

PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES ON THE ELECTION PROCESS FOR OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

(Adopted - August 2008)

With the recognition that seeking office in the Association is a political process, it is the intent of these Rules to minimize the expenditures of a campaign required for office and to ensure that all members of the Association have fair access to the political process without unnecessary financial burdens or sacrifice.

1. A person seeking to serve as President-Elect, Chair of the House of Delegates, Secretary or Treasurer of the Association shall commence the campaign for office by filing a signed letter of intent setting forth the office and the term with the Policy and Planning Division at the American Bar Center. A candidate's letter of intent shall be filed no earlier than the last January 1 occurring more than 12 months prior to the Midyear Meeting at which the nomination will be made. The letter of intent shall be in the form attached to these Rules and may be accompanied by a resume. The letter shall state that the candidate has read these Rules and commits to abide by them.
2. After determining that the letter of intent meets the requirements of these Rules, the Policy and Planning Division shall forward a copy of the letter to all members of the House of Delegates. All questions of interpretation with respect to these Rules shall be directed to the Policy and Planning Division, which shall respond promptly to such questions.
3. No candidate or prospective candidate (references in this paragraph and in paragraph 6 to "candidate" shall include "prospective candidate"), and no person acting on his or her behalf, shall solicit a public or private commitment from any member of the Nominating Committee, other than from his or her State Delegate, prior to the candidate's filing the letter of intent as required by Rule #1. Nominating Committee members (with the single exception noted above) shall not give any such commitments. Meetings by or on behalf of any member exploring or considering a candidacy for any office may be held no earlier than one year before the date that such member would be eligible to declare his or her candidacy under these guidelines. Except for the State Delegate from the prospective candidate's state, members of the Nominating Committee or their designees may not attend the meetings referenced in the preceding sentence.
4. Each member of the Nominating Committee is personally responsible for providing each candidate who desires to meet with the member an opportunity for a meeting. Nominating Committee members are encouraged to hold such meetings during a Midyear or Annual Meeting and the member may choose to include at the meeting others whose views such member may wish to hear. If this does not prove feasible, the member should provide the candidate an opportunity to meet at the Section Officers Conference or the Nominating Committee Orientation meeting, and travel and a per diem will be paid to the candidate for such meeting (other than for a meeting held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting or Midyear Meeting). Candidates and prospective candidates are discouraged from arranging visits to Nominating Committee members in their home cities and Nominating Committee members are discouraged from accepting such visits.

5. Each member of the Nominating committee is encouraged to afford the candidate an opportunity to meet with other members of his or her delegation or constituency. Each State Delegate member is encouraged to consult with all members of his or her delegation before making a commitment.
6. A candidate shall not sponsor, or permit others to sponsor on the candidate's behalf, any reception, or organized social function, in support of his or her candidacy. This provision is not intended to interfere with business meetings or functions not sponsored by a candidate or on a candidate's behalf attended by a candidate and member(s) of the Nominating Committee. Staff may secure a conference room for use by a candidate for a non-social function during the Midyear and Annual Meetings. Nothing in these guidelines shall prohibit a candidate from serving non-alcoholic beverages and snacks at a meeting permitted by these guidelines.
7. After a candidate has filed his or her letter of intent, the candidate may speak at the Forums sponsored by the Nominating Committee at the immediately following Midyear and Annual Meetings. The Forums will be open to any member of the Association who wishes to attend and suitable notice will be given of the time and place of the Forums.
8. A candidate who decides to terminate his or her campaign for office promptly shall supply a signed letter to that effect to the Policy and Planning Division, which promptly will forward such letter to all members of the House of Delegates.