# AMENDED BY-LAWS OF THE GARFIELD COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION FIRST ENACTED SEPTEMBER 17, 1938

#### **PREAMBLE**

The By-Laws of the Garfield County Bar Association, first enacted on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 1938 and amended at various times thereafter, are hereby repealed, revoked and replaced with these Amended By-Laws of the Garfield County Bar Association, enacted this 11th day of September, 2018. The original of these Amended By-Laws shall be maintained in the office of the Garfield County District Court Clerk in the Binder containing the Special Resolutions of this Association.

### ARTICLE I Name and Purposes

- **1.1 Name.** The name of the association shall be "GARFIELD COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION," hereinafter referred to as the "Association."
- **Objectives.** The Objectives of the Association are:

To protect and improve the administration of justice.

To promote the highest standards of professional competence, integrity and ethical conduct, and to provide opportunities for professional growth.

To serve the professional needs of all lawyers, encourage their membership and active participation in the Association, and promote the collegiality and civility of the legal profession.

To enhance diversity and ensure the full and equal participation of all men and women in the Association and in the legal profession.

To facilitate the availability and delivery of quality legal services to the public, including those with limited or no ability to pay for such services.

To educate the public and engender public understanding of, and appreciation and respect for, the legal system and the role of the lawyer within the system.

To provide for quality and efficient bar governance and management.

To serve as the voice of Garfield County lawyers in monitoring and influencing public policy issues affecting the judicial system and the legal profession.

To better the overall quality of members' practices and their professional lives.

To provide services improving the quality of life of the citizens of Garfield County.

The Garfield County Bar Association is not organized for profit and no part of the net earnings will inure to the benefit of any private member or individual.

### ARTICLE II Membership and Dues

- **2.1 General.** Any member in good standing of the Oklahoma Bar Association may become a member of the Association upon payment of the applicable annual dues for attorneys as hereinafter set out.
- **2.2 Honorary Vance Air Force Base Members.** The persons holding the following offices/positions at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, Oklahoma, shall be deemed honorary members of the Association, with no payment of dues required: Staff Judge Advocate, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, and Chief, Civil Law. Honorary Members shall not have voting privileges or be entitled to hold office in the Association.
- **2.3 Legal Assistants.** Any legal assistant employed as an administrative assistant or paralegal by a member of the Association may become a member of the Association upon payment of the applicable annual dues for legal assistants as hereinafter set out.
- **2.4 Active Members.** Active members (hereinafter "Active Members") shall include all dues paying members who are members in good standing of the Oklahoma Bar Association.
- **2.5 Rights of Active Members.** The Active Members (hereinafter "Member" or "Members") of the Association shall be qualified to hold office, vote or to furnish any necessary consents, approval or ratification or take any other action on any other issue that may properly come before any meeting of the Members.

#### 2.6 Dues.

- **A.** Use and Purpose. Dues shall be held by the Treasurer for the use and benefit of the Association, subject to disbursement as ordered by the Executive Committee or in accordance with these By-Laws.
- **B.** Amount. The dues of each Active Member attorney under the age of seventy (70) shall be One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150.00). The dues of each Active Member seventy years (70) years of age or over shall be One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). The dues of any Active Member who had reached the age of sixty-five (65) by January 1, 2018 shall also be One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00). The dues of each Member legal assistant shall be Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00). For any new Member who has never previously been a member of the Association, there will be no pro rating of dues. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no dues shall be owed by a new Member with respect to the year in which the Member is admitted to the Oklahoma Bar Association, and no dues shall be owed by Honorary Vance Air Force Base Members.

- **C. Payments.** Annual dues shall be due and payable before January 1st of each year. All dues shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Association.
- D. Suspension for Non-Payment. If a Member's dues are not paid prior to January 10th in any year, such Member shall be automatically suspended from membership of the Association and may be reinstated only after the payment of such dues. A suspended Member shall not exercise any rights or privileges of membership in the Association and shall neither vote nor hold or be nominated or chosen for an elective office in the Association during the period of suspension. A suspended Member shall not be eligible to attend the Annual Meeting of the Association during the month of December. A suspended Member may abate their suspension through full payment of the dues owed for that year.
- E. Continuing Legal Education. The Association will strive to provide programs at the monthly meetings of the Association that have been approved for MCLE credit by the Oklahoma Bar Association. All Active Members will have the opportunity to earn MCLE credit by attending the monthly meetings of the Association where such programs are offered and signing the CLE sign-in sheet at the meeting.

Suspended Members and non-members will not receive MCLE credit for attendance at meetings where approved MCLE credit programs are presented unless: 1) the suspended Member pays his/her dues in full within twenty (20) days of the date of the presentation of the program for which MCLE credit is sought; or, 2) the non-member becomes an Active Member by payment of dues, as established above, within twenty (20) days of the date of the presentation of the program for which MCLE credit is sought; or, 3) the suspended Member or non-member pays the Association for the MCLE program at the time of the presentation of the program for which MCLE credit is sought. The cost for suspended Members or non-members of an MCLE program presented at a regular meeting of the Association is Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), unless otherwise announced prior to the program. The cost for suspended Members or non-members of an MCLE program presented other than at a regularly scheduled meeting will be announced prior to the program.

**2.7 Dissolution.** Should the Association disband or be dissolved, the Association shall dispose of all unencumbered funds of the Association by donating them to Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, if, at the time of such dissolution, Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma has an office located in Garfield County, Oklahoma. If Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma does not have an office in Garfield County, Oklahoma, then such unencumbered funds of the Association existing at the time of such dissolution shall be donated to the Oklahoma Bar Foundation, or to such other foundation, organization or trust which qualifies as an exempt organization as defined in Section 501 (c) of the Internal Revenue Code, or equivalent provisions in succeeding enactments as chosen by a majority of the Members at the time of disbanding or dissolution of the Association.

### ARTICLE III Meetings

- **3.1 Regular Meeting.** The Association shall hold monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of the month in the months of January, February, March, April, May, September, October and November at twelve noon (12:00 p.m.) at a location to be determined and announced by the Executive Committee.
- **3.2 Annual Meeting.** The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held at the Association Banquet in December of each year at the date, time and location announced by the Executive Committee.
- **3.3 Special Meeting.** Special meetings of the Association may be held when called by the President, by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, or by a unanimous vote of the Resolution Committee.
- **3.4 Notice.** No notice shall be necessary for regularly scheduled meetings. Notice by mail or email to the contact information as shown on the records of the Association shall be given to Members of the Association of all annual and special meetings. All notices or calls of special meetings shall state the purpose, time and place of the meeting. Such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to each Member, with postage thereon prepaid, or when the notice is e-mailed to the Members to the contact information as shown on the records of the Association.
- **3.5 Quorum.** Twenty-five (25) Members of the Association present in person shall constitute a quorum for any meeting.
- **3.6 Voting at Meetings.** At each meeting of the membership, each Active Member shall be entitled to vote in person. No proxy shall be recognized at any meeting of the Association. Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, all questions shall be decided, and all business transacted by a majority vote of those present in person.

#### ARTICLE IV Officers

- **4.1 Members Eligible to be Officers.** Active Members are eligible to be officers of the Association if the Active Member has signed the Roll of Attorneys at the Garfield County Courthouse, is current on all owed dues, and has been an Active Member for the two (2) consecutive years prior to taking office.
- **4.2 Officers.** The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The slate of nominees for officers shall be voted on at the regular meeting in November of each year and the officers shall take office at the Annual Meeting in December. All officers shall serve without compensation. The powers and duties of all officers shall be determined by the Bylaws of the Association.

- **4.3 Nomination of Secretary, Vice-President and President.** Each officer other than the Treasurer will serve a one-year term in office. Each year, the next person listed on the Roll of Attorneys at the Garfield County Courthouse, following the name of the immediate past Secretary, if said person qualifies as an eligible Active Member, as defined in ¶ 4.1, shall be nominated as incoming Secretary. The immediate past Secretary shall be nominated to serve as Vice President. The immediate past Vice President shall be nominated to serve as President. Nominations shall also be taken from the floor at the regular meeting at which the election of officers is held.
- **4.4 Method of Nomination of Secretary, Vice President and President in the Event a Successor declines to serve.** A Member may decline to serve as an officer if he or she so chooses. In the event a Member declines to serve as Secretary, the next eligible person on the Roll of Attorneys at the Garfield County Courthouse, willing to serve, will be nominated for the office. In the event the immediate past Secretary declines to serve as Vice President, or the immediate past Vice President declines to serve as President, nominations will be submitted by the Executive Committee and nominations may be taken from the floor at the meeting at which the election of officers is held.
- 4.5 Nomination and Term of Treasurer. The Treasurer will be nominated by the President from the membership of the Association. Should the Treasurer wish to resign, then the Treasurer shall give a sixty (60) day resignation notice and assist with transferring all necessary information to the new Treasurer. If a Member is serving as Treasurer when his or her name comes up on the Roll of Attorneys for service as Secretary, the Treasurer may defer his or her service in such other office until he or she is no longer serving as Treasurer. In the event of such deferral, the Member will be deemed to be the next eligible Member on the Roll of Attorneys to serve as Secretary, following the end of his or her term in office as Treasurer.
- **4.6 President's Duties.** The President shall be responsible for the following:
  - Providing the leadership of the Association for the year each President should strive to further the stated Objectives of the Association during his or her term in office;
  - Chairing all meetings of the Association;
  - · Creating Special Committees;
  - Appointing the chair persons and members for each committee;
  - Serving as a non-voting ex-officio Member of all committees of which the President is not a named member;
  - Calling special meetings;
  - Serving as the contact between the Association and the Oklahoma Bar Association, including, but not limited to reporting the:
    - o Name and contact information of the Law Day Chairperson;
    - o Names and contact information for the Association officers;
    - o Names of OBA Delegates;
    - o Association Law Day Activities;
    - List of Association Award recipients; and
    - Death of any Association member;
  - Serving as a Member of the House of Delegates of the Oklahoma Bar Association, and the Chair of the Garfield County delegation; and

• Nominating Delegates to represent the Association at the Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Bar Association.

#### **4.7 Vice President.** The Vice President shall be responsible for the following:

- Serving as Acting President when the President is absent or unable to act;
- Scheduling programs and speakers for the regular meetings of the Association;
- Obtaining MCLE course approval from the Oklahoma Bar Association for the programs and speakers at the regular meetings;
- Reporting to the Oklahoma Bar Association for MCLE credit the Member attendance at the approved MCLE courses presented at the regular meetings;
- Serving as a Member of the House of Delegates of the Oklahoma Bar Association; and
- Any other duties as assigned by the President.

#### **4.8 Secretary.** The Secretary shall be responsible for the following:

- Sending notices to Members;
- Keeping the minutes of all meetings of the Association, including regular and special meetings, and presenting them at the next regular meeting for a vote of approval;
- Maintaining the Book of Minutes; and
- Any other duties as assigned by the President.

### **4.9 Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for the following:

- Securing the location for regular meetings of the Association, including negotiating and signing the contract with the facility;
- Maintaining the bank account(s) for the Association;
- Presenting the financial report at each regular meeting;
- Receiving, recording, and depositing all dues payments;
- Maintaining a list of current dues paying Members;
- Sending dues statements to the Members by November 15 each year and following up with Members who have not paid;
- Issuing payment from Association funds for all expenditures approved by the Association;
- Funding the Association law school scholarships;
- Maintaining a current list of all Association Award Recipients; and
- Any other duties as assigned by the President.

**4.10 Resignation, Removal, Death or Disability of Officer.** In the event of the resignation, removal, death or disability of an officer, an interim successor shall be chosen by the remaining members of the Executive Committee to serve until a successor takes office at the next Annual Meeting.

### ARTICLE V Committees or Sections

- **5.1 Creation.** All standing committees shall be created by these Bylaws. The President may create any Special Committees and designate the name and function of each. No Special Committee shall survive beyond the term of the President who created it unless the incoming President approves the continuation of the Special Committee.
- **5.2 Committee Chairs.** The President shall appoint the Chairpersons of each committee. Committee chairs shall be Active Members of the Association, unless otherwise stated in these By-Laws.
- **5.3 Committee Members.** The President shall appoint the members of the committees. Committee Chairpersons may recommend members for their committees. Any Active Member of the Association is qualified to serve on any committee. Committee membership is also open to qualified individuals who are not Members of the Association (hereinafter "Nonmember").
- **5.4 Actions of Committees.** The actions of any committees shall be subject to the approval of the Executive Committee unless the Committee is specifically authorized by the Association or these Bylaws to take a specified action without further approval.
- **5.5 Standing Committees.** The following committees are standing committees and shall have the following responsibilities:
  - **A. Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Committee will be responsible for determining the location of the regular meetings, approving the location of the Annual Meeting proposed by the Social Committee, approving the expenditure of Association funds for use by the Association and its committees, and all other actions delegated to the Executive Committee throughout these By-Laws.
  - **B. Resolution Committee.** The Resolution Committee shall consist of a chairperson and two members. The Resolution Committee will be responsible for drafting Resolutions of the Association in memory of any Member of the Association who has died and providing a copy of the Resolution to the Garfield County Court Clerk and to the surviving spouse, or next of kin of the deceased Member.
  - **C.** Website Committee. The Website Committee shall consist of a chairperson and at least two members. The Website Committee will be responsible for maintaining the Association's website.
  - **D.** Vance Airforce Base Relations Committee. The Vance Airforce Base Relations (VABR) Committee shall have co-chairpersons, one being the President of the Association and one being a Vance Air Force Base Honorary Member. The VABR Committee co-chairpersons may determine the number of members of the committee. The VABR Committee will be responsible for enhancing and improving relations between Vance Air Force Base personnel

and the Association and proposing and pursuing programs and ideas that would help the Association's Membership better serve the needs of Vance Air Force Base personnel.

- **E. Social Committee.** The Social Committee shall consist of a chairperson and at least two members. The Social Committee will be responsible for planning the Annual Meeting of the Association, planning social events for the Association throughout the year to improve participation in the Association and encourage new membership, and planning a Summer MCLE program for the Association.
- **F. Bench and Bar Committee.** The Bench and Bar Committee shall consist of cochairpersons, one a Member who is a practicing attorney and one a Member who is a sitting Judge in Garfield County. The Bench and Bar Committee co-chairpersons may determine the number of members of the committee. The Bench and Bar Committee will be responsible for encouraging an atmosphere of civility and courtesy in the court room and fostering continued good relations between the judiciary and all other members of the bar.
- **G. Law Day Committee.** The Law Day Committee shall consist of a chairperson and at least two members. The Law Day Committee shall be responsible for planning Law Day activities for the Association that will help to educate the Garfield County citizens regarding their liberties under the law and the American court system. The chairperson of the Law Day Committee shall be responsible for coordinating and communicating with the Oklahoma Bar Association regarding Law Day activities.
- **H. Awards Committee.** The Awards Committee shall consist of a chairperson and at least two members. The Awards Committee shall be responsible for accepting awards nominations from the Membership and determining the Awards to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association. Annual Association Awards may include:
  - Lifetime Achievement Award;
  - Professionalism Award;
  - Outstanding Young Lawyer Award; and
  - Ann Overstreet Pro Bono Award.

However, the Awards Committee is not required to select a recipient every year for each of the above-listed Awards.

The Awards Committee shall also be responsible for ordering and obtaining the certificates and plaques to be presented to the award recipients at the Annual Meeting. The Awards Committee may propose the establishment of any new awards, and the criteria to be met by a recipient of any such award to the Executive Committee for approval.

I. Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee shall consist of co-chairpersons, one of whom shall be a sitting Judge who is a Member of the Association. The Legislative Committee co-chairpersons may determine the number of members of the committee. The Legislative Committee shall be responsible for responding to questions from local legislators regarding the impact of existing or proposed legislation. The Legislative Committee shall also

work to develop an ongoing productive relationship between our elected officials and the Bench and Bar, so that Members of the Association can more effectively voice opinions about proposed or existing legislation.

### ARTICLE VI Contracts, Loans, Checks, Deposits and Gifts

- **6.1 Contracts.** Unless stated otherwise in these Bylaws, the Executive Committee may authorize any officer of the Association to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Association, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.
- **6.2 Borrowing.** No loan shall be contracted on behalf of the Association and no evidence of indebtedness shall be issued in its name unless authorized by a resolution of a majority vote of Association Members attending the meeting where such resolution is presented. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.
- **6.3 Checks. Drafts.** All checks, drafts or other orders for the payments of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Association shall be signed by the Treasurer.
- **6.4 Deposits.** All funds of the Association shall be deposited from time to time by the Treasurer to the credit of the Association in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Executive Committee may select.
- **6.5 Gifts.** The Executive Committee may accept on behalf of the Association any contribution, gift, bequest or devise for the general purposes or for any specific purpose of the Association.

# ARTICLE VII No Private Inurement: Compliance with Tax Laws

- **7.1 No Inurement to Members.** No member or officer of the Association or any private individual shall be entitled to share in the net earnings of the Association or in the distribution of any of the Association assets on dissolution.
- **7.2 No Inurement to Private Individual.** At no time, either on dissolution or prior thereto, shall any part of the funds or assets of the Association inure to the benefit of any private individual (other than by grants in aid in conformity with the purposes of the Association or as a paid employee of the Association as authorized by the Executive Committee).

# ARTICLE VIII Amendment and Maintenance of By-Laws

**8.1 Non-Substantive Amendments Authorized.** The Executive Committee is authorized to make non-substantive amendments to these By-Laws as needed. Non-substantive amendments

include: minor grammatical corrections; changes in section and subsection numbers; and any other minor amendments that do not affect the substance of the original.

- **8.2 Proposals for Amendments.** Proposals for amendments to the By-Laws may be submitted to the Executive Committee by any member of the Executive Committee or by a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the Active Members of the Association.
- **8.3 Notice of Proposed Amendments.** At least two weeks prior to any meeting where a proposed amendment is to be voted upon by the Membership, the Secretary shall provide the Membership notice in writing, by electronic mail or United States Mail, of amendments that have been proposed in accordance with the procedures in this Article.
- **8.4 Voting Procedure for Proposed Amendments.** Where amendments have been proposed, in accordance with the procedures in this Article they may be submitted to the Membership for a vote at the next regular meeting, following the notice period required by this Article, at which a quorum is present and may be approved by a majority vote of those present and voting.

### ARTICLE IX Effective Date

These Amended Bylaws are effective the 11th day of September, 2018 and any future amendments shall become effective upon adoption.

Julia C. Rieman, President

Russell N. Singleton, Vice President

Patrick Anderson, Secretary

Amber Gill, Treasurer