ARTICLE I.
Name and Object

Section 1. Name
The name of this organization shall be "National Conference of State Trial Judges."

Section 2. Object
The object of the Conference is to improve the administration of justice; to promote judicial independence; to promote diversity within the judiciary; to increase public understanding of the judicial system; to provide a national forum to exchange information on common issues; to represent the interest of the nation's general jurisdiction trial judges in building a stronger, more effective system to resolve disputes.

ARTICLE II.
Structure

Section 1. Members

a. Membership shall be open to any member of the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association (Division) who is a trial judge of any state exercising general jurisdiction on a full-time basis or exercising such portions of general jurisdiction on a full-time basis as is deemed by the Executive Committee to be compatible with the general purposes of the Conference.

b. The retirement of a member from judicial office shall not terminate membership unless the Executive Committee determines by majority vote that a position subsequently occupied is incompatible with continued membership.

c. A former member, a military judge performing full-time duty as a trial judge of a general court martial and an international judge shall be eligible to become a judicial associate if they are members of the Division. They may participate in the affairs of the Conference, attend meetings and be heard, but may not serve as delegate, hold office or vote.

Section 2. Board of Delegates

a. The governing body of the Conference shall be a Board of Delegates composed of four delegates from each state and the delegates at large.

b. Appointment

Each state by its state judges' association which represents the general jurisdiction judges shall appoint four state trial judges who are members of the Conference as delegates. If no state association exists, or if the state association does not appoint delegates, the chief justice of the highest
appellate court of the state, or the chief justice’s designee, may appoint the
delegates. The President of the judges association may be one of the
delegates. In the event that an appointment is not made the Executive
Committee shall make such appointment. If there is more than one
association which purports to represent the general jurisdiction judges the
Executive Committee shall determine how the state's delegates shall be
designated.

c. If a delegate is unable to attend the Annual Meeting of the Conference the
appointing authority may designate an alternate who is a member of the
Conference.

d. Delegates shall serve for three year terms which shall be made to expire in
consecutive years. However, an appointment by the Executive Committee
shall be for one year.
   In case of a vacancy, the appointing authority shall appoint for the balance of
   said term.

e. The officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be delegates
   at large and shall serve for three years following the expiration of their terms.

f. The Conference Officers shall be the final judge of the appointment and
   qualifications of delegates.

ARTICLE III.
Officers and Executive Committee

Section 1. Officers

a. Positions

The officers of the Conference shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair,
Secretary and Immediate Past Chair. The officers shall be elected by the
delegates registered and present at the Annual Meeting. The Chair shall be
the principal executive officer of the Conference and shall supervise and
control the affairs of the Conference subject to the Executive Committee and
the Board of Delegates.

b. Terms and succession

The Chair, Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Immediate Past Chair shall
serve one year terms
The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Conference and Executive
Committee and perform such duties as are provided herein or as directed by
the members, Board of Delegates or Executive Committee.

The Chair-Elect shall become Chair each year without further action by the
Conference. In the event of a vacancy, in the position of Chair, the Chair-
Elect shall succeed to such office and shall serve for the unexpired term and
for the following year.
If the Chair-Elect assumes the position of Chair prior to the expiration of the
term of the Chair, or if the position becomes otherwise vacant, the Vice-Chair
shall succeed to the position of Chair-Elect until the next annual meeting.

In the event of a vacancy, in the position of Vice-Chair or Secretary for any
reason other than expiration of the term, the Executive Committee shall
designate a person to succeed to that position until the next annual meeting.
The designation may be accomplished by mail vote or otherwise.

Section 2. Executive Committee

a. Powers

The Executive Committee shall act between meetings of the members and
the Board of Delegates.

b. Composition

There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the five officers, the
Conference Delegate to the House of Delegates, and ten Directors elected by
the Delegates present at the Annual Meeting.

(1) Election

One half of the Directors shall be elected each year for two year terms.
The Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the
Conference by Delegates in attendance. Applications for nomination
shall be submitted to the Nominating Committee after the preceding
Annual Meeting and not less than 150 days before the Annual
Meeting. The applicants must be members of the Conference. The
Nominating Committee shall review the applications considering the
applicants’ experience and commitment to the Conference. The
Nominating Committee shall also consider various diversities in the
nomination process. Geographical diversity being important, the
nominations for the Directors on the Executive Committee of the
National Conference of State Trial Judges for two year terms shall not
include more than one nominee from the same state, District of
Columbia, territory or Commonwealth in each election cycle. The
nominations shall be made not less than 90 days before the Annual
Meeting.

If no nominations are submitted, the Chair of the Conference may
select a Director, or Directors, for the term(s).

(2) Terms-Vacancies

Directors on the Executive Committee shall serve for a term of two
years. In the event of a vacancy, the Chair shall designate a Director
who shall fill the vacancy, for the balance of the term.

No Director on the Executive Committee may serve as a Director for
more than two consecutive terms.
(3) Conference Delegate to House of Delegates

The Delegate to the House of Delegates shall be elected by the Conference Delegates present and voting at the Annual Meeting for a term of three years. The Delegate to the House of Delegates shall serve no more than two consecutive terms. In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Committee shall designate a successor who shall serve until the next Annual Meeting when the vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the delegates present and voting.

(4) Fellows of the National Conference of State Trial Judges

Each Immediate Past Chair of the Conference shall be designated as a Fellow of the Conference at the conclusion of his/her term as the Immediate Past Chair. Each current Chair shall have the authority to nominate, with the confirmation of the Executive Committee, persons who have made an extraordinary contribution to the state judiciary to be a Fellow of the Conference. Election of Fellows shall take place so that induction will occur at the Annual Meeting or at such other times the Executive Committee deems to be appropriate. The Conference shall maintain a roster of the Fellows, and shall provide notification to Fellows of Conference activities and programs.

c. Meetings

(1) Regular Meetings

A regular Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held as designated by the Chair during the Annual Meeting of the Conference.

(2) Other Meetings

Other meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the Chair or at the request of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee.

(3) Notice

A written notice stating the date, time and place of any meeting shall be given to members of the Executive Committee a reasonable time prior to the meeting.

(4) Quorum

A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
(5) Voting

All matters shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting except as otherwise provided. When in the opinion of the Chair for good cause it is impracticable to hold a meeting of the Executive Committee a decision may be obtained by other means provided adequate notice and opportunity to participate is given.

ARTICLE IV.
State Liaisons

The delegates from each state shall conduct the liaison and membership activities within their state or territory. The Chair may designate one of the delegates from each state or territory as the liaison judge. One liaison judge may represent more than one state or territory.

ARTICLE V.
Other Committees

Section 1. Nominating Committee

The Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee from the Delegates not later than 90 days after the close of the Annual Meeting which shall report its recommendations to fill vacancies for officers, Directors, and Delegate to the House of Delegates. At least one member shall not be a present or former Executive Committee member. Persons interested in the offices of Chair-Elect, Vice Chair, Secretary, Director and Delegate to the House of Delegates, shall submit a letter of interest with their resume to the Nominating Committee which shall select no more than two nominees for each Officer, Director and Delegate to the House of Delegates position and shall report its recommendations not less than 90 days before the Annual Meeting. The names and mailing addresses shall be published in “The Judges' Journal,” the conference newsletter, or by electronic means.

Additional nominations for Officer, Director and Delegate to the House of Delegates position may be made by petition signed by at least fifteen Conference members from not less than three states and filed with the Conference Administrator at least 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Conference Administrator will notify the Executive Committee members of such petitions at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations may not be made from the floor.

The Nominating Committee shall recommend to the Executive Committee a member to be recommended for succession to the Chair of the Division when that position becomes available to the Conference.

Section 2. Other Committees

The Chair may appoint other committees and define their scope and duties.

ARTICLE VI.
Conference Meetings
Section 1. Annual

An annual meeting of the members shall be held every year as fixed by the Executive Committee at the same city in which the annual meeting of the Association is held. Meetings may precede or follow the regular meetings of the Association by seven days or be held in conjunction with other meetings of the Association.

Section 2. Special

A special meeting of the members or Board of Delegates may be called by the Chair or a majority of the members of the Executive Committee. The members present at such a meeting shall constitute a quorum. Special meetings may be held in person, telephonically or by other electronic means.

Section 3. Notice

A written notice stating the date, time and place of any meeting shall be given to members entitled to vote a reasonable time prior to the meeting. Publication in "The Judges' Journal," Conference newsletter, or by electronic means shall constitute compliance.

ARTICLE VII.
General Provisions

Section 1. Principal Office

The principal office of the Conference shall be at the headquarters of the Division.

Section 2. Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Conference shall coincide with the fiscal year of the Division.

Section 3. Affiliation

The Conference shall be part of the Division and may affiliate with other appropriate organizations.

Section 4. Definitions

a. Association means the American Bar Association
b. Conference means the National Conference of State Trial Judges
c. Division means the Judicial Division of the American Bar Association
d. State means any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia.
e. Terms shall begin immediately after termination of the Annual Meeting, or September 1, whichever occurs first.
ARTICLE VIII.
Amendment

These Bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Board of Delegates provided notice of the proposed amendment is given at least ten days prior to such meeting or without notice by a two-thirds vote if approved by the Executive Committee. No amendment shall be effective unless approved by the Board of Governors.

Calvin L. Scott, Jr.
Bylaws Chair

Approved by the American Bar Association Board of Governors in New York, NY, November 15 – 16, 2013.