

TITLE 3. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Adopted July 2007

DIVISION 2. ATTORNEY MEMBERS

Chapter 1. Sections of the State Bar

Rule 3.50 Definition

“Sections” are voluntary organizations of State Bar members and non-member affiliates that share an area of interest.

Rule 3.50 adopted effective May 16, 2008; amended effective November 10, 2014.

Rule 3.51 Scope of Sections

Sections serve the profession, the public, and the legal system by helping their members maintain expertise in various fields of law and expanding their professional contacts. Specific purposes and duties of sections are described in their bylaws.

Rule 3.51 adopted effective May 16, 2008.

Rule 3.52 Section membership

- (A) Section membership is open to members of the State Bar or judges of courts of record.
- (B) A section’s bylaws may authorize enrollment of non-members of the State Bar as affiliate members. No more than one-fourth of all section members may be non-member affiliates. An affiliate member has all the privileges of section membership and may
 - (1) serve as an officer;
 - (2) serve as a member of a committee; or
 - (3) nominate, select, or serve as members of its executive committee.

Rule 3.52 adopted effective May 16, 2008; amended effective September 24, 2008; amended effective November 21, 2008; amended effective November 10, 2014.

Rule 3.53 Section membership fees

Section membership requires payment to the State Bar of an annual fee. The fees are set by the Sections Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Trustees to defray the cost of administering the sections.

Rule 3.53 adopted effective May 16, 2008; amended effective January 1, 2012.

Rule 3.54 Executive Committee

- (A) A section must have an executive committee of at least fifteen but no more than seventeen members. Each member is appointed by the Board of Trustees for a three-year term to govern the section and to assist the board as it directs. Executive Committee members are permitted to serve as an officer, in a fourth year, or as Chair, Vice Chair or Chair-elect in a fifth year, or as Chair, in a sixth year. Executive committee members must take an oath of office and are not entitled to compensation for their services.
- (B) Executive committee members assume office on the last day of the State Bar's annual meeting and serve until their successors assume office. A vacant position is filled by the board for the unexpired term. If the section is new, the board appoints seven members for three years; five members for two years; and five members for one year.
- (C) Nominations for the executive committee may be made by the executive committee or by at least fifteen members of the section upon petition.
- (D) A majority of the section executive committee constitutes a quorum for transacting business at a committee meeting or by poll.
- (E) The executive committee may appoint non-voting advisors who serve at the pleasure of the committee.

Rule 3.54 adopted effective May 16, 2008; amended effective January 1, 2012; amended effective July 19, 2013.

Rule 3.55 Officers of the section executive committee

- (A) The Board of Trustees must appoint as chair and vice-chair of the executive committee members who have served on the committee at least a year at the time of assuming office. The committee must recommend candidates for these offices to the board.
- (B) The chair and vice-chair assume office on the last day of the State Bar's annual meeting and serve until their successors assume office. A vacant position is filled by the board for the unexpired term.

Rule 3.55 adopted effective May 16, 2008; amended effective January 1, 2012.

Rule 3.56 Section committees

One or more standing or ad hoc committees composed of section members may be established as provided by the bylaws of the section.

Rule 3.56 adopted effective May 16, 2008.

Rule 3.57 Bylaws

- (A) Each Section's bylaws must be approved by the Board of Trustees. After the Board of Trustees has approved the bylaws of a new section, the bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the executive committee.
- (B) An amendment must be filed with the Secretary at the San Francisco office of the State Bar and will not take effect until approved by the Board of Trustees.

Rule 3.57 adopted effective May 16, 2008; amended effective January 1, 2012.