

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE TRIAL JUDGES**  
**BYLAWS**

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. The term of each delegate shall commence on July 1 and shall expire on June 30. 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 beginning immediately after termination of the Annual Meeting, or September 1, whichever occurs first. 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, and select no more than two nominees for each Director position. 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 Conference Chair shall appoint one or more Conference members from each unrepresented state or territory on the Executive Committee to serve as State Liaison Judges. The Liaison Judges must be members of the Conference and shall serve for successive one-year terms. They shall conduct the liaison and membership activities within their state. One Liaison Judge may represent more than one state or territory as determined by the Executive Committee.

#### 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 and Secretary shall submit a letter of interest with their resume to the Nominating Committee which shall select one nominee for each office and shall report its recommendation 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 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.

### 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.

## 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.

Approved by the National Conference of State Trial Judges Board of Delegates this  
5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2006

/s/Joel D. Medd

Joel D. Medd

Chair

Approved by the American Bar Association Board of Governors in Colorado Springs,  
Colorado, on October 26-28, 2006.

Approved by the American Bar Association Board of Governors in Birmingham,  
Alabama, October 31 – November 1, 2008.