chief of Staff, one additional member of the Regional Board, and four (4) members of the Region not sitting on the Regional Board. To the extent practicable, the four (4) non–Regional Board members should include one (1) representative from each of the four subregions. If a vacancy exists for a non–Regional Board representative from a particular subregion, the Subregional Director for that subregion shall notify each Local Chapter President

within the subregion of the opportunity to serve. The Local Chapter President or a designated member of that chapter may then be considered for appointment.

3. The committee shall be empowered to make recommendations to the Regional Board and the Regional Assembly on any matter relating to the management and stewardship of Regional finances, expenditures, assets, securities, and instruments.

4. The committee shall be empowered to undertake any other business, or issues specifically referred to it by the Regional Board.

Section C. *The Regional Governing Articles and Bylaws Committee*

1. The Regional Governing Articles and Bylaws Committee shall be a standing committee of the Region having power to review and propose matters pertaining to the rules, procedures, and processes of the Region.

2. The Committee shall be comprised of three (3) members, including the Regional Parliamentarian, who shall serve as the chair.

3. The Committee shall be power to review all proposed resolutions and amendments to the Regional Governing Articles and Bylaws, and may produce reports compiling the proposed legislation and amendments and reporting the effects on Regional policy. The Committee shall have power to refuse proposed legislation and amendments on duly evidenced grounds of conflict with a superseding governing document.

4. The Committee shall formulate and propose for the Regional Assembly's consideration a set of rules for the plenary sessions of the Regional Convention which shall be known as the Standing Rules of the Regional Assembly. Such rules will contain special rules of order for the conduct of Assembly business, as well as non- parliamentary rules for the operation of the Convention.

5. The Committee shall be empowered to review the Regional and National governing documents and propose amendments for the consideration of the Regional Assembly or NBLSA General Assembly.

6. The committee shall be empowered to undertake any other business, or issues specifically referred to it by the Regional Board.

Section D. *The Regional Membership Committee*

1. The Membership Committee shall be the membership development component of the organization, and shall devise strategies for cultivating, engaging, and growing Regional membership.

2. The committee shall adjudicate the awarding of recognition to individual members of the Region, and may articulate standards and methodologies for awarding such recognition.

3. The committee shall be comprised of the Regional Director of Membership, as its chairperson, and at least (4) other members of the Regional Board.

4. The committee shall be empowered to undertake any other business, or issues specifically referred to it by the Regional Board.

Section E. The Regional Grievance Committee

1. The Grievance Committee shall be a standing committee of the Region, and shall hear grievances arising from any financially active individual member or chapter seeking remedy from an alleged breach of Regional or National policy.
2. The committee shall be comprised of the Regional Vice-Chair, as its chairperson, at least (4) other members of the Regional Board, and two (2) non-Board members.
3. The committee shall be empowered to distribute guidelines and procedures governing the manner of submitting grievances; adjudicate the hearing of grievances; and draft resolutions for disposing of grievances on the floor of the Regional Assembly at the annual Regional Convention.
4. The committee shall be empowered to undertake any other business, or issues specifically referred to it by the Regional Board.

Section F. The Elections Committee

1. The Elections Committee shall administer the elections of elected offices, in accordance with the policies of the Region. They shall also determine the contents, procedures, and process of the candidate packet and its contents, which shall include appropriate standards on candidate eligibility, campaigning activities, and other general provisions.
2. They shall have power to adjudicate violations of election rules, subject to appellate review by the Regional Board.
3. They shall be empowered to determine the electoral timeline, and shall work with relevant Regional officers to disseminate election information to the Region.
4. The committee shall be comprised of at least five (5) members of the Regional Board or Regional Assembly who are not in any way standing for election to the next Regional Board, in addition to the Regional Attorney General, who shall serve as its chair, insofar as they are not standing for election.

Section G. The Regional MABLSA Pre-Law Committee

1. Keep Pre-Law student and law student members, as well as the Regional Board, informed of the status of Collegiate chapters
2. Suggest, create, and implement programs, projects, and activities for the developments and benefit of the Pre-Law Division
3. Disseminate MABLSA information and programs to the Pre-Law members
4. Exercise general executive authority over the business and function of the Pre-Law Division
5. Work with the Regional Director of Membership to help keep track of all pre-law members/chapters and their information
6. The committee shall be composed of the Director of Pre-Law Affairs, as its committee chairperson, the Regional Chair or Vice-Chair, and at least two (2) members of the Regional Board

Section H. The MABLSA Convention Committee

1. Plan and submit the proposed schedule of meetings, procedures, and special events of the convention, ensuring that all interests of MABLSA are balanced as they pertain to the Convention.

2. Make recommendations concerning Convention registration fees. These fees must be approved in accordance with NBLSA policies.

3. Review proposals of potential host schools or venues for the Convention.

4. Review the Convention plans frequently to ensure that adequate progress is made.

5. Oversee the entire Convention planning process and recommend changes as deemed necessary.

6. Delegate planning of specific events for the convention as needed.

7. The committee shall be composed of the Director of Convention, as its committee chairperson, the Regional Chair or Vice-Chair, the Director of Programming, Director of Community Service, Director of Social Action and at least three (3) additional members of the Regional Board.

Section I. The MABLSA Annual Leadership Retreat Committee

1. Plan and submit the proposed schedule of meetings, procedures, and special events of the ALR, ensuring that all interests of MABLSA are balanced as they pertain to the Retreat.
2. Make recommendations to the Regional Board concerning ALR registration fees. These fees must be approved and in accordance with NBLSA policies.
3. Review proposals of potential host schools for ALR.
4. Review the ALR plans frequently to ensure that adequate progress is made.
5. Oversee the entire Convention planning process and recommend changes as deemed necessary.
6. The committee shall be composed of the Director of Professional Development, as its committee chairperson, the Regional Chair or Vice-Chair, and at least three (3) members of the Regional Board.

Section J. The Alumni Advisory Committee

1. There shall be Alumni Advisory Committees that shall exist to advise, assist and support and advocate for the Mid Atlantic Black Law Students Association (MABLSA) and its programming, advocacy, academic success, and professional development efforts.

2. The committees as authorized herein shall be composed of alumni of MABLSA or practicing attorneys within the Mid Atlantic Region who shall have an expressly dedicated interest in improving the operations, programming, and mission success of MABLSA. At no time shall advisory committees be liable or responsible for decisions of the Regional General Assembly, Regional Executive Board, or any individual officer or executive of the Mid Atlantic National Black Law Students Association.

3. The committees shall be empowered to provide recommendations to the MABLSA General Assembly, the Regional Board, and the Regional Chair executives to enhance corporate policies, increase operational capacity, and further external engagement on organization initiatives. Committees may, of their own accord, create subcommittees and working groups to better address specific issues.

4. Member terms shall be no more than three (3) years, as provided herein. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms, but a former member having served two consecutive terms may be reappointed after a one-year absence from the advisory committee in question.

5. Except as provided within these Bylaws, Advisory Committees shall consist of at least five (5), but no more than seven (7) members, which shall be divided, with respect to the time for which they severally hold office, into three classes, as nearly equal in number as is reasonably possible, with the term of office of the first class (Class I) to expire on December 31 within the year of the adoption of these Bylaws, the term of office of the second class (Class II) to expire on December 31 one year from the date of adoption of these Bylaws, and the term of office of the third class to expire on December 31 two years from the date of adoption of these Bylaws.

6. Except as provided within these Bylaws, after the appointment of the committee's initial members by the Regional Chair with support of the Region Director of Alumni Affairs, committees shall be empowered to openly solicit, approve, and discipline their own members, as well as select officers from within their number, which shall include a chair, vice chair, and recording secretary who are elected for one-year terms by the committee members. Each committee, where possible, shall endeavor to have a diverse collection of experiences and professions, including government/public interest, academia, corporate, and law firm practitioners.

7. Committees shall operate on a calendar year (January – December) timeframe, with a term beginning on the first business day of April and concluding on the final business day of March.

8. If an Advisory Committee member resigns their seat, is removed, or is otherwise unable to conclude the duration of their term, the remaining committee members shall nominate and recommend a qualified individual who will complete the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section A. *Disciplinary Provisions for Elected Officers*

1. Any elected officer of the Regional Board may be brought before the Regional Board for disciplinary action for the following offenses, including but not limited to:
    - *(i)* Misfeasance, malfeasance, and nonfeasance of duties
    - *(ii)* The willful, reckless, or negligent misappropriation or embezzlement of Regional funds, or the willful, reckless or negligent authorization of the same
    - *(iii)* The willful, reckless or negligent cause of damage to the reputation of the organization
    - *(iv)* Failure to abide by Regional and/or National policies
2. A charge must be submitted in writing, with appropriate supporting documentation and the names of the charging party, to the Regional Chair.
3. The accused shall be notified in writing or by electronic communication of the charges leveled against them.
4. Formal Disciplinary Hearings held by the Regional Board shall be held separately from the regular Regional Board meetings.
5. The Regional Board shall then hear from the complainant and respondent on the charges presented, with equal time allocated to each party. After each party has been allowed to present their rationale, the Regional Board shall then engage in debate on whether to find the respondent "responsible" or "not responsible."
6. A motion to find a respondent either "responsible" or "not responsible" on each charge or all charges shall require a two- thirds (2/3) majority of the Regional Board members present.
7. If a member is found responsible, they shall be excused from the meeting room while the Regional Board discusses an appropriate disciplinary sanction, which shall be suggested as a motion and shall need another two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass.
8. The presiding officer then shall inform the member of the sanction selected by the Regional Board, at which point the meeting shall be deemed adjourned. All disciplinary actions taken with the term of a Regional Board shall be communicated to the Regional Assembly at the next available Regional Convention.
9. In the case of the Regional Chair being the subject of the disciplinary hearing, the Regional Attorney General shall manage the disciplinary process.
10. Disciplinary sanctions can include, but are not limited to:
    - *(i)* Barring from Future Regional Office
    - *(ii)* Removal from Office
    - *(iii)* Suspension from Office
11. Aggrieved parties in a disciplinary hearing may appeal to the National Executive Board for a rehearing under extant NBLSA policies.

Section B. Regional Finances and Budgeting

1. The Regional Chair and the Regional Treasurer shall constitute the

principal financial officers of the organization and shall jointly bear responsibility for the proper expenditure, management, and stewardship of Regional funds.

2. The authorized expenditure framework for the Region shall be framed in the context of the annual organizational budget which shall be prepared by the Regional Treasurer and Regional Finance Committee and submitted for the consideration of the Regional Board and the ultimate approval of the NBLSA National Board.

3. The Regional Board may reallocate funding within the context of the NBLSA-approved budget by a two-thirds (2/3) vote in the affirmative.

4. Authorizations of expenditures, contracting for services, and other financial operations shall conform to relevant Regional and National policy, and shall be reviewed by the Regional Chair and the Regional Treasurer prior to signature or affirmation. Only the Regional Chair or the Regional Treasurer may authorize Regional expenditures or reimbursements.

5. At no time shall any Regional officer, member or affiliate misuse, embezzle, obfuscate, or otherwise perform dishonorably with Regional finances. Such actions shall open the offending party to investigation and disciplinary action as can be found under these Bylaws.

Section C. *Regulations for Sub-Regions and Chapters*

1. Each chapter within the Region shall be required to maintain records of chapter membership and dues payment, chapter officer contact information, meeting minutes, and governing documents.

2. Chapter officers shall, akin to Regional and National officers, be dues paying members of NBLSA prior to and throughout the duration of their terms of office.

3. Chapter governing documents and policies shall conform to and be compliant with the Regional and National governing documents and policies. The Regional Parliamentarian shall be empowered to work with Sub-Regional Directors to review chapter governing documents for compliance.

4. The sub-regions shall be empowered to meet, encourage chapter collaboration and carry out programs in furtherance of the mission of the Region, under the direction of the Sub-Regional Director and the guidance of the Regional Board.

5. At no time shall any chapter levy annual local dues for individuals that exceed the National dues amount, as set by the NBLSA Executive Board or the NBLSA General Assembly.

6. Members of chapters wishing to appeal a disciplinary decision occurring on the local level may submit a request with appropriate documentation to the Regional Chair, in adherence with the provisions of Article XII, Section III of the NBLSA Constitution.

ARTICLE V. REGIONAL ELECTIONS

Section A. *General Election of Offices*

1. Elected officers, as noted by Article III, Section A of the Regional Governing Articles, shall be elected by vote of the Regional Assembly, at the annual Regional Convention.

2. The Elections Committee shall present the timeline for each election and stipulate the means and rules by which interested candidates may vie for positions. The Committee may prescribe ad-hoc rules for the election in question by majority vote, which may be reviewed by the Regional Board or the Regional Assembly.

3. Elections policies may be reviewed by the Regional Board or the Regional Assembly, at its discretion.

Section B. *Procedures for Seeking Office*

1. Each candidate seeking to be listed on the ballot in a given election cycle must complete the declaration form as issued by the Elections Committee, as well as submit any requested documentation. The form and the accompanying materials shall constitute the "candidate packet."

2. Upon the timely completion of a candidate packet and the verification of its contents, the submitting parties shall be declared candidates and shall be subject to all electoral rules provided within the Regional Governing Articles and by extant policy.

3. Campaigning may not begin until the time specified by the provided election rules or the Election Committee.

Section C. *Campaigning Rules*

1. Candidates may distribute campaign materials in a manner that conforms to Regional policies, including those guidelines set by the Elections Committee.

2. The Elections Committee shall be empowered to regulate the manner and means of campaigning and adjudicate elections grievances submitted in writing prior to the opening of the polls.

3. Campaigning shall take place in forums approved by the Elections Committee and explained in election materials. Upon the opening of the polls, all active and passive campaigning shall cease, and any campaigning materials shall be collected and discarded.

Section D. *Voting*

1. All popular elections shall be decided by secret ballot.

2. The polls shall be open for a time period determined by the Elections Committee. In the case of technological difficulties or other impediments to voting, the Elections Committee may reasonably extend the electoral polling.

3. Each voter may cast as many votes as the number of vacancies for any position, but not more. No delegate may cast more than their allotted votes, under Article II, Section B, Subsection 2 of the Regional Governing Articles for a single candidate.

4. All popular elections shall be decided by a plurality of votes cast. In the event of a tie vote between candidates, run-off elections shall be held until a winner is determined.

Section E. Appointments to the Incoming Regional Board

1. The Regional Chair-Elect may set up a process by which appointment of incoming Regional Board positions may occur, in accordance with existing policy. Power to make appointments for the incoming Regional Board shall rest in the Chair-Elect.

2. Any process set up for the purposes of appointing members of the Regional Board shall be open and made available to all eligible members of the Region.

3. Regional individual members appointed to the incoming Board shall be required to comply with all transition meetings and other requirements set by the outgoing board, pertaining to transition and training.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

Section A. Notice to Chapters

1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be put forward in writing to the Regional Assembly by the Regional Board or an active chapter of the Region. Such amendments shall be submitted to the Regional Parliamentarian no later than sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the Regional Convention. The Regional Parliamentarian, in consultation with the Regional Chair and Regional Secretary, may prescribe the format and method of submission.

2. The Regional Secretary shall compile and distribute the text of all proposed amendments to each active chapter of the Region at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the Regional Convention.

Section B. Regional Assembly Consideration

1. For all submitted amendments, the Regional Governing Articles and Bylaws Committee shall review the proposed amendments within fourteen (14) days of the due date for amendment transmittal to delegates. Amendments not having a majority of votes in the affirmative shall not be laid before the full Assembly for consideration.

2. The Regional Assembly shall debate and consider any proposed amendments having survived committee scrutiny. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting delegates of the Assembly shall be required to ratify an amendment.

3. The Regional Parliamentarian shall, after the close of the Regional Convention, amend the Bylaws in accordance with the actions of the Regional Assembly and publicly display the newly amended document. They shall have power to adjust the numbering and formatting of the Bylaws and correct grammatical errors, provided that such amendments do not substantively change the language or effect of the Bylaws.

4. The Regional Secretary shall distribute the newly amended Bylaws to the Regional Board and all Regional chapters. A copy shall be submitted to the appropriate National officers, including the National Parliamentarian and the National Chair.