

THE MISSISSIPPI JUSTICE COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION

Articles and By-laws

As amended at the 2010 fall meeting

ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be The Mississippi Justice Court Judges Association, a non-profit Association of Justice Court Judges of the State of Mississippi.

ARTICLE II – OBJECT OF ORGANIZATION

The object of this organization shall be to dedicate ourselves to the highest principles, morals, and responsibilities of the office in all respects. Each elected official shall enforce the laws of the State of Mississippi without fear or favor and equal justice to all. To establish, as far as possible, a uniform system of procedure, costs, fines, and other matters coming before Justice Courts and to work together for the common good of all Justice Court Judges. To promote judicial function and improve public image, receive and accept grants from public and private sources that may become available to the corporation, enter into contracts, and pay for service rendered. To the end that these principles may be established, we pledge obedience to the laws of the state and nation and to conduct ourselves in accordance with the moral laws of society and God.

ARTICLE III – QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Any Justice Court Judge of the State of Mississippi, who is interested in the objectives of the organization shall be considered for membership.

Section 2 – Any prospective member shall be a qualified elected Justice Court Judge of Mississippi before they are considered for membership.

Section 3 – A prospective member must send or pay annual dues of \$250.00 to be a member in good standing of the Association, (amended at the Fall business meeting 2010).

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1 – The officers of this organization shall be the President, Northern Vice-

President, Central Vice-President, Southern Vice-President, Executive Director, Secretary-Treasurer, Chaplain and Board of Directors consisting of six members, two from each Supreme Court District.

Section 2—The officers of the organization shall perform the duties prescribed for them in the parliamentary authority.

Section 3—No member shall hold the office of President for three consecutive terms. An unexpired term of an Executive Board Member or Committee Member shall be filled by appointment of the President.

Section 4—The immediate Past President may be selected by the members of the Executive Board to be a member of the Executive Board for a one year term, with full voting privileges and an additional term for as long as they have the title of immediate Past President.

Section 5 – The Presidency shall rotate to a different Supreme Court District each year. The exception shall be a President who succeeds themselves for an additional one year term.

Section 6—The incorporation officers shall be the President of their successor in office, the Executive Director or their successor in office, and the Secretary-Treasurer of their successor in office. The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as resident agent with their address being the official location of the corporation.

ARTICLE V – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1—President. The President shall have general supervision of the Association, shall be the presiding officer at state conventions, shall call state meetings and meetings of committees when necessary, shall co-operate with all other organizations, shall represent the Association by themselves or send a delegate to meetings of other organizations, when invited, may invite representatives of other organizations to attend meeting of our association, shall give notice to the Secretary of all state or committee meetings, shall keep all officers informed of all matters relating to the business of the Association and of the office of the Presidency. The President shall be an officer of the Incorporation. The President will only vote to

break a tie, and they shall allocate all funds for state purposes as deemed necessary. The President will be allowed the state rate per mile for travel expenses.

Section 2—Vice-Presidents. Fulfilling the duties of the President in their absence, co-operate with the President in their official duties, and serve as program chairman. Prepare the records of different committees. President to designate what committees each Vice-President will be responsible for. One Vice-President shall be elected from each Supreme Court District. The Vice-Presidents shall be allowed the state rate per mile for travel expenses.

Section 3—Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be a member of the Executive Board and will serve as coordinator for the state association. They shall serve as a member of the Legislative Committee and shall present the legislative program under the direction of the Executive Board. They shall keep the President and board members informed on all matters concerning the activities of this organization. They will have authority to make policy statements on how the Association stands on given subject matter of issues. The Executive Director shall attend all regular and special meetings of the Executive Board. They shall give notice to the President or other proper officers or members, of matters coming to their attention regarding the Association requiring their attention. The Executive Director shall keep records of state, district and county officers and members as furnished by the Secretary-Treasurer. They will be allowed actual expenses incurred while in performance of the duties required for the Association and the state rate for miles traveled. It shall be their duty to keep the public aware of the good things the Association is doing. The Executive Director shall have the authority to sign leases, contracts, or other documents for the Association upon the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 4—Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer will be a member of the Executive Board and shall attend all regular and special meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board, shall receive and receipt all funds coming into the Association's treasury and deposit same in designated depository and pay them out on request of proper membership and other Association minutes, shall keep all records of state, district, and county members. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be paid a salary of \$600.00 per month. They will be allowed actual expenses incurred and the state rate for miles traveled to the Association and account for all expenses taken from the depository. All expenses shall be approved by the President or a member of the Executive Board. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be bonded in the

amount of \$2000.00 bond premium to be paid by the Association. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be a voting member of the Executive Board and a member of the incorporation. The Secretary-Treasurer will send notices to officers of meetings that apply to them, shall send annual notice of dues to all Justice Court Judges.

Section 5—Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of six members. The Board of Directors shall attend all state business meetings and such other meetings as shall be necessary, shall promulgate reasonable rules and regulations for the Association to abide by, these rules may be changed or made void by a majority vote of the membership, the Board of Directors will be members of the Executive Board. The members of the Board of Directors will be allowed actual expenses incurred and the state rate for miles traveled.

ARTICLE VI—ELECTIONS

Section 1—In order to be a candidate for elected or appointed officer of this Association, you must be a member in good standing. You must also be a member in good standing to participate in the election process.

Section 2—Officers shall be nominated from the floor or by personally registering with the Secretary at the fall meeting to be held each year in the month designated by the Executive Board. The election shall be by paper ballot. If more than six are nominated for Board of Directors, the six highest votes shall be seated, provided these represent two from each Supreme Court District. The officers will hold their office for one fiscal year. The new officials will take over their duties after their election. To be eligible for nomination to serve as an officer of this Association, each nominee must be a member of the Association in good standing for a period of at least two (2) years prior to their election.

Section 3—The election of officers shall take place at the Fall Seminar, (This was Amended at the Justice Court Judges Spring Seminar Business meeting in 2010).

Section 4—There shall be one (1) member elected to serve on the Mississippi Judicial Board of Governors at the Fall 2010 Seminar and every three (3) years thereafter. Said member shall take office January 1st. If that person is defeated in an election or vacates the office for any reason, a replacement for the unexpired term will be appointed by the Executive Board of the Justice Court Judges Association

until the next Fall Seminar. They shall be a member of the Executive Board with full voting privileges.

ARTICLE VII—MEETINGS

Section 1—There shall be a state meeting of all members of the Association three (3) times a year, at the fall seminar, spring seminar and State convention at a time set by the President and Executive Board and dues are due before the election of officers, (amended at the fall seminar business meeting in 2002).

Section 2—There shall be a meeting of the Executive Board in January, May, July, and October called by the President naming the time and place, or a time prescribed by the Executive Board. The Executive Board will meet immediately preceding the convention in order to complete pre-convention plans. There shall be no business meeting on a Sunday except in cases of an emergency.

Section 3—Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the President or at the request of ten (10) members.

Section 4—At regular meetings of the Association and Executive Board, members present may transact business by a majority vote. A majority vote of the membership shall be necessary to decide any issue.

Section 5—Any Executive Board member missing two (2) consecutive board meetings is subject to replacement.

Section 6—Eight (8) members present shall create a quorum for a meeting of the Executive Board.

Section 7—The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President or at the request of three (3) members of the committee.

ARTICLE VIII—COMMITTEES

Section 1—The Executive Committee will consist of the President, Vice-Presidents, Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer.

THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT. THERE SHALL BE EIGHT (8) COMMITTEES.

Section 2—LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE. It shall consist of seven (7) members and the chairman shall serve for a one year term. The duty of this committee is to keep the Association up-to-date on all legislation that could affect us directly or indirectly. To push for laws that would continue to improve our office.

Section 3—MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. It shall consist of seven (7) members. Their duties shall be to contact all prospective members and organize membership campaigns to recruit members.

Section 4—CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE. There shall be five (5) members of this committee. They shall meet at the request of the President or Executive Board or by call from the Constitution and By-Laws Chairman. The purpose of this committee is to review the Constitution and By-Laws each year. To keep them current and up-to-date as to the needs of the Association.

Section 5—STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEE. A committee of six (6) members shall make up the State Convention Committee. Their duties shall be to make all arrangements and preparations for the State Convention.

Section 6—CHAPLAIN. There shall be one (1) member to serve as Chaplain. The President and the Chaplain together will appoint a Benevolence Committee consisting of three (3) members, one from each Supreme Court District, whose duties will be to send flowers and cards to members that have sickness or death in their immediate family. The Chaplain shall be a member of the Executive Board with full voting privileges.

Section 7—SERGEANT-AT-ARMS. It shall consist of three (3) members. Their duty is to keep order at all meetings.

Section 8—AUDIT COMMITTEE. It shall consist of three (3) members. Their duty is to have a complete audit once per year to be presented to the Association at the annual convention.

Section 9—LIAISON COMMITTEE TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT. It shall consist of five (5) members. Their duty shall be to

represent the needs of the Association to the Supreme Court and to report back to the Association any correspondence.

Section 10—COMMITTEE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE ASSOCIATION. It shall consist of six (6) members. There shall be two (2) members chosen from each Supreme Court district to be on this committee. Their duty shall be to assist members in any way that they can, to be better Judges and better members of the Association. They may offer guidance on ethical issues and legal issues but they shall never commit the Association in a financial agreement without the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 11—All committees will meet as needed to work out details on given subjects, to report its findings for the Executive Board to accept or reject their findings. All committees must submit their report to the board before any committee action. Committee members are allowed travel expenses at the state rate for miles traveled to special meetings that have been approved by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IX—EXPENDITURES

Section 1—The Executive Board shall be paid the state rate for miles traveled to state meetings, and \$5.00 for one meal or a maximum of \$15.00 per day. A claim must be filed with the Secretary-Treasurer stating miles traveled to what meeting.

Section 2—The Executive Committee shall have the authority to spend up to \$200.00 of the Association’s treasury without the approval of the whole membership of the Association.

ARTICLE X—STANDING RULES

Section 1—To create a listing of all of the counties in Mississippi and which Supreme Court District they are located.

NORTHERN SUPREME COURT DISTRICT

ALCORN, ATTALA, BENTON, CALHOUN, CARROLL, CHICKASAW, CHOCTAW, CLAY, COAHOMA, DESOTO, GRENADA, ITAWAMBA, LAFAYETTE, LEE, LEFLORE, LOWNDES, MARSHALL, MONROE, MONTGOMERY, OKTIBBEHA, PANOLA, PONTOTOC, PRENTISS,

QUITMAN, TALLAHATCHIE, TATE, TIPPAH, TISHOMINGO, TUNICA, UNION, WEBSTER, WINSTON, YALOBUSHA.

CENTRAL SUPREME COURT DISTRICT

BOLIVAR, CLAIBORNE, COPIAH, HINDS, HOLMES, HUMPHREYS, ISSAQUENA, JEFFERSON, KEMPER, LAUDERDALE, LEAKE, MADISON, NESHOPA, NEWTON, NOXUBEE, RANKIN, SCOTT, SHARKEY, SUNFLOWER, WARREN, WASHINGTON, YAZOO.

SOUTHERN SUPREME COURT DISTRICT

ADAMS, AMITE, CLARKE, COVINGTON, FORREST, FRANKLIN, GEORGE, GREENE, HANCOCK, HARRISON, JACKSON, JASPER, JEFFERSON DAVIS, JONES, LAMAR, LAWRENCE, LINCOLN, MARION, PEARL RIVER, PERRY, PIKE, SIMPSON, SMITH, STONE, WALTHALL, WAYNE, WILKINSON.

Section 2—Definition of term of office. One (1) year. Beginning with the election of officers at the Fall Seminar and ending at the next Fall Seminar elections. Unless otherwise specified in these By-Laws.

Section 3—Any member of this Association is eligible to participate in a drawing for a scholarship sponsored by the Association to attend the National Judicial College or a nationally recognized program. A member of the Association can only be selected to attend on a scholarship one time per elected term of office and the member selected must be in good standing with the Mississippi Judicial College, (must be current and up-to-date with required Judicial training). This provision includes scholarships sponsored by the Mississippi Justice Court Judges Association and the Mississippi Judicial Board of Governors.