



Bylaws of the Norwegian Bar Association

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Chapter 1 The objectives and structure of the Association

§ 1-1 *The objectives of the Association*

The Association's objectives are to:

- promote justice and the rule of law
- ensure an independent legal profession with high standards of professional conduct
- promote a high level of professional ethics
- safeguard the members' interests and develop good cooperation among the members

§ 1-2 *The Association's headquarters*

The Association's headquarters and offices are in Oslo, Norway.

§ 1-3 *The Association's bodies*

The Association's bodies are:

- The Supervisory Board
- The Board of Directors
- The Working Committee
- The Election Committee
- The regional meetings
- The regional boards
- The Secretary General
- The specialist groups
- The disciplinary committees

Chapter 2 Conditions of membership

§ 2-1 *Membership*

Membership of the Norwegian Bar Association is open to:

1. lawyers who deposit a security with the Supervisory Council for Legal Practice
2. lawyers who are employed by the state or a municipality, cf. § 233, subsection one c of the Act relating to the Courts of Justice and § 2-1, subsection three of the Regulations for Advocates
3. assistant lawyers who work for the lawyers mentioned in point 1 and 2
4. lawyers with a Norwegian licence to practise law who only practise law abroad
5. lawyers who have retired after having practised as lawyers.

Membership can be maintained for an interim period following an application in the event of a lawyer ceasing to practise law for reasons not due to moving to another position or firm.

The Board of Directors adopts detailed rules concerning membership fees etc. for the different groups of lawyers.

Membership can be refused should professional, financial or ethical circumstances

indicate that the lawyer should not be a member of the Bar Association.

§ 2-2 *Application for membership*

A written application for membership shall be submitted on a standard form to the Bar Association.

The Secretary General decides whether or not the application will be granted. If an application is refused, the refusal can be appealed to the Board of Directors, cf. § 6-2, subsection three.

A member shall belong to the region in which the member primarily practises law. Members who do not practise law from a permanent office, shall belong to the region in which they reside. In cases of doubt, regional membership region shall be determined by the Secretary General. The decision may be appealed to the Board of Directors.

A member who moves his office from one region to another shall notify the Bar Association of the move.

The Secretary General shall keep the regions concerned informed of membership changes.

§ 2-3 *Cessation of membership*

Resignations shall be notified in writing to the Bar Association.

Members can be deleted from the membership lists if they do not pay their membership fees or stipulated charges, fines that have been finally determined by the disciplinary committees, or fees imposed pursuant to the guidelines for mandatory continued training. Notifications shall be given with a 14-day deadline. Deletion from the membership lists shall be decided by the Secretary General.

Members whose licence to practise law has been withdrawn shall be deleted from the membership lists of the Association. If the member protests against the Lawyer Licence Committee's decision immediately, also requesting suspensive effect of the decision, the member shall not be deleted from the membership lists until the question of suspensive effect is finally decided by the Lawyer Licence Committee in the disfavour of the member.

Should a member's licence to practise law be suspended, the Board of Directors shall decide whether or not the member shall be deleted from the Association's membership lists.

A lawyer who is reissued with a licence to practise law must re-apply for membership pursuant to § 2-1 and § 2-2. The same applies to lawyers who have been deleted from the membership lists for other reasons and who wish to be readmitted as a member. The Board of Directors may adopt guidelines for the granting of applications from lawyers who have been deleted from the membership lists.

§ 2-4 *Membership obligations*

Every member who is admitted to the Association is obliged to comply with the provisions of the Association's Bylaws and the resolutions adopted by the Association's bodies by virtue of the Bylaws, including resolutions passed by the Supervisory Board pursuant to § 3-3, last subsection.

Membership of the Norwegian Bar Association (MNA) shall be stated next to each member's name on letterheads and in other contexts where this is natural. Letterheads may contain a common statement of membership if all the lawyers named in the letterhead are members of the Bar Association.

The members listed in § 2-1, subsection one, point 5 cannot hold office in the Association. They do not have voting rights and are not included in the total number of members pursuant to § 3-1.

Other members can be elected to offices in the Association's bodies and have an obligation to accept nominations unless the member has previously held the same office.

Chapter 3 The Supervisory Board

§ 3-1 The composition of the Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board consists of:

- a) the chair of each region
- b) one representative from each of the specialist groups listed in § 7-1
- c) one representative from each of the regions that have between 200 - 400 members and thereafter one representative for each additional 400 members or fraction thereof. It is the membership numbers as per 1 January of the same year in which the election is conducted that provide the basis for calculating the number of representatives from each region.

Members of the Supervisory Board and deputies are elected with effect from 1 May to 30 April the following year. Representatives and deputies according to items a) and c) are elected by the regions. Representatives and deputies according to item b) are elected by the board of the groups or according to the separate bylaws for the groups. Elections shall be implemented during the period 15 January to 30 March in the year the elected representative is to commence his or her office. The Secretary General shall be informed of the elections immediately.

Members of the Supervisory Board may be re-elected. If a representative is elected as member of the Board of Directors, this member shall retire as a member of the Supervisory Board and the deputy member shall assume his or her office.

§ 3-2 Meetings of the Supervisory Board

The Supervisory Board holds one ordinary meeting each year. The meeting shall be held during the first half of the year every year. The Board of Directors can call extraordinary meetings of the Supervisory Board as needed, and can also call meetings of regional chairs.

The Board of Directors sets the time and place for each meeting.

The ordinary meetings of the Supervisory Board are called by the Board of Directors with at least 3 weeks' notice, which shall include the agenda for the meeting. In those years when elections are going to be held in the Supervisory Board, the Election Committee's proposals shall accompany the agenda.

Meetings of the Supervisory Board are chaired by the President of the Association. The Supervisory Board forms a quorum when at least two-thirds of the representatives are present. The members of the Board of Directors, the Secretary General of the Association and the Association's auditor are entitled to attend and to speak at meetings of the Supervisory Board, but do not have voting rights.

Except in the case of amendments to these Bylaws pursuant to § 14-1 and resolutions pursuant to § 3-3, last subsection, and § 12-1, all matters shall be decided by ordinary majority vote. In the case of a tie, the President of the Association shall have the casting vote in such a way that the President's vote is the deciding vote.

Extraordinary meetings of the Supervisory Board are called whenever so decided by the Board of Directors or when demanded by at least half of the representatives. The Board of Directors sets the time and place for the meeting, and issues notice of such meetings. The Board of Directors may stipulate a deadline for proposals pursuant to § 3-3, first subsection, item 10.

§ 3-3 *The tasks of the Supervisory Board*

The Supervisory Board's tasks are to:

1. draw up the main guidelines for the activities of the Association
2. deal with proposed amendments and adopt amendments to the Bylaws and the Code of Conduct.
3. deal with the Board of Directors's annual report and discuss and adopt the Association's accounts.
4. elect members to the Board of Directors, cf. § 4-2.
5. elect the President of the Association, the Vice President and one member of the Working Committee.
6. elect the Election Committee
7. elect the Association's auditor who shall serve until another auditor is elected in his place – the auditor's fees shall be approved by the Supervisory Board
8. deal with proposals and adopt framework conditions for mandatory continued training.
9. deal with matters submitted to the Board of Directors
10. deal with matters that at least one of the representatives has demanded be considered in writing. Proposals must be submitted to the Secretary General at least one month before the meeting, unless the matter has also been put forward by the Board of Directors, or the Supervisory Board has unanimously decided to deal with the matter

The Supervisory Board may adopt requests and recommendations from members concerning the performance of their profession. Instructions issued by the Association to members that are not directly authorised by these Bylaws are adopted according to the same rules pertaining to amendments to the Bylaws.

Chapter 4 *The Board of Directors and the Working Committee*

§ 4-1 *Composition of the Board of Directors*

The Board of Directors comprises 10 members of whom 4 are elected from the Oslo region, 2 from the other regions in Eastern Norway, 1 from the regions of Aust-Agder, Vest-Agder, Sør-Rogaland and Haugesund, 1 from the region of Hordaland and Sogn og Fjordane, 1 from the regions of Møre og Romsdal and Trøndelag and 1 from the regions of Northern Norway regions.

In addition, the Board of Directors includes the President of the Association unless the President is elected among the members of the Board of Directors, cf. § 4-8.

The members of the Board of Directors are elected for a period of office of 4 years and cannot be re-elected. A member of the Board of Directors may continue after his four-year term of office has elapsed if the person in question is elected as President of the Association.

5 members of the Board of Directors are elected every second year. To replace a Board of Directors member who is permanently unable to attend, a member may be elected for the remaining term of office of the person concerned. If a President remains on the Board of Directors after a four-year period has elapsed, or is not a member of the Board of Directors during the election, this shall not affect the election of the other members to the Board of Directors.

§ 4-2 Election of the members of the Board of Directors

The members of the Board of Directors are elected by the Supervisory Board following the recommendation of the Election Committee.

The recommendation of the Election Committee shall take into consideration the fact that the Board of Directors should have the best possible composition based on personal qualifications, specialist areas, practice affiliation, distribution of sexes, etc.

Within the regions mentioned in § 4-1, first subsection, the Election Committee should select candidates from among those proposed by the regions, provided such a proposal has been submitted. The desirability of proportional roll-over among the regions in a region over a period of time should be taken into account.

Proposals with regard to candidates from the regions should be submitted before the end of March, and the recommendation of the Election Committee shall be submitted not later than 3 weeks before the spring meeting of the Supervisory Board in the year elections are to take place. The regions' proposals should take into account the considerations mentioned in subsection two.

§ 4-3 Meetings of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall convene as often as required by the President of the Association or by at least three of the Board of Directors's members. Notice of the meeting and the agenda shall be sent no later than one week before the date of the meeting.

The Board of Directors has a quorum when at least 6 members are present.

Meetings shall be chaired by the President of the Association, or Vice President in the absence of the President. Unless otherwise decided, all decisions shall be passed by an ordinary majority. In the case of a tie, the Chair has the casting vote.

§ 4-4 The Board of Directors's authority and tasks

The Board of Directors shall direct the affairs of the Association and shall administer its funds.

The Board of Directors has the decision making authority in all issues relating to the Association or professional policy that are not explicitly vested in the Supervisory Board or other bodies of the Association.

The Board of Directors's specific tasks are to:

1. draw up and follow up a strategic plan to promote the Association's objectives
2. set the membership fees and charges for the Bar Association. The regions shall set the membership fees and charges for the regions themselves, cf. § 5-3
3. adopt the Association's budget
4. present the annual report and accounts to the Supervisory Board
5. engage the Secretary General
6. engage the editors of Advokatbladet and the Association's other publications
7. appoint the chairs and members/deputy members of the disciplinary committees, the law committee and other Association committees, and prepare mandates and guidelines for these committees as needed
8. appoint members, representatives and delegates to boards, councils and organisations in which the Association is authorised to make appointments, is represented or participates
9. stipulate guidelines and issue statements on behalf of the Association with respect to lawyer related questions
10. maintain contact with the ministries and professional and business organisations

with which lawyers are closely related through the performance of their profession including the promotion of good cooperation with the courts and administrative agencies

11. maintain contact with the regions and support the regional boards in their work on behalf of the members. Familiarise itself with the regions' annual reports
12. maintain contact with appointed committees and specialist groups that have been established, including familiarising itself with the annual reports of the specialist groups
13. reaching decisions in disciplinary matters where the decision making authority is vested in the Board of Directors
14. adopting bylaws for the Association's funds

The Board of Directors can hold an annual dinner with professional content for the representatives in the Supervisory Board and other invited guests.

Furthermore, the Board of Directors can hold lawyer meetings as needed. The purpose of such meetings can be, through lectures, discussions, presentations, etc, to present subjects of interest to the members, to raise the public profile of the Association, and to contribute to increased unity and social interaction between the members. All of the Association's members can attend lawyer meetings.

The Secretary General and, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, other employees of the Norwegian Bar Association can speak and put forward proposals in the Board of Directors's meetings, but do not have voting rights.

All members of the Board of Directors may bring matters before the Board of Directors. Matters to be dealt with by the Board should be submitted through the Secretary General.

The meetings of the Board of Directors and the agenda shall be prepared by the Secretary General.

§ 4-5 *The Working Committee*

The Working Committee of the Board of Directors comprises the President of the Association, the Vice President and one member of the Board of Directors.

The Working Committee shall be elected for a period of two years. The election shall take place in the same year as the election of members to the Board of Directors.

§ 4-6 *Meetings of the Working Committee*

The Working Committee meets as often as the President of the Association finds necessary. It has a quorum when two members are present. Meetings shall be called with a minimum of three days notice.

Meetings are chaired by the President of the Association or the Vice President in the absence of the President. Unless otherwise decided, all decisions are passed by an ordinary majority. In the case of a tie, the chairman shall have the casting vote.

§ 4-7 *The Working Committee's authority and tasks*

At the decision of the President, the Working Committee shall represent the Association externally and participate in external meetings.

The Working Committee passes resolutions in cases that must be decided between the meetings of the Board of Directors and in those cases where decision-making authority is vested in the Working Committee by the Board of Directors.

On the behalf of the Board of Directors the Working Committee shall be an advisory body for the Secretary General in conjunction with the general business of the

Association. In cooperation with the Secretary General the committee shall prepare cases for submission to the Board of Directors and ensure that the decisions of the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board are followed up.

The Working Committee shall reach decisions concerning the Association's general operation to the extent requested to by the Secretary General.

The Secretary General participates in the meetings of the Working Committee and prepares these. Other employees in the Secretariat may participate in the meetings of the Working Committee.

The minutes of the meetings of the Working Committee shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for information.

§ 4-8 *The President of the Association*

The President of the Association is elected for a period of office of two years in accordance with the regulations in § 4-5 and may be re-elected once. The President may be elected among members who are not members of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors and the Working Committee are chaired by the President, and the President commits the Association with his signature.

One specific task of the President is to act on behalf of the Association with respect to public relations. The President must be kept informed of the activities of the Association and ensure that the other bodies of the Association function in accordance with the intentions of these Bylaws.

In acute situations, the President may take whatever decisions he finds necessary. The Board of Directors may authorise the President to take decisions within limited areas.

Whenever a decision is taken in an acute situation, the Board of Directors shall be informed accordingly.

§ 4-9 *The Election Committee*

The Election Committee comprises a chairman and four members who are all elected by the Supervisory Board for terms of office of two years, following the recommendations of the Board of Directors. Elections shall take place in the same year that members are elected to the Board of Directors. Election Committee members may be re-elected for a single period. A member of the Election Committee who cannot be re-elected can however be elected chairman.

Of the Election Committee members, two are elected from the Oslo region, one from the other Eastern Norway regions, one from the Western and Southern regions of Norway, one from Møre og Romsdal, Trøndelag and the Northern Norway regions.

Members of the Board of Directors may not be elected to the Election Committee, but at least one of the members of the Election Committee should previously have been a member of the Board of Directors. The other members should be or have been members of the Supervisory Board.

The Election Committee shall submit their recommendations for election in those cases where this is specified in these Bylaws, cf. § 4-2 and § 4-5.

In an election year the Election Committee shall, at least three weeks before the Supervisory Board's spring meeting, submit its recommendation to the members of the Supervisory Board. The Election Committee itself shall present its proposals at the spring meeting of the Supervisory Board.

The Election Committee shall itself determine its modus operandi within the guidelines provided in Sections § 4-2, § 4-5 and § 4-8.

Chapter 5 The regions

§ 5-1 Divisions of regions

The Association is divided into the following regions, each with a regional board:

Oslo region:	The city of Oslo and Asker and Bærum District Court in the county of Akershus.
Østfold and Follo region:	Østfold County and Follo District Court in the county of Akershus.
Romerike region:	Øvre Romerike and Nedre Romerike district courts in the county of Akershus.
Hedmark region:	The county of Hedmark.
Oppland region:	The county of Oppland.
Buskerud region:	The county of Buskerud.
Vestfold region:	The county of Vestfold.
Telemark region:	The county of Telemark.
Aust-Agder region:	The county of Aust-Agder.
Vest-Agder region:	The county of Vest-Agder.
Sør-Rogaland region:	The city of Stavanger, Sandnes, Jæren, Ryfylke and Dalane district courts in the county of Rogaland.
Haugesund region:	The city of Haugesund and Karmsund District Court in the county of Rogaland.
Hordaland and Sogn og Fjordane region:	The city of Bergen, and the counties of Hordaland and Sogn og Fjordane.
Møre og Romsdal region:	The county of Møre og Romsdal.
Trøndelag region:	The counties of Sør-Trøndelag and Nord-Trøndelag.
Helgeland and Salten region:	Brønnøy, Alstahaug, Rana and Salten district courts in the county of Nordland.
Midt-Hålogaland region:	Lofoten, Vesterålen, Trondenes and Ofoten district courts in the counties of Nordland and Troms.
Troms region:	Nord-Troms and Senja district courts in the county of Troms.
Finnmark region:	The county of Finnmark.

Changes to the division of regions may be made by the Supervisory Board when an opinion on the proposed alteration has been obtained from the region or regions concerned.

§ 5-2 Regional meetings

Notice of regional meetings and agendas are sent to all members not later than 14 days before the date of the meeting.

Should a member wish to bring up a matter that is not on the agenda, the president of the region shall be informed accordingly not later than one week before the meeting is opened, and the president shall immediately forward the proposal to the members. Any further proposals thereafter shall be rejected unless they are amplifications or a natural part of the discussion at the regional meeting.

Regional meetings are chaired by the president of the region or the vice president in the

absence of the president. All matters shall be decided by an ordinary majority. In the case of a tie, the chairman has the casting vote.

Regional meetings deal with matters submitted by the regional boards or the members. Regional meetings shall make statements on issues submitted to the regional meeting by the Board of Directors.

§ 5-3 *Annual regional meetings*

Annual regional meetings shall be held before the end of March. The provisions of § 5-2 concerning regional meetings also apply to regional annual meetings.

An annual meeting shall specifically:

1. deal with the annual report and accounts of the regional board which shall thereafter be submitted to the Board of Directors
2. decide the membership fees for the region
3. elect the regional board including its president and vice president
4. elect any supplementary representatives and deputies of the region to the Supervisory Board
5. propose a candidate from the region as Board of Directors member in years in which a member from the region is to be elected to the Board of Directors,
6. elect an election committee in the region, if applicable, in accordance with the recommendation of the regional board
7. elect the auditor for the region

§ 5-4 *Regional boards*

Regional boards comprise 3 to 7 members, according to the decision of its regional annual meeting. 3 deputy members shall be elected for the members.

The board members shall be elected of two-year periods. If possible the elections shall be arranged to ensure continuity such that around half of the board members are up for election each year. This also means that shorter terms can be set in the event of supplementary elections. Notices of elections shall be sent to the Secretary General.

If a member of a regional board is elected to the Board of Directors, the member shall retire from the regional board.

The regional board shall meet whenever the board find sit necessary. The chairman determines the meeting location. The regional board has a quorum when more than half of its members are present. No resolution may be adopted by fewer than two votes. Meetings are chaired by the president or vice president in the absence of the president. In the case of a tie, the meeting's chairman has the casting vote.

§ 5-5 *Regional boards' tasks*

A regional board shall specifically:

1. direct the activities of the region
2. administer its funds
3. call regional meetings
4. submit annual reports and present the accounts to the regional meeting
5. organise local course activities in conjunction with mandatory continued training
6. promote proper conduct by the members of the region, both mutually and in regard to the public, and make provisions for social and professional contact between members
7. assist regional members when they require advice and support, and stimulate good cooperation with the courts and the administrative bodies in the region
8. act as a link between the regional members and the central bodies of the Association
9. issue opinions on matters submitted by the Board of Directors or the Supervisory Board
10. issue the opinions and pass the decisions mentioned in sections § 13-3 and §14-1 of

these Bylaws and otherwise seek to promote the Association's objectives

Chapter 6 The Secretary General

§ 6-1 The Secretary General

The Secretary General is appointed by The Board of Directors.

The Secretary General cannot practice law, however the Board of Directors can permit the Secretary General to undertake other paid work or positions outside the Association to the extent the Board of Directors at any given time finds this compatible with the interests of the Association.

The Secretary General represents the Association externally in those cases that fall under his or her day-to-day tasks or which otherwise come under the Secretary General's functions and signs on behalf of the Association.

The Board of Directors can draw up instructions for the position.

§ 6-2 The Secretary General's tasks

The Secretary General is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Association. Matters of an unusual nature or of major significance shall be presented to the Board of Directors or the Working Committee.

The Secretary General shall ensure that the Association has a Secretariat that is sufficiently manned both qualitatively and quantitatively to enable it to conduct the everyday business of the Association and to follow up the resolutions passed by the Association's bodies.

The Secretary General shall reach decisions concerning the rights and obligations of individual members in relation to the Association and its activities whenever such authority is vested in the Secretary General. Members may appeal decisions to the Board of Directors or to the Working Committee when the Board of Directors has delegated competence hereto.

The Board of Directors may adopt guidelines governing the activities of the Secretary General in cases that concern members' rights and obligations in relation to the Association.

The Board of Directors shall be kept informed of the work of the Secretary General.

The Secretary General is obliged to monitor all legislative work and administrative arrangements that are of interest to the member lawyers.

The Secretary General shall prepared matters that are going to be dealt with by the Working Committee, the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board. The Secretary General has the right to present proposals and speak in these bodies, but has no voting rights.

The Secretary General is specifically responsible for:

1. the work of the Secretariat – the Secretary General is empowered to employ, instruct and terminate in relation to the employees of the Secretariat
2. ensuring that resolutions passed by the bodies of the Association are implemented and confirming this to the Board of Directors
3. keeping the Board of Directors informed of activities in national and international bodies where the Association is represented or with which it cooperates, and that are of importance for the business of the Association or its members
4. ensuring that matters that are of importance for members, the activities of the Association and its profile are presented to the Board of Directors

5. submitting an annual budget proposal to the Board of Directors and keeping the Board of Directors informed of the quarterly development of the accounts in relation to the budget
6. satisfactory accounting in relation to adopted budgets, and proper management of the Association's funds
7. exercising the Association's right to take the initiative in disciplinary matters
8. ensuring that the Association submits comments regarding legal matters and other matters concerning which the Association is a body entitled to comment

The Secretary General may reach decisions in cases that fall under the purview of the Board of Directors or the Working Committee should there be no time to await a decision by these bodies or to do so would be of significant disadvantage to the Association. In such cases the President and Vice President shall be consulted as far as possible. The President shall thereafter be informed of the decision as soon as possible.

Chapter 7 The specialist groups and committees

§ 7-1 The specialist groups

In the case of formation of groups among the Association members within limited professional areas or areas of interest, such groups may be approved by the Supervisory Board by a two-thirds majority as a specialist group within the Association.

Approval may be granted if the group:

- is open to all members of the Association, irrespective of region, who practise law within a certain professional area, or have interests in the professional area covered by the group
- cover a professional area of some scope and the group has a relatively broad following among the Association's members

An approved specialist group shall:

- have its own bylaws
- have a responsible board
- be in a position to adopt a separate membership fee for the group
- following agreement with the Secretariat of the Association, request the assistance of the Secretariat
- elect a representative to the Supervisory Board
- work actively to promote the special interests of the group within the objectives of the Association and the general resolutions passed by the Association's bodies
- in collaboration with the other bodies of the Association and Juristenes Utdanningscenter, take on responsibility for continued training and development within the professional area
- following a resolution passed by the Board of Directors, assume the tasks of a law committee or other committee

The Supervisory Board may, by an ordinary majority vote, withdraw approval if the specialist group no longer satisfies the above conditions.

Active members of the specialist group must be members of the Bar Association. The group may have supporting members who are not members of the Association and may cooperate with other groups or interest groups outside the Association. Members of the Bar Association may be members of more than one specialist group.

The Board of Directors of the Bar Association shall be kept informed of the activities of the group through the submission of annual reports and financial statements. The Board of Directors may nominate a representative to the board of the specialist group.

§ 7-2 Committees

The Board of Directors may establish committees to assist the Board of Directors in its

work.

In addition to the ordinary members of the committees, one of the Board of Directors' members may join the permanent committees.

1. Permanent committees

Permanent committees may be given responsibility for special areas within the business of the Association.

2. Law committees

Law committees shall be specialist committees that prepare proposals for consultation statements, make other statements and offer advice within the committee's specialist area.

3. Ad hoc committees

Ad hoc committees are appointed on a temporary basis in order to study special matters or carry out a defined assignment.

Chapter 8 Disciplinary bodies

§ 8-1 *Disciplinary authority*

The Association's disciplinary authority is exercised by the disciplinary committees and by the Board of Directors.

Disciplinary authority in respect of lawyers is also exercised by the Disciplinary Council pursuant to § 227 of the Courts Act.

The Association's disciplinary committees are appointed by the Board of Directors.

There shall be 7 committees:

- 1 committee for the Oslo region.
- 1 committee for the Østfold and Follo, Romerike and Hedmark regions.
- 1 committee for the Oppland, Buskerud, Vestfold and Telemark regions.
- 1 committee for the Aust-Agder, Vest-Agder, Sør-Rogaland and Haugesund regions.
- 1 committee for the Hordaland and Sogn og Fjordane region.
- 1 committee for the Møre og Romsdal and Trøndelag regions.
- 1 committee for the regions in North Norway.

One or more subcommittees may be established under a disciplinary committee.

The disciplinary committees shall comprise at least 5 members of whom one is appointed as the committee chairman. The term of office of the committee members is 2 years, and they are eligible for reappointment for 2 years at a time. A member may be reappointed four times. Exceptions to the limit on reappointment may be made if special circumstances make it necessary with respect to continuity or professional qualifications.

The Board of Directors shall adopt procedural rules for the disciplinary committees.

Chapter 9 Regulations concerning the Association's officers

§ 9-1 *Appointments*

Unless otherwise determined in these Bylaws, the Board of Directors shall appoint officers pursuant to the provisions of § 4-4, items 7 and 8, for a period of 4 years unless the period of office for the person concerned is shorter pursuant to special regulations for the body to which the person is to be appointed. An appointed member may be reappointed once. A committee member may be reappointed for a further term of office as chairman of the committee.

In cases where the term of office for the appointed member is shorter than 4 years, the member may be reappointed twice, unless otherwise is evident from special regulations for the body to which the person is to be appointed.

Exceptions to the limit on reappointment may be made if special circumstances make it necessary with respect to continuity or professional qualifications. Similarly a period of appointment can be shorter or longer than the committee concerned's function period should this be necessary to harmonise appointment times for members of the committee.

§ 9-2 *Legal qualification*

A member of the Disciplinary Council, the Supervisory Council for Legal Practice or the Lawyer Licence Committee may not simultaneously be a member of a regional board or the Board of Directors.

A member of the Board of Directors may not simultaneously be a member of the Supervisory Board or a regional board.

The provisions of the Act relating to the courts of justice concerning legal qualification shall otherwise apply to the Association's officers.

§ 9-3 *Remuneration to officers of the Association*

The Association's officers are entitled to recover their direct expenses in connection with the performance of assignments and work for the Association. This does not apply to the coverage of normal office expenses or other indirect expenses.

Expenses in connection with meetings of the Board of Directors and meetings of the Supervisory Board are paid by the Association. Expenses in connection with regional board meetings are paid by the region. Expenses in connection with secretariat functions for the disciplinary committees are shared proportionally among the respective regions.

The President of the Association and the other members of the Working Committee are paid a reasonable remuneration for their work on behalf of the Association. The remuneration is fixed by the Board of Directors.

The Supervisory Board may resolve that other officers with a special workload on behalf of the Association may be granted remuneration to be fixed by the Board of Directors.

When and if the Association requests a member to assist the Association by preparing a special report or in the member's capacity as a practising lawyer, a separate agreement on remuneration shall be made.

Chapter 10 Membership fees

§ 10-1 *Membership fees*

The Association's members pay annual fees and dues stipulated pursuant to § 2-1, § 4-4, § 5-3, § 7-1 and § 11-1.

When so indicated by the circumstances, the Board of Directors may consent to a member paying a reduced fee, to be released from payment of fee or to remit outstanding fees.

Chapter 11 The Norwegian Bar Association's funds

§ 11-1 *The Norwegian Bar Association's funds*

The Board of Directors shall adopt separate bylaws or guidelines for the Bar Association's funds, and shall stipulate any fees.

The Board of Directors can establish new funds and amend guidelines for existing funds as needed.

Should it be found that it is no longer appropriate to maintain the funds, and unless otherwise provided in the Bylaws, the Board of Directors may decide that the assets in the funds shall be transferred to other long-term objectives benefiting the Association.

Chapter 12 Mandatory continued training

§ 12-1 Mandatory continued training

Active members may be instructed to fulfil requirements concerning mandatory continued training.

Such continued training shall be mainly concentrated on legal updating and in-depth studies in addition to subjects relating to the practise of law. The Association shall work for the establishment of nationwide, reasonably priced offers of courses.

The Supervisory Board shall adopt the framework for mandatory continued training, cf. § 3-3, item 8, including the sanctions that may be employed in the event of non-compliance. The sanctions shall be exercised by the Secretary General. The Secretary General's decisions can be appealed to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall supervise the scheme via the Approval Committee for Continued Training,

Chapter 13 Disciplinary actions

§ 13-1 Disciplinary procedures

Complaints about a lawyer, who is a member of the Bar Association, shall have acted in contravention of good professional ethics or has overcharged a client, may be brought before the disciplinary committee. The disciplinary committee can also deal with complaints against lawyers who are not members of the Association, cf. § 5-3, subsection four, of the Regulations pertaining to lawyers, a fee determined by the Board of Directors shall be charged for such work.

Complaints that can be dealt with by the Complaints Board for Estate Agent Services shall be rejected and referred to that board.

Complaints shall be processed in the manner stipulated in the processing regulations applicable at any time, cf. § 8-1, last subsection.

If a complaint is successful, the costs of the case can be awarded the complainant, the defendant lawyer in a collegiate case and the Bar Association.

Disciplinary sanctions can also be imposed on deleted members for matters that arose during their period of membership.

§ 13-2 Reporting

If the Board of Directors, a regional board or a disciplinary committee suspects that circumstances that are worthy of criticism exist concerning a lawyer's administration of a client's funds or other circumstances indicate that a resolution pursuant to Chapter 4 of the Regulations pertaining to lawyers should be adopted, a report will be made to the Supervisory Council for Legal Practice. When such a report is submitted, notification shall at the same time be sent to the other aforementioned bodies.

§13-3 Exclusion

If a member has acted in such a manner that he should not be a member of the Association, the Board of Directors may exclude the member with not less than 6 votes in favour of exclusion. Before any such decision is passed, the member concerned shall be allowed to express his opinion, and opinions shall be obtained from the disciplinary committee and the regional board where the member has his place of business.

At the request of the Regional Board, the Board of Directors may with not less than 6 votes in favour revoke the exclusion after 3 years, or earlier - provided the decision is unanimous.

Exclusion of a member shall be reported to the Disciplinary Council unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors. The Disciplinary Council shall always be notified of any revocation of an exclusion that has been reported to the Disciplinary Council.

The fact that a member has been excluded shall be available to the general public.

§ 13-4 Other sanctions

If a member fails to comply with resolutions passed by the Association's bodies pursuant to the Bylaws, cf. § 2-4, the Board of Directors may give the member a reprimand and in serious cases, a warning. If a warning is given, the Board of Directors may impose a charge on the member limited to a maximum of 1/4 G (the National Insurance basic amount). This fee shall be payable to the Support Fund.

If the member's conduct is such that he should not be a member of the Association, steps shall be taken as detailed in § 13-3.

§ 13-4 Arbitration

In the case of disputes between lawyers, it may be agreed that the dispute be settled by arbitration.

If the dispute concerns the interpretation of the rules concerning good professional ethics, the issue may be decided in arbitration by the Bar Association's Ethics Committee.

Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, the President of the Association shall nominate the three members of the Arbitration Court that shall determine the dispute between the lawyers.

An arbitration decision pursuant to this section is binding for members of the Association.

Chapter 14 Concluding regulations

§ 14-1 Amendment of the Bylaws

All members of the Association may submit proposed amendments to the Bylaws. Proposals shall be submitted through the region where the member is located. If the member is on the Board of Directors or the Supervisory Board, the proposal shall be submitted through these bodies.

A proposal to amend the Bylaws may also be submitted by the Secretary General through the Board of Directors.

Proposals to amend the Bylaws shall be sent to the regions for comment and shall be processed by the Board of Directors before submission to the Supervisory Board for decision. A resolution requires the votes of two-thirds of those present.

§ 14-2 *Coming into force and transitional provisions*

The Board of Directors shall determine when amendments to the bylaws shall come into force and can adopt transitional provisions.