



PERSONAL INJURIES BAR ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Association shall be the Personal Injuries Bar Association.
- 2.1 Full Membership of the Association shall be open to any member of the Bar of England and Wales who practises in the field of personal injuries and any other person elected as an honorary member by the Committee of the Association.
- 2.2 Associate Membership of the Association shall be open to any former member of the Bar of England and Wales who holds judicial office and any person enrolled in further or higher education who intends to become a member of the Bar of England and Wales who practises in the field of personal injuries.
- 3.1 The objects of the Association shall be:
 - (i) To provide a forum for discussion on matters of common concern and interest to the members.
 - (ii) To ascertain and represent the views of its members on matters relating to and affecting their professional interests.
 - (iii) To further the study, understanding and development of the law relating to personal injuries and provide education and training for its members.To do any act or acts in furtherance of the foregoing objects or ancillary thereto.
- 3.2 The Association shall not distribute any profit it may make from any of its activities and shall apply the annual subscriptions paid by members and any profits made from its educational activities to the furtherance of the objects of the Association. Without limitation to the foregoing, the Association may:
 - [1] Fund a dinner for judges and guests from the personal injuries field after the annual lecture at which members of the Association will pay their own costs but the guests and judges will be paid for by the Association;
 - [2] Fund a person to assist (on a sub-contract basis) with the annual conference and administration of the Association's finances and activities;
 - [3] Provide a free place at the annual conference for the 2 members of the Association who arrange it;
 - [4] In any one year make one donation to any charity or charitable cause if authorised by the Executive Committee so to do. The one annual donation may not be larger than 5% of the funds held in the Association's account at the date of the decision.
 - [5] Fund such specialist sub-contractors as are considered by the Executive Committee to be necessary to provide IT, Website and technical support at educational and other meetings of the Association.
 - [6] Contribute to the expenses of individuals or organizations campaigning for

reform of the law relating to personal injury, civil procedure and costs, or opposing changes to the law proposed by the Government;

- [7] Commission research into the law relating to personal injury, civil procedure and costs, and the impact of Government proposals on these areas of the law.

4. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Committee of not more than twelve elected members, all of whom shall be fully paid-up members of the Association. There shall be at least one representative from each Circuit and at least one member under seven years call.
- 5.1 The Committee of the Association shall be elected at its inaugural meeting. It shall consist of twelve members. No person shall be a member of the Committee for more than two years without re-election. One half of the elected members of the Committee shall retire at each annual general meeting of the Association. At the first annual general meeting of the Association (following the inaugural meeting) the six non Circuit Committee members elected at the inaugural meeting shall retire. Elections to the Committee shall be by electronic or Postal Ballot of all fully paid-up members, save in the case of circuit representatives who shall be elected by electronic or postal ballot of members of that circuit who are fully paid-up members of the Association. Each candidate for election shall be proposed and seconded, in writing, by a fully paid-up member of the Association. The Secretary shall invite nominations at least 28 days before the Annual General Meeting and at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting despatch Ballot papers to the fully paid-up members or otherwise arrange for an election to be conducted by appropriate means if there are more nominations than vacancies. The Committee shall have power to co-opt any member of the Association to serve on the Committee (in addition to the twelve elected members referred to in clause 4 above) until the next committee meeting following the succeeding annual general meeting. Any retiring member of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.
6. At its first meeting after the annual general meeting the Committee (for this purpose "the Committee" consists of those committee members elected by the members of the Association) shall elect from its membership (which term includes co-opted members) the following officers:
 - (i) Chairman;
 - (ii) Vice Chairman;
 - (iii) Treasurer;
 - (iv) Secretary;
 - (v) Minutes Secretary;
 - (vi) Membership Officer;
 - (vii) Assistant Secretary;
 - (viii) The Personal Injuries Bar Association representative to the General Council of the Bar.

Nominations for any officer post shall be delivered to the secretary before or at the first meeting of the Committee after the expiry of the two-year term of office of the officers,

such nominations to be in writing, signed by the proposer, seconder and the nominee. Any member of the committee, whether elected or co-opted, shall be eligible for election as an officer.

The officers shall hold office for two years.

7. The Committee may determine its business and procedure in its discretion. A quorum for a Committee meeting shall be four members.
8. An annual general meeting of the Association shall be held not later than the 31st July in each year. The Committee may (and if requested in writing by at least 12 fully paid-up members of the Association shall) call a general meeting at any other time (other than during vacation).
9. Each fully paid-up member of the Association shall be given at least 14 days' notice of the annual general meeting or any general meeting. Subject to clause 10, votes may be cast by those present or by signed written proxy at any general meeting.
10. The constitution of the Association may be altered by resolution passed by a majority of the fully paid-up members present at any annual general meeting or general meeting. The Chairman of any meeting shall have a casting vote.
11. Each full member (but not each associate member) of the Association shall as a condition of full membership pay an annual subscription at rates determined from time to time by the Committee. Subscriptions shall be paid on or before the 1st March each year or such other date as the Committee shall choose and publicise to all members. Any full member whose subscription is more than one month in arrears shall automatically cease to be a full member.
12. The Committee shall have power to remove any member from membership of the Association if it considers that it is in the interests of the Association to do so.

History

Adopted: 7.3.95

Amended: 20.4.96, 17.4.99, 8.4.00, 18.5.02, 30.3.14, 9.4.16