

CHARTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION

To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come:

WHEREAS, The corporate powers heretofore possessed by The Law Association of Philadelphia are derived from the Charter of The Law Library Company of the City of Philadelphia, dated the thirteenth day of March, A. D. 1802; the Amended Charter granted to The Law Association of Philadelphia upon the union of The Law Library Company of the City of Philadelphia aforesaid with The Associated Members of the Bar of Philadelphia, on the second day of April, A. D. 1827, and various amendments thereto;

AND WHEREAS the name, style and title of The Law Association of Philadelphia was on the twenty-fifth day of February, A. D. 1931 changed to the PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION;

AND WHEREAS, It is the purpose of these presents to make certain improvements, amendments and alterations in the Charter of said Association and, as so improved, amended and altered, to restate such Charter in its entirety;

NOW THEREFORE, **[KNOW ALL MEN, THAT]**the PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION aforesaid does under the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, approved the fifth day of May, A. D. 1933, Pamphlet Laws 289, as amended, hereby adopt this instrument as the amended and restated ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION thereof and does accept the same in lieu of the Charter and amendments thereto heretofore in force.

I. NAME

The name of the corporation is PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION.

II. REGISTERED OFFICE

The registered office of the Association shall be located at the City Hall for the City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, or such other place within the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as may be provided from time to time by the Board of Governors of the Association.

III. OBJECTS

This Association is formed to further the cause of justice; to sustain and improve the law and its administration; to uphold and maintain the rights, the honor and the dignity of the Bar and of the Bench; to advance diversity, inclusion, and full participation of all members of the bar in all aspects of the profession; to obtain and retain a faithful, efficient and independent judiciary; **[to cause the punishment and removal from office of all incompetent or guilty persons who are in any way connected with the administration of justice or in charge of the public records; to maintain a law library;]**and to perpetuate the history of the profession and the memory of its members. The Association does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise, to its members.

IV. TERM OF EXISTENCE

The existence of the Association shall be perpetual.

V. MEMBERSHIP

The Association is organized on a nonstock basis. Its membership shall consist of such members of the legal profession as are admitted to membership in accordance with the by-laws.

VI. MEETINGS

The meetings of the Association shall be held at such times and in such places as may be fixed by the by-laws.

VII. OFFICERS AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The officers of the Association shall be a president, who shall be the Chancellor of the Association, a Chancellor-Elect, a Vice-Chancellor, a Treasurer, a Secretary, an Assistant Treasurer, and an Assistant Secretary. A Treasurer and a Secretary shall be elected to serve for one year from the first day of January succeeding their election and until their successors are elected and qualified. A Vice-Chancellor shall be elected to serve for one year in the capacity of Vice-Chancellor with an automatic annual succession to the offices of Chancellor-Elect and Chancellor, respectively, from the first day of January succeeding [\[his\]the Vice Chancellor's](#) election and until [\[his\]a](#) successor is elected and qualified. An Assistant Treasurer and an Assistant Secretary shall be selected in such manner and to serve for such term as is prescribed in the by-laws.

There shall also be a Board of Governors, consisting of such officers, such a number of the past Chancellors of this Association, and such a number of other eligible members of the Association as the by-laws shall prescribe, to serve for such a term and to be elected as provided in the by-laws, subject, however, to suspension or removal for such cause and in such manner as the by-laws shall prescribe. Said Board shall perform such duties as shall be provided by the by-laws or by resolution of the Association, and, subject thereto, shall have general charge of the business affairs of the Association. Vacancies in the offices of Chancellor, Chancellor-Elect, Vice-Chancellor, Treasurer, Secretary, Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary, and in the Board of Governors, shall be filled as provided by the by-laws.

VIII. SUSPENSION, EXPULSION AND DETERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Any member of the Association may be suspended or expelled in such manner and for such cause as the by-laws shall prescribe, but the disbarment of any member of the Association who is a member of the Bar shall *ipso facto* work [\[his\]such member's](#) expulsion from the Association. In case of the death, resignation or expulsion of a member, all [\[his\]such member's](#) rights and interest in the property of the Association shall thereupon cease and determine.