

CONSTITUTION OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA
Incorporating Amendments made up to 24th February 2018

WHEREAS prior to the 1st day of January, 1974 the legal profession of Sri Lanka consisted of two branches namely Advocates and Proctors, and was recognized as such by the Charters of Justice of 1802 and subsequent Charters till 1833 and thereafter by the Courts Ordinance No. 1 of 1889 with amending Ordinances and Acts thereto, and

WHEREAS a Council of Advocates of Sri Lanka called and known as the Bar Council of Sri Lanka was the representative of the Advocates of Sri Lanka whose principal duty was to deal with all matters affecting the profession of Advocates and to take such action relating thereto as was deemed expedient, and

WHEREAS there had been established an Association called the Ceylon Law Society which was subsequently incorporated under Ordinance No. 33 of 1947 and called the Law Society Ordinance, the primary object of which was to protect and promote the interests and welfare, rights and privileges of the profession of Proctors in Sri Lanka and of the public in relation to that profession, and

WHEREAS there was enacted by the National State Assembly of Sri Lanka the Administration of Justice Law No. 44 of 1973 which came into force on the 1st day of January, 1974, and

WHEREAS under and by virtue of such law the legal profession in Sri Lanka since 1974 consists only of Attorneys-at-Law, and the Advocates and Proctors of Sri Lanka are after such date deemed to be Attorneys-at-Law, and

WHEREAS the Advocates of Sri Lanka and the members of the Incorporated Law Society of Sri Lanka have in General Meeting resolved to form an Association called the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and for this purpose did appoint a Joint Committee consisting of the following members of the Bar Council viz. Messrs. E R S R Coomaraswamy, Nimal Senanayake, Desmond Fernando, W P Gunatilleke, D H Balachandra, Gamini Dissanayake, R K W Goonesekere, H M J Jayatissa Herath, H W Jayewardene, S J Kadirgamar, S Nadesan, A S Nicholas, P Rajasoriya, C Renganathan, N D M Samarakoon, G F Sethukavaler, K Shanmugalingam, Miss. A P Abeyratne, the Attorney General and Solicitor General (ex-officio) and the following from the Law Society of Sri Lanka viz. Messrs. Herman, J C Perera, U L M Farook, W J Fonseka, M M Fuard, S L M Cassim, T G Gooneratne, Q M R Jayamanne, P M Paul Pillai, T K N Thilakan, S Somasunderam, T P C Carron, C R de Alwis, T Sri Ramanathan with Elliot Gunasekera as Convenor to draft a Constitution for the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and to take all steps requisite for the establishment and inauguration of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, and

IN PURSUANCE OF THE FOREGOING THE ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW OF SRI LANKA IN GENERAL MEETING ASSEMBLED RESOLVED ON 9TH NOVEMBER 1974 TO FORM THEMSELVES INTO AN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NAME AND CONSTITUTION AS HEREIN AFTER SET OUT.

A Constitution Amendments Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Eric Amarasinghe PC, proposed a number of amendments to the Constitution in the years 1988/89 and those amendments were passed after a few modifications at a Special General Meeting of the Bar Council held on the 27th January 1990. Other members of the Committee were Mr. H L de Silva PC, Mr. N R M Daluwatta PC, Mr. K Kanag-Isvaran PC, Mr. Mervyn Canagaratne, Mr. W P Gunatilake, Mr. T G Gooneratne, Mr. Kandiah Neelakandan, Mr. Upali A. Gooneratne, Mr. H M Jayawardene, Mr. Desmond Fernando, President and Mr. Hemantha Warnakulasuriya, Secretary were the ex-officio members. Mr. Hemantha Warnakulasuriya was originally the Convenor and Mr. Kandiah Neelakandan (Asst. Secretary) succeeded him as the Convenor in April 1989. Further amendments were made by the Bar Council at its Special General Meeting held on the 28th September 1996 pursuant to recommendations made by a Constitution Amendments Committee consisting of Mr. T G Gooneratne, and Messrs. W P Gunatilake, H M Jayawardene, Upali A. Gooneratne, K P V B Karunaratne, G P Mahinkanda, K S Ratnavel and N R M Daluwatte PC, (then President), Anil Silva, (then Secretary), and M Ralapanawe (then Treasurer), as ex-officio members, with Mrs. Anoma Goonetilleke as Convenor.

Further amendments were made by the Bar Council at a Special General Meeting held on 13th November 2013, pursuant to a recommendation made by a Constitutional Amendment Committee consisting of Mr Upul Jayasuriya (then President) , Mr. Sanjaya Gamage(then Secretary), Mr. Prasanna Jayawardene PC (then Deputy President), Mr. Upul Deshapriya(then Treasurer) Mr. Charith Galhena(then Assistant Secretary) as Ex-Officio Members, and

Further amendments were made by the Bar Council at a Special General Meeting held on 25th February 2017, pursuant to a recommendation made by a Constitutional Amendment Committee consisting of Mr. Geoffrey Alagaratnam PC (then President) , Mr. Amal Randeniya (then Secretary), Mr. Saliya Peiris (then Deputy President), Mr. Dinoo Dharmaratna(then Treasurer) Mr. Rajitha Hathurusinghe (then Assistant Secretary) as Ex-Officio Members, and

Further amendments were made by the Bar Council at Special General Meetings held on 13th January 2018 and 24th February 2018, pursuant to recommendations made by a Constitutional Amendment Committee consisting of Mr. U R de Silva PC (then President) , Mr. Amal Randeniya (then Secretary), Mr. Ali Sabry PC(then Deputy President), Mr. Sujeewa Lal Dahanayake (then Treasurer) Mr. Rajitha Hathurusinghe (then Assistant Secretary) as Ex-Officio Members, and Mr Samantha Ratwatta PC, Mr Mahinda B K Lokuge , Mr Pradeep Gamage, Mr. Saliya Peiris PC. , Mr Athula Perera, Mr. Binara Gunasekera, Mr. Nishan Premathiratna, Mr. Dhanya Gunawardena , Mr. Charitha Jayawickrama, as other members.

	1. The Bar Association of Sri Lanka
Article 1:1 The Association	There shall be an Association called the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (hereafter referred to as the “Bar Association “) which shall consist of all Attorneys-at-Law of Sri Lanka
	2. Objects of the Association
Article 2:1 Objects	<p>The Objects of the Bar Association as constituted shall include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the maintenance of the honour and independence of the Bar of Sri Lanka; (b) the promotion and protection of the interests, welfare, rights and privileges of the Bar including the establishment of Provident and Welfare Schemes; (c) the promotion of good relations and co-operation between the Bar and the public, the Legislature, Judiciary and the Executive and lawyers of other countries; (d) the extension of co-operation and support towards the maintenance of the honour and independence of the Judiciary of Sri Lanka; (e) the consideration of matters of national importance relating to the Rule of Law and Administration of Justice and if need be, making of representations thereon to the Government and/or any other relevant authority and taking any further steps in respect thereof including filing of actions or intervening in actions in Courts of Justice. (f) the maintenance of standards of professional conduct by the promotion of honourable practice, prevention of malpractice and other conduct unworthy of an Attorney-at-Law, the formulation and interpretation of rules of professional conduct and etiquette, the settlement of disputed points of practice and the decision of all questions of professional etiquette, usage of courtesy between or among Attorneys-at-Law; (g) the appointment of such Committees as the Council may consider necessary either on its own or in consultation with the Judges of the Supreme Court, in connection with and for the maintenance of discipline in the profession; (h) the promotion, observance and the protection of Human Rights and liberties including the protection of the right of access to the Courts and of legal representation before Courts, Tribunals and other persons or bodies, judicial, administrative and investigating authorities; (i) the initiation, promotion and support of Law Reform and the improvement of the Administration of Justice and Judicial Procedure; (j) the consideration of all questions affecting interests of the profession and if need be, making of representations to the Legislature or other authority in relation to legislative measures affecting the profession as well as the public; (k) the establishment, maintenance and support of a system of prompt and efficient legal aid services whether in association with the Government, other Institutions, individuals or bodies or otherwise howsoever;

	<p>(l) the furtherance of legal education and study of the Law and to foster International and regional co-operation in the study of Law and the Administration of justice.</p> <p>(m) The performance of any other acts for or conducive or incidental to the carrying out of the foregoing objects.</p>
	<p>3. Membership</p>
<p>Article 3.1 Members</p> <p>Amended on 13.01. 2018</p> <p>Amended on 13.01. 2018</p>	<p>(a) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and/or any other written law and/or the Supreme Court Rules, every person who is an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka shall be entitled to, and every person who is hereafter enrolled as an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka shall on enrollment become entitled to be a member of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka</p> <p>(b) A person shall Cease to be a member of the Bar Association if he ceases for any reason whatsoever to be an Attorney-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka</p> <p>i. The Executive Committee of the Bar Association shall have the full authority to suspend or revoke the privileges and rights attached to membership of any Attorney-at-Law of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, upon a recommendation of the Ethics Committee and/or the Professional Purposes Committee subject to ratification by the Bar Council by a majority of two-thirds (2/3rd) of those present and voting.</p> <p>(c) An Attorney-at-Law suspended from practice shall be disentitled to the rights and privileges of membership during the period of such suspension unless the Council otherwise decides.</p> <p>(d) An Attorney-at-Law who is in arrears of subscription shall not be entitled to exercise rights and privileges of membership until the payment of all such arrears. ‘Arrears of Subscription’ shall mean all subscriptions due, owing and payable by such member for the year 1990 and the subsequent years.</p>
<p>Article 3.2(1) Categories of Membership</p>	<p>There shall be the following categories of membership:</p> <p>(a) Ordinary Members</p> <p>(b) Life Members (Ordinary)</p> <p>(c) Life Members (Honoris Causa)</p> <p>(d) Associate Members</p> <p>(e) Associate Member Associations</p>
<p>Article 3.2(2)</p>	<p>(a) Ordinary Members All Attorneys-at-Law duly admitted and enrolled shall be Ordinary Members and shall be liable to pay the subscription in terms of Article 5.</p> <p>(b) Life Members (Ordinary) Any Ordinary Member shall by paying a sum of Rs.3,500/- or such other amount as may be fixed by the Council from time to time to the Association become a Life Member (Ordinary) and be thereafter exempt from the payment of annual subscriptions and shall be deemed to have paid all subscriptions and shall be entitled to enjoy all the rights and privileges of a member including the right of voting.</p> <p>(c) Life Members (Honoris Causa) It shall be competent for the Association to resolve at a Council Meeting to confer the privileges of Life Membership (Honoris Causa) on any person in recognition of</p>

	<p>distinguished or special services rendered to the Association or the legal profession or the administration of justice or the development of the law. No such Life Member shall be liable to pay subscription to the Association. Such member shall be entitled to enjoy all the rights and privileges of a member including the right of voting.</p> <p>(d) Associate Members Any person qualified to practice as a lawyer in a foreign country or engaged in the teaching of law in Sri Lanka or any other country may be admitted as an Associate Member by the Council on payment of an annual subscription of US Dollars 250 or its equivalent in Sri Lankan currency, or such other amount as may be fixed by the Council from time to time. Such member shall be entitled to enjoy all the rights and privileges of a member save the right of voting or holding office.</p> <p>(e) Associate Member Association Any foreign bar or Lawyers Association or like Body having not less than ten members who are qualified and eligible to practice as Lawyers in the country of their residence may be admitted as an Associate Member Association by the Council provided that it shall together with its Application for such membership forward to the Bar Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) a duly certified copy of its Constitution (ii) a duly certified List of its registered members (iii) a certificate from the Enrollment authority that its said registered members are eligible to practice law, and (iv) The annual subscription of U.S Dollars 1,000/= or its equivalent in the currency of its country as may, from time to time be fixed by the Council. <p>Such Member Association shall be entitled to enjoy all the rights and privileges of a member save the right of voting or holding office.</p>
<p>Article 3.3 Effect of membership</p>	<p>Every member shall be bound by the provisions of this Constitution and any Amendments made hereto and the rules made hereunder.</p>
<p>Article 3.4 Suspension</p>	<p>The Council may by resolution which shall be passed by a three-fourths majority of the members of the Council present and voting at a meeting of the Council suspend any member from the enjoyment of such of the rights and privileges of membership as the Council may consider necessary for such period not exceeding 12 months for any cause which shall in the opinion of the Council render such course of action necessary or expedient.</p> <p>Provided that before such a resolution is passed by the Council it shall send to the member concerned a notice in writing containing a statement of the allegations if any made against him or the reasons for the proposed action and informing him that he may offer an explanation to the Council in writing, within 30 days of the receipt of such notice;</p> <p>Provided however that no such resolution shall be placed on the Agenda except after a preliminary inquiry by the Council or such person or persons as the Council may authorize hereto.</p>

	<p>4 . Branch Associations</p>
<p>Article 4.1 Recognition of Branch Associations</p> <p>Amended on 13.01. 2018</p>	<p>(a) There shall be such Branch Associations as are recognized by the Council as hereinafter provided.</p> <p>(b) The Council may, on application made therefor in writing under the hand of the Secretary of any Association of not less than fifteen (15) members (out of which at least 1 member being more than 15 years in practice and 2 members being more than 10 years in practice) who are not in arrears of subscription and practicing mainly in a Court or Courts of a particular area which forms such Branch Association, decide by a resolution to give official recognition to any such Association as a Branch Association, provided that there is no recognized branch Association for the said Court/s of that particular area.</p> <p>Amended on 13.01. 2018</p> <p>Provided, the above provision in so far as it relates to recognition shall not apply to any existing Branch Association as at the date these amendments coming into operation.</p> <p>(c) The Council may on application made therefor in writing under the hand of the Secretary of any Association of not less than one hundred members who are not in arrears of subscription and who have formed themselves into an Association, which Association is not entitled to obtain official recognition in terms of Article 4.1(b) as a Branch Association and the membership of which represents some special professional interest recognized by the Executive Committee, decide by a resolution to give official recognition to such body as a Branch Association.</p> <p>(d) The Branch Associations named in Schedule ‘C’ hereto shall subject to the provisions herein contained be deemed to have received official recognition as Branch Associations;</p>
<p>De recognition of a Branch Association</p> <p>Amended on 13.01. 2018</p>	<p>(e). The Council may on the recommendation of the Executive Committee made after inquiry with due notice to a Branch Association, revoke such recognition and such Association shall from the date of such revocation cease to be a Branch Association.</p> <p>Without prejudice to the powers under Article 4.2(e), the Executive Committee may make such a recommendation on the basis of any one or more of the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The said Branch Association has during two or more consecutive years fallen below the membership criteria specified in paragraph “b” and “c” of this Article as the case may be; or (ii) The said Branch Association has during two or more consecutive years failed to duly conduct an Annual General Meeting within the time period stipulated in this Constitution and failed to submit duly certified minutes of said meetings; or (iii) The said Branch Association has failed to submit Annual Accounts to the Bar Association; or (iv) The said Branch Association has failed to maintain a membership register or has willfully misrepresented details pertaining to the number of members; or (v) The said Branch Association has otherwise violated any one or more of the provisions of this Constitution which would warrant its termination; (vi) Any change to any law relating to the administration of justice or any other change which would render the continued existence of such Branch Association superfluous. <p>(f) No Attorney-at-Law shall be a member of more than one Branch Association.</p> <p>(g) All decisions of the Council on any matter under this Article shall be final and conclusive.</p>

<p>Article 4:1 (A) Functions of Branch Associations Amended on 13.01. 2018</p>	<p>(a) All Associations recognized in terms of sub paragraph “b” or “c” of Article 4:1 should adopt a Constitution governing its internal functions.</p> <p>(b) Every such Constitution adopted by each Branch Association shall inter alia contain the basic provisions set out in Schedule D of this Constitution.</p> <p>(c) Every such recognized Branch Association shall elect from among its members a President, Secretary and Treasurer</p> <p>(d) Every Branch Association shall hold its Annual General Meeting after the preparation of the Electoral Register on or before the 15th day of February of each year and forward to the Bar Association the minutes of that meeting duly certified together with the names of its Office-Bearers and delegates to the council of the Bar Association, before the end of February of that year.</p> <p>(e) The President and Secretary of each Branch Association shall;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i). Ensure the smooth functioning of the Branch Association. (ii). Ensure that the Annual General Meeting of the Branch association is held every year on or before the 15th February each year (iii). Endeavour to facilitate a Bench and Bar meeting at least once in every 4 months. (iv). Endeavour to facilitate a Court Management Committee Meeting once in every 4 months. (v). Maintain a Membership Registry in the prescribed form with accurate information. (vi). Endeavour to persuade the members to renew the membership of the Bar Association on or before the due date. (vii). Ensure that Notices of the Bar Association (after due clarification of its authenticity) are displayed with due prominence <p>(f) In the event of a failure of any Branch Association to conduct its Annual General Meeting before the 15th of February of any particular year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The office bearers of such Branch Association shall cease to hold office with effect from the 16th of February of the relevant year. (ii) Any acts or functions done or purported to be done by the said office bearers after the due date shall not be valid unless subsequently ratified by office bearers duly elected at the Annual General Meeting. (iii) The Executive Committee of the Bar Association, in appropriate circumstances where a branch has failed to appoint its office bearers within the stipulated time or within reasonable time in the opinion of the Executive Committee, shall appoint fit and proper persons to function as Interim President, Interim Secretary and Interim Treasurer of the said Branch Association.
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	<p>Provided that such appointments shall be ratified by the Council at its first meeting after such appointment, by a motion supported by a majority of the members present and voting at the said meeting.</p> <p>Provided further that if any one or more of the nominations by the Executive Committee are rejected, the Council shall exercise such power directly.</p> <p>(iv) The interim President, Secretary and Treasurer shall take steps to convene the Annual General Meeting within 1 month from the date of their appointment as stipulated herein.</p> <p>(v) If the interim President, Secretary and Treasurer fail to conduct the Annual General Meeting within the time stipulated, they shall report back to the Executive Committee the reasons for such failure. Upon such report being received, the Executive Committee may grant an extension of not more than 1 month for the purpose of conducting the Annual General Meeting or appoint different persons as President, Secretary and Treasurer for purpose of conducting the Annual General Meeting within a period of 1 month.</p> <p>(vi) After exhausting the provisions of the previous subparagraphs and if the Annual General Meeting of the said Branch Association is still not held, the Executive Committee shall with due consideration to all facts and attendant circumstances report back to the Council what action should be taken in relation to the said Branch Association including whether action should be taken in terms of Article 4:1 (e) of this Constitution and the Council shall decide upon same</p>
	<p>Article 4.2 Delegates</p>
<p>Article 4.2 Amended on 13.01. 2018</p>	<p>(b) The President and the Secretary of each Branch Association with not less than 15 members having their names on the Electoral Register duly certified for that year or their nominees shall be the ex-officio delegates of such Branch Association in the Bar Council.</p> <p>The number of the delegates to represent each Branch Association excluding the two ex-officio delegates shall be determined in the ratio of one delegate for the first fifteen or a lesser number and one delegate for each multiple of fifteen members who are paid-up members of such Branch Association for the relevant year and whose names also appear in the Electoral Register of the Bar Association duly certified for the relevant year. The number of delegates for each year shall be calculated based on the membership register submitted by the Branch Association.</p> <p>(c) In the event of the Bar Association not duly receiving the names of delegates as required by Article 4.2 (a) from any Branch Association, the Executive Committee shall have the power and authority to nominate as delegates such members of that Branch Association as are qualified to be delegates in accordance with Article 4.2(b). Such delegates shall enjoy all the powers and privileges of a delegate upon payment of the delegate’s registration fee as set out in Article 7.3(b).</p>

<p>Amended on 13.01. 2018</p>	<p>(d) In the event of there being no member of a Branch Association duly qualified to be a delegate in accordance with Article 4.2(a) the Executive Committee shall have the power and authority to nominate one delegate to represent that Branch Association from among the members of that Branch Association on payment by him of all his arrears of subscription and the delegate's registration fee as set out in Article 7.3 (b).</p> <p>(e) The Council may, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee made after due notice to such Branch Association and inquiry, cancel such recognition if it is satisfied that its continued recognition is detrimental to the interests of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and such Branch Association shall thereupon cease to be a Branch Association from the date of such cancellation.</p> <p>(f) In the event of a dispute regarding the Membership Register of a Branch Association, the Executive Committee may make a decision on the said dispute based on the Electoral Register of Membership maintained by the Bar Association in terms of Article 6 hereof.</p>
	<p>5. Subscriptions</p>
<p>Article 5.1</p>	<p>5.1 Every Ordinary Member of the Association shall on or before the 20th day of December of the preceding year pay to the Treasurer of the Association at Colombo such annual subscription or fee as may be fixed from time to time by the Council.</p>
	<p>5.2 The Branch Association shall be free to charge from its members such subscription as it may consider necessary in respect of the Branch Association membership.</p>
	<p>5.3 The Council may exempt any member from payment of arrears of subscription or any part thereof for any good reason or unavoidable cause.</p>
	<p>5.4 All payments received by the Association as payment for Life Membership shall be deposited in fixed deposit Bank Accounts as the Executive Committee shall deem fit in the names of the Trustees of the Bar Association. The Bar Association shall be entitled to utilise the interest accruing from such fixed deposit bank accounts and shall not withdraw the principal sums therein for any purpose without obtaining the prior sanction by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members of the Bar Council present and voting at a meeting of the Council.</p>
	<p>6. Register of Members</p>
<p>Article 6.1 Central Register</p> <p>Amended on 13.01. 2018</p>	<p>(a) A register of Members (called "the Central Register") shall be maintained by the Secretary under the supervision of the Executive Committee and shall contain such particulars as the Council may direct regarding category of membership, nature and place of employment or profession, date of enrolment, membership number, Supreme Court Enrollment Number, permanent address, correspondence address and particulars of contact details as may be provided, Branch Association, Judicial district and payment of subscriptions. No member shall be registered in respect of more than one Branch Association in the Central Register.</p> <p>(b) The Register shall be kept up to date and substantially in such form as may be prescribed by rules made by the Council and shall be open for</p>

<p>Amended on 13.01 2018</p> <p>Amended on 13.01 2018</p>	<p>inspection during office hours by any member on a request in writing to the Secretary.</p> <p>(c) Every member shall furnish to the Secretary in writing any and every change of the particulars in the information provided in terms of Article 6:1 (a). It shall be the duty of the Secretary to acknowledge in writing or email any such notification and make such alteration in the Register as may be required by such notice and inform the Executive Committee, the member and the Branch Association concerned of such change.</p> <p>(d) The Central Register shall be in the custody of the Secretary at the Head Office of the Association and shall not be removed except with the approval of the Council.</p> <p>(e) The Statements contained in the Central Register of members shall be the best evidence of the particulars contained therein and the address as appearing in the Register shall be deemed to be the address of the member for all notices sent by the Bar Association.</p>
<p>Article 6.2 Electoral Register</p>	<p>(a) A Register (called “the Electoral Register”) shall be maintained for each year in which shall be entered by reference to Branch Association Membership the names of all Life members (Honoris Causa), Life Members and all members who have on or before the 20th December of the preceding year paid the subscription for the current year. The Register shall be maintained by the Secretary and kept in the Head Office. If payment is sent by post the date of posting shall be deemed to be the date of payment.</p> <p>(b) The Electoral Register for each year shall be kept open till 6 p.m. on the 20th of December of the preceding year or if that happens to be a Saturday, Sunday or a Public Holiday, till 6. p.m. on the next working day. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify the Branch Association on or before the 30th November of the preceding year of the date on and time at which it is proposed to close the Electoral Register and notice of this fact shall also be posted at the office of the Bar Association.</p> <p>(c) Immediately after the Electoral Register has been closed the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Administrative Secretary or any two of them shall immediately certify after the last entry on every page that the Register has been closed. The Register so certified shall be final and conclusive and shall be the only evidence of the eligibility to vote or hold office at an election in the year.</p> <p>(d) It shall be the duty of the Administrative Secretary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. to forward to each member whose name appears in the Electoral Register an electoral card which shall be duly signed by the Secretary and the Administrative Secretary. ii. to forward to the Secretary of each Branch Association a copy of the Electoral Register of the members attached to the Branch Association and such copy shall be certified by the Secretary and the Administrative Secretary as being a true copy of the Electoral Register. Members will be entitled to copies of the Electoral Register or any part thereof on payment therefore.

	<p>iii. to make available the Register for inspection if requested by any member between 9 a.m. and 12 noon in the week following the 15th January in each year.</p>
	<p>7. The Bar Council of Sri Lanka</p>
<p>Article 7.1</p>	<p>There shall be a Council called the Bar Council of Sri Lanka whose responsibility shall be :</p> <p>(a) to carry out the objects of the Association</p> <p>(b) to decide all questions and perform all acts which the Council is required to do under these Articles;</p> <p>(c) to give such directions as it may deem fit to the Executive Committee and Office-Bearers from time to time.</p> <p>(d) to adopt the Annual Balance Sheet, Report and Accounts (duly audited)</p> <p>(e) To appoint :</p> <p>(i) Members of the Executive Committee</p> <p>(ii) Chairman, Conveners and Members of Standing Committees, Professional Purposes Committee and any other Committees, provided however that the Executive Committee may make those appointments subject to ratification by the Bar Council and when an appointment is not so ratified, the holder of that office shall forthwith cease to hold such office without prejudice to any acts done by him after his appointment. Provided also that no person shall hold office as Chairman or Convener of the same Standing Committee, Professional Purposes Committee or any other committee continuously and at any one time for more than three successive years save and except that the Executive Committee may, under special circumstances, re-appoint any such Chairman and/or Convener of any such committee for a further period not exceeding three years from the date of such first re-appointment.</p> <p>(iii) The Overall Chairman and Convener of the Professional Purposes Committee and the Chairman and Members of each panel thereof, shall be appointed from and among members of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and who have been members of the Bar of Sri Lanka for not less than twenty years</p> <p>(f) to ratify the appointments by the Executive Committee of the Chairman , Conveners and members of Standing Committees, Professional Purposes Committee or any other committees</p> <p>(g) to decide subject to the rules herein contained on the Validity of any disputed election of Office Bearers.</p> <p>(h) to decide on all matters incidental to or necessary for the fulfilment of the objects of the Association.</p>
<p>Article 7.2</p>	<p>The Council for each year shall consist of:</p> <p>(a) The President</p> <p>(b) The Attorney-General and the Solicitor General Ex- Officio)</p> <p>(c) The Deputy President elected by the Bar Council at its first meeting or soon thereafter as may be practicable.</p> <p>(d) The Vice-Presidents</p>

<p>Amended on 24.02. 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (e) The Secretary (f) The Treasurer (g) The Assistant Secretary (h) The delegate members representing the Branch Associations duly nominated and the Presidents/Chairmen and the Secretaries of the Branch Associations deemed to be the Ex-Officio delegates in terms of Article 4.2(b). (i) Such number of Life Members (Honoris Causa) not exceeding five who shall be elected annually by Life members (Honoris Causa). (j) Five members nominated by the President (k) Five members nominated by the Secretary (l) Fifteen members nominated by the Executive Committee to represent unrepresented interests. (m) The Past Presidents of the Bar Association (n) The Past Secretaries of the Bar Association
<p>Article 7.3 Amended on 13.01.2018</p>	<p>(a) Delegate members of the Council shall be nominated in accordance with the provisions of Article 7.2 provided such member does not suffer from any disqualification mentioned in Article 7.4.</p> <p>(b) No person shall be a delegate unless he is a paid-up member of a Branch Association for the current year, his name appears in the Electoral Register of the Bar Association for the current year and he has paid the delegate's registration fee as may be fixed from time to time by the Council.</p>
<p>Article 7.4 Vacation of office by Delegates Amended on 13.01. 2018</p>	<p>A Delegate member of the Council shall ipso facto cease to hold office if he:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) ceases to be a member or has been suspended from membership; (b) becomes the President or the Prime Minister of the Republic of Sri Lanka, Speaker or Deputy Speaker of Parliament or a Minister or Deputy Minister or any Minister or Deputy Minister under any other designation, or any Chief Minister or any Minister of a Provincial Council (c) Is appointed a Judicial Officer referred to in the Constitution of Sri Lanka provided that where such appointment is temporary these provisions shall not have effect during such temporary period only. (d) Is declared by a competent Court to be insolvent or bankrupt or to be a person of unsound mind: (e) Resigns his membership in the Council by notice in writing addressed to the Council and delivered to the Administrative Secretary. (f) Fails to attend three successive ordinary meetings of the Council or any four meetings of the Council without prior authority
<p>Article 7.5 Casual Vacancies</p>	<p>In the event of a Delegate Member ceasing to be a Member of the Council for any reason whatsoever the Executive Committee shall have power to appoint a new delegate in consultation with the appropriate Society or Association and in conformity with Article 4.2 (b) who will hold office for the balance period of office of the delegate vacating office.</p>
<p>8. Office Bearers</p>	
<p>Article 8.1</p>	<p>The Office Bearers of the Association shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The President

	<p>(b) The Deputy President and the Vice Presidents whose number shall be determined in accordance with Article 8.4(c)</p> <p>(c) The Secretary</p> <p>(d) The Treasurer</p> <p>(e) The Assistant Secretary</p> <p>The Assistant Secretary shall be nominated by the Executive Committee at its first meeting for the year and such nomination shall be ratified by the Council provided however that no person shall be eligible for nomination to the office of Assistant Secretary, if such person has held such office for two successive years immediately preceding the year of the proposed election for the same office.</p>
<p>Article 8.2 Administrative Secretary</p>	<p>There shall be an Administrative Secretary of the Association who shall be a paid officer and shall act under the directions of the President and the Secretary and Subject to the directions and/or rulings made from time to time by the Council and the Executive Committee provided however that a direction and/or ruling by the Council shall prevail.</p>
<p>Article 8.3 President and Secretary</p> <p>Amended on 13.01 2018</p>	<p>(a) The President and the Secretary shall be elected annually from and by the members of the Association who are entitled to vote and shall hold Office till their successors takes office.</p> <p>(b) Qualifications: No person shall be eligible for nomination or be elected –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Unless he is a member of the Association and is entitled to vote at the election at which he is a candidate; ii. as the President unless he has been a member of the Bar for not less than twenty (20) years and of the Council for any four (04) years; iii. as the Secretary unless he has been a member of the Bar for not less than twelve (12) years and of the Council for any three (03) years; iv. as President if he has been elected or held office twice of President or as Secretary if he has been elected or held office twice of Secretary v. As the President or the Secretary unless such person has made a cash deposit of Rs. 500,000/= and Rs. 250,000/- respectively with the Bar Association of Sri Lanka before he is nominated. Such cash deposit shall not be refunded if he fails to secure at least 10 percent of the total number of valid votes cast for electing the President or the Secretary, as the case may be. vi. If he has at any previous election, been nominated to be elected as the President or as the Secretary, and has failed at any such election to secure 10 percent of the total number of valid votes cast for electing the President or the Secretary, as the case may be. <p>(c) Election Rules: The President and Secretary shall be elected in accordance with the Nomination and Election Procedure Rules specified in Schedule B The Council shall have the power to amend such rules from time to time in the manner as provided in Article 15.</p>
<p>Article 8.4 Deputy President</p> <p>Amended on 13.01 2018</p>	<p>(a) The Deputy President and the Vice Presidents shall be elected in the manner hereinafter provided, at the first meeting of the Council after the election of the President and Secretary respectively and shall hold office till the day immediately preceding the first meeting of the Council for the succeeding year provided however that no person shall be eligible for nomination or be elected to the office of Deputy President or Vice President if such person has held such office of Deputy President or Vice President, as the case may be, for two successive years immediately preceding the year of the proposed election for the same office.</p>

<p>Amended on 13.01 2018</p>	<p>(b) The Deputy President shall be a member of the Bar for not less than twenty (20) years and be elected from among members of the Council;</p> <p>(c) Vice Presidents shall be elected by the respective Branch Associations so as to represent the several Zones as prescribed in Schedule “F” of this Constitution. There shall be one Vice-President for each Zone and he shall not only be a member of the Council representing a Branch Association within such Zone but shall also be elected only by members of the Council representing Branch Associations within such Zone.</p>
<p>Article 8.5 Treasurer</p> <p>Amended 13.01 2018</p>	<p>(a) The Treasurer shall be member of the Bar for not less than Twelve (12) years and of the Council for any three (03) years;</p> <p>(b) The Treasurer shall, from among members of the Council, be elected at its first meeting and shall hold office till his successor takes office provided however that no person shall be eligible for nomination or be elected to the office of Treasurer if such person has held such office for two successive years immediately preceding the year of the proposed election for the same office.</p>
<p>Article 8.6 Disqualification of Office Bearers</p> <p>Amended on 13.01 2018</p>	<p>No person shall be entitled to be nominated, elected or hold any office in any year if such person:</p> <p>(a) Is not a member of the Association</p> <p>(b) For any reason ceases to be a member or has been suspended from membership or</p> <p>(c) Is not a delegate to the Bar Council for that year save and except the office of President and Secretary in respect of which the qualifications have been provided in Article 8.3</p> <p>(d) Is the Speaker or Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Minister or Deputy Minister of State;</p> <p>(e) Is a Judge or other State Officer referred to in Section 121(1) of the Constitution of Sri Lanka and holds office in permanent capacity.</p> <p>(f) Is declared by a competent Court to be a person of unsound mind, bankrupt or insolvent.</p> <p>(g) is the President of the Republic of Sri Lanka, a Member of the Parliament, Chief Minister, Chairman or a Minister of a Provincial Council</p> <p>(h) is a member of any executive committee or other body in the nature of an executive committee of any recognized political party</p>
<p>Article 8.7 Vacation of Office</p>	<p>The Office of President, Deputy President, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary shall ipso facto be vacated if the person holding such office</p> <p>(a) resigns his office by a writing addressed to the Council through the Administrative Secretary or the Acting Administrative Secretary</p> <p>(b) is removed from office by a resolution of the Bar Council passed by a three-fourth majority of the actual total membership.</p> <p>(c) Becomes subject to any of the disqualifications required for any particular office as stated in this Constitution</p> <p>(d) If he fails to attend three successive meetings of the Council or Executive Committee without excuse in writing.</p>
<p>Article 8.8 Casual Vacancies</p>	<p>(a) Any casual vacancy occurring amongst the Office Bearers shall be filled by the Council from among its members but the person so chosen shall continue to hold office only for the unexpired term of his predecessor;</p> <p>(b) The Executive Committee may appoint an Hony. Editor or Editors, Hony. Librarian or any other Hony. Officers for a period of one year;</p>

	(c) The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint any member of the Council to act for and on behalf of any office bearer who is unable to perform his functions for reason of illness or such other reason
	9. Functions of Office-Bearers
Article 9.1 Functions of Office Bearers	<p>(a) The President shall be the Chairman of the Bar Council and Executive Committee and of all Standing Committees and all other Committees appointed by the Council or Executive Committee unless otherwise directed by the Council or Executive Committee and he shall when present preside at all such meetings.</p> <p>(b) The President shall act in all matters in accordance with the directions given to him from time to time by the Council and/or Executive Committee.</p> <p>(c) Any views expressed by the President for and on behalf of the Association, the Bar Council and/or the Executive Committee shall be in accordance with the decisions and / or directions of the Bar Council and/or the Executive Committee.</p> <p>(d) The President shall have the right to summon a meeting of the Executive Committee and in consultation with the Executive Committee to summon any Special Meeting of the Bar Council if circumstances so require;</p> <p>(e) The President shall not express either in public or for publication or to any public authority his personal views on any matter pertaining to the objects of the Association set out in Article 2 except with the prior approval of the Executive Committee.</p>
Article 9.2 Secretary	<p>(a) The Secretary shall be responsible for carrying out any decision, order or directive given by the Council or the Executive Committee and shall in the performance of all his functions act in accordance with directions given to him by the Council and the Executive Committee from time to time.</p> <p>(b) He will be responsible for :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The due execution of such powers as may be vested in him under this Constitution or by rules made by the Council or Executive Committee from time to time; ii. Summoning all meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee unless otherwise directed by the Council or the Executive Committee as the case may be and shall in consultation with the President fix convenient dates for all meetings iii. Giving directions from time to time to the Administrative Secretary and for discharging all functions with regard to appointment, dismissal or disciplinary control of all employees as directed by the Executive Committee. iv. Supervising the maintenance by the Administrative Secretary of the Registers, Minute Books and other documents and correspondence of the Association, the Council and the Executive Committee; v. Safeguarding the property movable and immovable of the Association; vi. Supervising the work of the Secretariat; <p>(c) He shall be subject to the provisions of and bound by Article 9.1(b), (c), (d) and (e) respectively mutatis mutandis.</p>
Article 9.3 Deputy President	(a) The Deputy President and if he is not available the Vice President senior by date of call and if he is not available the next in order of seniority et seq shall act for the President whenever by reason of illness, incapacity or absence abroad the

	<p>President is unable to officiate as such and in the event of a casual vacancy till such vacancy is filled;</p> <p>(b) The Deputy President and if he is not present at any meeting the Vice President present at that meeting and senior by date of call shall preside in any meeting of the Council or Executive Committee at which the President is required to preside if the President be absent;</p> <p>(c) The Vice Presidents shall be responsible for overseeing the proper functioning of the Branch Associations in the respective Judicial Zones and for co-ordinating their work with the Bar Association;</p> <p>(d) Any five Vice Presidents shall have the right to requisition a Special Meeting of the Council for any specified purpose;</p> <p>(e) The Deputy President and each Vice President shall be subject to and bound by the provisions of Article 9.1 (b), (c), (d) and (e) respectively mutatis mutandis.</p>
<p>Article 9.4 Treasurer</p>	<p>(a)The Treasurer shall : -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Be responsible for the maintenance of all Accounts, Account Books, Cheques and the custody of receipt and disbursement of monies belonging to the Association; ii. Prepare the Budget for presentation to the Executive Committee; iii. Give directions from time to time to the officers of the Association in regard to the maintenance of books; iv. Act in all matters in accordance with directions from time to time given by the Council/Executive Committee; <p>(b) Any two of the following persons are authorized to sign cheques drawn on the current accounts: President, Secretary and Treasurer, provide that the Treasurer shall always be a signatory to cheques unless the Executive Committee otherwise directs. Provided further that in the case of any payment in respect of any matter in excess of a sum which shall be determined by the Executive Committee at its first Meeting, the prior approval of the Executive Committee shall be obtained.</p>
<p>Article 9.5 Assistant Secretary</p>	<p>The Assistant Secretary should assist the Secretary and activate all Committees and Sub-Committees and keep in his custody all minute books, files and documents belonging to the work of the Committees and Sub-Committees and maintain a master file of all correspondence to and from the Committees.</p>
<p>Article 9.6 Honorary Editor or Editors</p>	<p>The Honorary Editor or Editors shall act in accordance with the directions of the Publications Committee unless the Executive Committee directs otherwise.</p>
	<p>10.Trustees</p>
<p>Article 10.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Council shall appoint three members of the Association to be Trustees of the Association and all property movable and immovable shall be vested in such Trustees for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Association

	<p>as herein specified. Such Trustees shall be called the Trustees of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. The Trustees shall always act in accordance with the directions given by the Council from time to time; iii. The Trustees shall hold office for a period of three years from their election and any vacancy shall be filled by appointment from the Council according to this Article.
<p>Article 10.2 Fixed Deposits and Savings Deposit Accounts</p>	<p>All funds which are under this Constitution, required to be deposited in the Bank in the forms of Fixed Deposits shall be in the names of the Trustees of the Bar Association and shall be withdrawn only with sanction by Resolution of the Bar Council passed by not less than two-thirds of the total number of members of the Bar Council present and voting at such meeting thereof.</p> <p>Provided that the Bar Association shall be entitled to utilize the interest accruing from such Fixed Deposit Accounts.</p>
	<p>11.Executive Committee</p>
<p>Article 11.1 Executive Committee</p> <p>Amended on 13.01 2018</p> <p>Amended on 13.01 2018</p> <p>Amended on 13.01 2018</p> <p>Amended on 24.02. 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The President ii. The Deputy President iii. The Zonal Vice President iv. The Secretary v. The Treasurer vi. The Assistant Secretary vii. Eleven Members (11) of the Council elected by such Council of whom three (03) members shall be under ten years in practice to represent the Junior Members of the Association. <p>Provided however, that no person shall, under this sub-Article, hold office as a member of the Executive Committee continuously and at any one time for more than three successive years.</p> <p>Provided that of the three members (03) elected to the Executive Committee under ten years (10) in practice to represent the Junior Members of the Association shall be less than 40 years of age and at least one person shall be a member of a Branch Association located outside the territorial limits of the District of Colombo. (to represent the Junior Members of the Association outside the territorial limits of the District of Colombo)</p> <p>Provided further that the Eleven Members to be elected under this sub-Article shall be elected in accordance with the nomination and election procedure rules specified in Schedule 'E' of this Constitution.</p> <p>Provided further to qualify under the outstation category for the Junior Bar such member shall not have been a member of a Branch Association within the Colombo Central Zone and Colombo South Zone, 3 years immediately preceding from the date of nomination.</p> <p>Provided further that a candidate to be elected under this Article had failed to maintain 50% of Attendance in the immediate past year of the Executive Committee, such member shall not be eligible to be nominated to be elected to the next Executive Committee.</p>

<p>Amended on 13.01 2018</p> <p>Amended on 13.01 2018</p>	<p>(viii) The Immediate Past President of the Bar Association with his concurrence.</p> <p>Same rules set out in Article 8.6, 8.7 and 8.8 would be applicable for the Elected Executive Committee members in respect of their disqualifications, vacation of office and casual vacancies.</p>
<p>Article 11.2 Functions of the Executive Committee</p>	<p>It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To finalise the Annual Report and Budget for approval by the Council, (b) To maintain such books including Minute and Account Books as it may consider necessary; (c) To supervise the preparation of and present an Annual Balance Sheet and Accounts for approval by the Council (d) To supervise and direct the collection of the subscription and their disbursements; (e) To carry out the directions given to it from time to time by the Council; (f) To discharge such duties and objects as may be delegated to it by the Council (g) To appoint and dismiss the employees of the Association and take such disciplinary action it may consider necessary regarding the employees of the Association; (h) To manage the property of the Association for and on its behalf; (i) To give directions from time to time to its office bearers including the President in respect of all matters connected with the Association and its objects, subject however to such directions as may be given by the Council (j) to direct the summoning of meetings of the Council from time to time; (k) to generally safeguard the property and interests of the Association; (l) to refer to the Council for decision, any disputed question with regard to the affairs of the Association if it so desires which decision shall be binding on the Executive Committee; (m) to arrange for the holding of elections including the preparation of Electoral Registers and the supervision thereof (n) to give such directions as it may consider fit to the President, the Secretary and other Office Bearers as regards the management of the affairs of the Association
<p>Article 11.3 Meetings of the Executive Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be presided by the President and in his absence by the Deputy President or in his absence by such member of the Committee as may be voted to the Chair by those present. (b) Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held at least once in every month or sooner if so requested by any member of the Committee. (c) At least three days' notice of a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be given to each member unless such notice be waived expressly by such member. The notice shall specify the Agenda for the meeting and no matter which is not on the Agenda shall be taken up unless all the member of the Committee being present agrees thereto and unless any member who is absent gives his consent thereto in writing. (d) The quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be five including the President when he is present. Provided that if there be no quorum after half an hour from the time notified three members shall form a quorum.
<p>Article 11.4</p>	<p>Vacation of office by members of Executive Committee</p> <p>Any member of the Executive Committee shall ipso facto cease to hold office if he fails to attend three successive meetings or any four meetings of the Executive Committee without prior authority.</p>

	12. Meetings
Article 12.1	<p>(a) The first meeting of the Council for each year shall, as far as possible, be convened in the month of March in each year and shall be presided over by the Attorney General or in his absence by the Solicitor General or failing that by any member elected by those present</p> <p>(b) Notice of such meeting shall be given at least ten days before the date of the meeting;</p> <p>(c) The business at the first meeting of the Council shall ordinarily be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The announcement of the results of the election of President and the Secretary ii. The election of the Deputy President; iii. The election of Vice-Presidents; iv. The election of the Treasurer; v. The election of the Executive Committee vi. The election of Auditors for the ensuing year; vii. The appointment of Trustees where necessary
Article 12.2	<p>(a) There shall be an Annual Convocation of members of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka which shall be held at a suitable venue in the afternoon of the day of the first meeting of the Council convened under Article 12.1;</p> <p>(b) The business of the convocation shall ordinarily be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The installation of the President-elect ii. The announcement of the election of the Deputy President and the Vice Presidents iii. The announcement of the results of the election of other office-bearers and the Executive Committee for the ensuing year; iv. The conferment of Life Membership (Honoris Causa) if any, on the recommendation of the Council for the preceding year.
Article 12.3	<p>(a) Meetings of the Council shall ordinarily be held monthly on a date and time convenient and at the Association Headquarters in Colombo or such other place as may be decided on by the Council;</p> <p>(b) Notice of every such meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to each member of the Council at least seven clear days before the date fixed for such meeting;</p> <p>(c) Such notice shall specify the business to be transacted thereat and only such items as are so specified shall be discussed thereat. Notice of any matter to be discussed or any resolution to be moved at any such meeting must be given to the Secretary in writing at least 15 days before the date appointed for such meeting and the Secretary shall place such matter or resolution on the Agenda for such meeting.</p> <p>(d) Any resolution not received within the time specified in Article 12.3 (c) shall be placed on the Agenda for the next succeeding meeting.</p>
Article 12.4 Special Meetings	<p>(a) A Special Meeting of the Council may at any time be convened by order of the Council.</p> <p>(b) Twenty or more members, the President, five Vice Presidents or three members of the Executive Committee, as the case may be, may at any time by writing or under their hands require that a Special Meeting be convened for any object connected with the Association;</p> <p>(c) The Secretary shall forthwith on the receipt of such requisition issue a notice convening a special Meeting in accordance with the requisition under this Article;</p> <p>(d) In the event of the Secretary failing to issue a notice as aforesaid, any of the persons who signed the requisition may by notice published in the daily</p>

	<p>newspapers in Sinhala, Tamil and English convene a Special Meeting for the objects specified in the requisition which notice shall specify the date, time and venue in Colombo for such meeting and the object of and reason for such meeting being called by the signatories to the notice;</p> <p>(e) The period of notice required for every such Special Meeting, whether convened on the order of the Council or upon a requisition as aforesaid, shall not be less than seven or more than fourteen days. Provided that in the case of an emergency such Special Meeting may be summoned by a notification in a daily newspaper giving the place, date and time and business of such meeting under the hand of the President or Secretary with notice reasonable in the circumstances;</p> <p>(f) Every such notice shall specify the time, place and date of the meeting and the object of the meeting shall be sent to all members of the Council;</p> <p>(g) No business shall be transacted at such Special Meeting other than the business for the transaction of which the meeting had been convened.</p>
<p>Article 12.5 Quorum Voting</p>	<p>The quorum for all meetings of the Council shall be 25 including the President when Present.</p>
<p>Article 12.6</p>	<p>Except where otherwise provided by these Articles, all questions shall be decided by a majority of the members present and voting at a meeting whether a meeting of the Council or of any Committee and, where there is an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote provided however that at any meeting of the Council he shall have only a casting vote.</p>
<p>Article 12.7 Rules of Debate</p>	<p>Rules of debate and of voting shall be in Schedule A.</p>
<p>Article 12.8</p>	<p>Minutes of proceedings of every meeting of the Council or the Committee thereof shall be kept by the Secretary or in his absence by the Assistant Secretary and in his absence by some other person appointed by the Chairman and signed by the Chairman of that or of the next succeeding meeting of such Council or Committee after confirmation by that or the next succeeding meeting of the Council or Committee.</p>
<p>Article 12.9 Attendance at Meetings</p>	<p>A list of the members of the Council and Committee showing the attendance of each member at the meetings of the Council and of the Committee thereof shall be maintained by the Administrative Secretary in accordance with the directions by the Council or Committee concerned.</p>
<p>Article 12A Special General Meetings of the members</p>	<p>a) A Special General Meeting of the members of the Association may be convened for the purpose of discussing any matters of importance to the legal profession;</p> <p>b) Such a Special General Meeting of the members of the Association shall be summoned by the Secretary if directed by the Executive Committee to do so,</p> <p>c) Upon a requisition received from not less than 100 members, 50% of whom shall not be members of the same Branch Association, the President shall have the power to direct the Secretary to convene such Special General Meeting if the President is satisfied that the matter to be discussed thereat is an urgent matter and there was not sufficient time to place it before the Executive Committee;</p> <p>d) Notice of such a Special General Meeting shall be given to the members by publication thereof in two daily newspapers published in the English Language at least five (5) days before the meeting;</p>

	<p>e) Copies of the said notice shall be posted to the President and the Secretary of every Branch Association at least five (5) days before the date of the meeting;</p> <p>f) Only the members whose names appear on the electoral Register for that current year shall be entitled to attend, speak or vote at such Special General Meeting;</p> <p>g) Any decision taken or resolution passed at such Special General Meeting shall not be valid and shall not have any force or effect if the number of members who attended that meeting is less than 25% of the total number of members whose names appear in the electoral list of the current year unless and until the same is ratified by the Bar Council within one month of the date of such Special General Meeting. If any such decision or resolution is not so ratified the same shall be deemed to have been not made or passed by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka;</p> <p>h) The members who are entitled to sign the requisition referred to in sub-para c, above are only the Attorneys-at-Law who are not in arrears of subscriptions;</p> <p>i) When a requisition is received in terms of the aforesaid provisions the President shall have the right to request the requisitionist to deposit the estimated costs of publishing the notice in the newspapers as provided for above if the President or the Executive Committee is of the view that the expenses in connection with that publication cannot be or should not be incurred from the funds of the Association and such request made to the first named of the requisitionist shall be deemed to be a request made to all the requisitionist. If the estimated costs are not deposited at the office of the Association before the date and time specified in the request of the President no further action shall be taken on such a requisition;</p> <p>j) Any decision or resolution made or passed at such Special General Meeting in violation of any provisions of this Constitution shall not be valid.</p>
	<p>Article 13. Failure to hold Election and /or First Council Meeting</p>
<p>Article 13</p>	<p>In the event of the Office-Bearers for any year not being elected and/or the first meeting of the Council not being held before the end of the month of March each year, it shall be competent for any 25 members of the Association who have paid their subscriptions for that year to convene a Special General Meeting of the members and at such meeting to appoint a Committee of not more than 25 members to hold the election and the meeting according to these rules and the provisions of this Constitution will apply as far as possible mutatis mutandis as if such Committee were the Council.</p>
	<p>14. Miscellaneous</p>
<p>Article 14.1 Notices</p>	<p>Every letter or notice relating to any matter concerning the Association which shall be sent by the Secretary or by any Office-Bearer of the Bar Association or by the Council to a member shall if the same shall have been addressed to him by his name and at his place of business or employment as entered in the Register of Members and if the same shall have been posted to him under certificate of posting, or Registered Post and shall have been delivered at such address be deemed to have been duly received by him, and the member to whom the same shall have been addressed shall be deemed to have had notice of the contents thereof.</p> <p>In all cases of dispute or doubt or difficulty respecting or arising out of matters of procedure or order at any meeting the decision of the Chairman of that meeting shall be final.</p>
	<p>15. Amendments</p>

Article 15	Any amendment or alteration of this Constitution or any Article or part thereof shall be at a Special General Meeting of the Council convened for the purpose and passed by a majority of three-fourths (3/4) of those present and voting and shall come into operation forthwith.
Article 16	<p>16. Commencement</p> <p>This Constitution and the provisions contained herein came into operation on 9th November 1974 on which date the Attorneys-at-Law of Sri Lanka by a majority of votes adopted this Constitution.</p>
	17. Rules
Article 17.1 Rules	The Council shall have the power to make such rules and give such directions as it may consider necessary to carry out the provisions contained in this Constitution.
Article 17.2 Rules	Any question or matter regarding the interpretation or application of any of the provisions of this Constitution or the Rules made hereunder shall be decided by the Council whose decisions shall be final and conclusive.
	18. Interpretation
<p>Article 18</p> <p>Amended on 13.01 2018</p>	<p>In this Constitution unless the context otherwise requires “Association” means the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and “Branch Association” shall mean and include any association of Attorney-at-Law recognized under Article 4.1 (b) or (c) hereof. “Member” means a member of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.</p> <p>“Attorney” or “Attorney-at-Law” means any person deemed to be an Attorney-at-Law or an Attorneys -at-Law admitted and enrolled as such under the Administration of Justice Law No. 11 of 1979.</p> <p>“Council” means the Bar Council</p> <p>“Rules” means rules made by the Council under the provisions of the Constitution.</p> <p>“Judicial district” means a judicial district consisting of judicial division as defined in the Judicature Act.</p> <p>“Secretary” means Secretary referred to in Article 8.1 (c) of the Assistant Secretary if the latter is authorized by the Executive Committee to act for the Secretary.</p> <p>“Judge” means a permanent Judge of any Court.</p> <p>“Judicial Zone” shall mean the Judicial Zones as defined by the law relating to the administration of justice as applicable on the first day of February of each calendar year.</p>

The Executive Committee with the concurrence of the Council exercising 2/3rd of votes (of the members present) shall have the right to re-demarcate the Zones of the Bar Association to achieve the objectives of the Association and the Zones are specified in the **Schedule 'F'** of this Constitution.

“Court” means any court of law established in Sri Lanka.

Words importing the masculine gender shall be taken to include females.

Words in the singular number shall include the plural, and vice versa.

SCHEDULE 'A'**RULES OF DEBATE**

- (a) The mover of a motion shall not (without the permission of the Chairman) speak for more than 10 minutes nor shall any other speaker or the mover in reply speak for more than five minutes.
- (b) No member shall without permission of the Chairman be permitted to speak more than once on the same question.
- (c) A member who has spoken may, with permission from the Chairman, be heard again in explanation, but he shall not introduce new matters nor without permission of the Chairman interrupt a member who is a speaker.
- (d) It shall be competent for any member to propose that the question be put. There shall be no debate upon such proposal and if the meeting shall so decide the question shall be put.
- (e) No member may raise any point of order which will result in preventing the resolution before the meeting being discussed.
- (f) No amendment to any resolution except that which seeks due amendment of intrinsic error or mistake shall be allowed.
- (g) Subject to the foregoing rules of debate, the Chairman shall be in charge of and shall have full power to direct the conduct of the meeting, and he may call attention to continued irrelevant, tedious repetition, unbecoming language of any breach of order on the part of any member and may order such member to discontinue his speech.

Voting

- (a) Voting shall be by show of hands, unless the proposer and seconder or oppose of a resolution should have specifically asked for voting by division.
- (b) The votes shall be counted by the Administrative Secretary and checked or verified by the Chairman present at the meeting.

SCHEDULE 'B'**NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURE****RULES FOR OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY****(A) Nomination**

1. Each candidate for the post of President or Secretary shall be nominated by means of a nomination paper signed by two persons whose names appear in the Electoral Register of voters for the current year as proposer and seconder respectively. The nomination paper shall be in the prescribed form. The written consent of the candidate must be endorsed by the candidate on the nomination paper. Not more than six nomination papers shall be accepted in respect of each candidate.
2. Every nomination paper and copy thereof should be lodged with the person nominated by the Council for that purpose hereinafter referred to as the Returning Officer at or before 12 noon of the day fixed for the purpose of accepting nomination papers at the Head Office of the Association.
3. On the nomination paper being lodged with the Returning Officer he shall determine forthwith whether he should accept such nomination subject to any objections that may be lodged under the provisions herein after set out. The decision of the Returning Officer accepting or rejecting a nomination paper shall subject to any appeal as provided in Rule 8 herein be final. No nomination paper shall be rejected if it is ex-facie in compliance with the rules.
4. The Returning Officer shall post a copy of each nomination paper received and accepted by him or, in case of appeal, accepted by the Advisory Board, on the notice board of the Bar Association on or before 3 p.m. on the day appointed for acceptance of nomination.
5. Objections to any nomination may be made by any registered voter to the Returning Officer before 10 a.m. of the day following nomination day.
6. Every objection shall be made in writing and shall specify the ground of objection and shall be signed by the objector.
7. The Returning Officer shall decide on the objections before 12 noon on the same day. He shall inform the objector and the nominee whose nomination has been objected to his decision and the reasons therefore. The Returning Officer's decision subject to any appeal under Rule 8 shall be final.
8. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Returning Officer rejecting a nomination paper or upholding any objection thereto shall be entitled to appeal in writing to the Advisory Board lodging his appeal with the Returning Officer before 1.30 p.m. of the day on which the Order appealed against was made.
9. The Advisory Board shall decide on any appeal made to it as expeditiously as possible on the same day.

(B) Election (Uncontested)

1. Where only one candidate is duly nominated for any post, the Returning Officer shall declare such candidate duly elected to such post.

(C) Election (Contested)

1. If there is more than one candidate seeking election to any of the said posts, the Returning Officer shall post their names as being candidates for the said offices on the Notice Board of the Association.
2. The election for the said Posts shall, as far as possible, be held on a day in the month of February each year to be fixed by the Council.
3. The nomination date shall, as far as possible, be at least three weeks prior to the date of the said election and shall be fixed by the Council.

(D) Death of a Candidate, President Elect or Secretary Elect

1. If after the acceptance of nominations by the Returning Officer but prior to the day of the elections, any candidate for the post of President or Secretary dies, the proposed election for the post of President or Secretary, as the case may be, shall not proceed further but fresh nominations shall be called for such post and the provisions of Rule (D) 4 herein after contained shall apply.
2. If on the day of the elections but prior to the declaration of the results by the Returning Officer, any candidate for the post of President or Secretary dies, the Returning Officer shall proceed with the elections and the counting of votes. If the deceased candidate polls the highest number of votes, the Returning Officer shall not declare the result of such election. In such an event, fresh nominations shall be called for such post and the provisions of the said Rule (D) 4 shall apply.
3. If after the declaration of the results by the Returning Officer of the election of the President and Secretary but prior to the installation of the President elect as the President and to the assumption of office by the Secretary elect as the Secretary at the Annual Convocation, any one of them dies, the post of President or Secretary, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be vacant and fresh nominations shall be called for such post and the provisions of the said Rule (D) 4 shall apply.
4. In the event of the death of any candidate for the post of President or Secretary or of the President elect or Secretary elect fresh nominations shall have to be called for, followed by an election, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any Article of the Constitution or in any other Rule in Schedule "B" thereto, the date of such nominations shall be within ten days from the date of such death and the date of such election shall be within twenty one days from the date of such nominations. Subject to the aforesaid, the Nomination and Election Procedure – Rules contained in schedule "B" to the Constitution shall mutatis mutandis apply to the said nominations and election.

ELECTION PROCEDURE

1. Voting shall be by secret ballot.
2. Every Branch Association shall be an election centre, for the purpose of this election and only members of the respective Branch Association may vote at the said centre.
3. No member shall cast more than one vote for the election to each office.
4. The District Judge of the relevant Judicial District or in his absence any Additional District Judge or any Magistrate of such Judicial District or any person acting in such office at such time or if such Judicial Officers who are absent or unable to function for whatever reason any Attorney-at-Law appointed by the Returning Officer shall be responsible for the conduct of the election at their respective election centres and for the counting of the ballots cast at the said election. They shall be referred to hereafter as Presiding Officers. (Amended on 25.02.2017)
5. Polling on the Election Day shall be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
6. Each candidate shall be entitled to have an agent authorized by him in writing at each election centre during polling hours and such agent may take objection to any person seeking to cast a vote and such objection shall be recorded and determined by the Presiding Officer.
7. No ballot paper should be handed over to a voter after the polling has closed.

Ballot Papers

The Ballot papers shall contain the names of the candidates and the election will indicate their choice by making a cross mark against the name of the candidate of their choice.

Counting

1. As soon as practicable after the closing of the poll the Presiding Officer shall count the ballots cast in the presence of the authorized agents of the candidates if any and in the presence of at least of three members of the Branch Association.
2. The Presiding Officers shall count the number of votes in favour of each of the candidates.
3. After the close of the counting, the Presiding Officer of the election centre shall forthwith inform the Returning Officer of the Bar Association in Colombo in writing of the number of votes cast in favour of each candidate for the respective posts, the number of ballots cast, the number of ballots spoilt and the number of unused ballot papers, all of which shall be separately sealed and kept in the Presiding Officer's custody for a period of two months unless they are called for by the Returning Officer at Colombo or the Advisory Board failing which they shall be destroyed.

Report I

1. The Returning Officer, Colombo upon receipt of all the returns from each centre shall after confirmation by the Advisory Board announce the successful candidate for each post the candidate who has secured the largest number of votes for each post respectively.
2. The Returning Officer shall on the declaration of the said election forthwith post on the Notice Board of the Bar Association a schedule of the number of votes cast in favour of each candidate at each election centre as well as the total from all centres and send a copy thereof to each Branch Association, with instructions to the Presiding Officers of the election centres to have them prominently displayed for the information of the members of the Association.

Report II

Within one calendar month of the declaration of the election results the Returning Officer, Colombo in association with the respective Presiding Officers shall present a report to the Bar Association, stating the manner in which the election was conducted together with his comments, recommendations and observations if any.

Disputed Election

Any unsuccessful candidate dissatisfied with the result of any election in which he was a candidate by reason of any irregularity in the conduct of such election may appeal to the Advisory Board within a period of 48 hours of the announcement of the result challenging the validity of the election setting out the grounds therefore.

The Advisory Board shall, after giving due notice to all candidates for that office at that election holding such inquiry as it may deem proper, decide and declare which candidate has been duly elected. Such decision shall be given within two weeks of the appeal being lodged and shall be final and conclusive and not called in question in any court.

Definitions

“Advisory Board” means a Board consisting of three (3) members of the Council who are not candidates and who are appointed by the Council before Nomination Day with a right to fill any casual vacancy vested in the remaining members of the Board.

“Prescribed” means as prescribed by the Advisory Board.

SCHEDULE "C"**Bar Association of Sri Lanka - BRANCH ASSOCIATIONS**

1. Akkaraipattu Bar Association
2. Ampara Bar Association
3. Anamaduwa Bar Association
4. Anuradhapura Bar Association
5. Association of Corporate Lawyers' Sri Lanka
6. Attanagalle Bar Association
7. Avissawella Bar Association
8. Badulla Bar Association
9. Baddegama Bar Association
10. Balangoda Bar Association
11. Balapitiya Lawyers' Association
12. Bandarawela Bar Association
13. Batticaloa Bar Association
14. Bibile Bar Association
15. Chavakachcheri Bar Association
16. Chilaw Bar Association
17. Colombo Law Society
18. Colombo Magistrate's Court Lawyers' Association
19. Dambulla Bar Association
20. Dehiattakandiya Bar Association
21. Elpitiya Bar Association
22. Embilipitiya Bar Association
23. Galle Law Association
24. Galgamuwa Bar Association
25. Gampaha Lawyers' Association
26. Gampola Bar Association
27. Hambantota Bar Association
28. Hatton Bar Association
29. Hingurakgoda Bar Association
30. Homagama Bar Association
31. Horana Bar Association
32. Hettipola Bar Association
33. Jaffna Bar Association
34. Kaduwela Bar Association
35. Kalmunai Lawyers' Association
36. Kalutara Bar Association
37. Kandy Bar Association
38. Kantale Bar Association
39. Kayts Bar Association
40. Kegalle Lawyers' Association
41. Kekirawa Bar Association
42. Kuliyaipitiya Lawyers' Association
43. Kurunegala Bar Association
44. Mahiyangana Bar Association
45. Maho Bar Association
46. Maligakanda Bar Association
47. Mallakkam Bar Association
48. Mannar Bar Association
49. Marawila Bar Association
50. Matale Bar Association
51. Matara Law Society
52. Matugama Bar Association
53. Mawanella Bar Association
54. Minuwangoda Bar Association
55. Monaragala Bar Association
56. Moratuwa Lawyers' Association
57. Morawaka Bar Association
58. Mt. Lavinia Bar Association
59. Mulativu Law Society
60. Muthur Bar Association
61. Mahara Bar Association
62. Negombo Bar Association
63. Nugegoda Bar Association
64. Nuwara Eliya Bar Association
65. Nawalapitiya Bar Association
66. Nikaweratiya Bar Association
67. Panadura Bar Association
68. Pelmadulla Bar Association
69. Point Pedro Lawyers' Association
70. Polonnaruwa Bar Association
71. Pugoda Lawyers' Association
72. Puttalam Bar Association
73. Ratnapura Bar Association
74. Ruwanwella Bar Association
75. Samanthurai Bar Association
76. Tangalle Bar Association
77. Trincomalee Bar Association
78. Vavuniya Bar association
79. Warakapola Bar Association
80. Wariyapola Bar Association
81. Wattala Bar Association
82. Welimada Bar Association
83. Wellawaya Bar Association

SCHEDULE 'D'

Model Constitutions of Branch Associations

1. *The Constitution adopted by each Branch Association shall recognize and give effect to the rights, duties and obligations placed on each Branch Association by the provisions of this Constitution.*
2. *Any provisions contained in the Constitution of a Branch Association which are contrary to or inconsistent with any one or more provisions of this Constitution, shall be invalid to the extent of such inconsistency.*
3. *Any dispute regarding the validity and /or interpretation of any one or more provisions contained in the Constitution of a Branch Association shall be decided by the Executive Committee of the Bar Association after hearing representations from all relevant stakeholders.*
4. *The Constitution adopted by each Branch Association shall inter alia make provision for;*
 - A. *The Name of the Branch Association as recognized by the Bar Association.*
 - B. *The objectives of the said Branch Association shall include promoting the objects of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka.*
 - C. *The different categories of membership provided by the said Branch Association including the procedure by which membership is obtained and lost and the rights, duties and obligations of each category of membership. Provided specifically that any Attorney-at-law whose membership in the Bar Association is revoked or suspended shall not be considered as a member of the Branch Association for the duration of such revocation or suspension.*
 - D. *A clearly defined management structure for the Branch Association and provision for office bearers including inter alia a President and a Secretary. The office bearers of such Branch Association shall cease to hold office with effect from the 16th of February of each year.*
 - E. *A clearly defined procedure to hold its Annual General Meeting after the preparation of the Electoral Register before the 15th day of February of each year and to forward to the Bar Association the minutes of that meeting duly certified together with the names of its Office-Bearers and delegates to the Council of the Bar association, before the end of February of each year.*

- F. The responsibilities and powers of the President and Secretary inter alia;*
- i. Ensure the smooth functioning of the Branch Association.*
 - ii. Ensure that the Annual General Meeting of the Branch Association is held every year before 15th February*
 - iii. Endeavor to facilitate a Bench and Bar meeting at least once in every 4 months.*
 - iv. Endeavor to facilitate a Court Management Committee Meeting once in every 4 months.*
 - v. Maintain a Membership Registry in the prescribed form and with accurate and up to date information.*
 - vi. Ensure that the membership of the Branch Association pays their respective Bar Association membership fees without delay.*
 - vii. Ensure that Notices from the Bar Association are displayed with due prominence after verifying its authenticity.*
- G. The event in which any Branch Association fails to conduct its Annual General Meeting before the 15th of February of any particular year.*
- H. The minimum eligibility criteria to be fulfilled by any member of that Branch Association in order to be elected as the President or Secretary as the case may be, including;*
- a. For the President to be over 15 years in practice*
 - b. For the Secretary to be over 8 years in practice (provided if no such person applies a person having minimum 5 years practice can apply)*
 - c. For the Treasurer to be over 5 years in practice (provided if no such person applies a person having minimum 3 years practice can apply)*

Any eligibility criteria provided for in the Constitution of a Branch Association can be more stringent than the minimum stipulated by the Bar Association provided that it shall not be arbitrary and/or ad hominem and/or discriminatory.

Schedule 'E'

NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURE

RULES FOR THE ELEVEN MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN TERMS OF Article 11:1 (vii)2

(A) Nomination

1. *Any member who intends to be elected to the Executive Committee set out in Article 11: 1 (vii) shall submit a duly completed nomination paper to the Administrative Secretary or Person nominated by EXCO of the Bar Association on/or before 4.00 p.m., Ten (10) days prior to the first meeting of the Council to be held in the month of March, or 10 days prior to the scheduled first meeting of the Council, whichever is applicable.*
2. *Such nomination paper shall be in the prescribed form and shall be signed by two persons, as proposer and seconder respectively, whose names have been duly communicated to the Bar Association as delegates to the Council of the Bar Association for the relevant year.*
3. *Such nomination paper shall clearly specify whether or not the candidate will be contesting for one of the three positions reserved for members under ten years in practice to represent the Junior Members of the Association.*
4. *If a person intends to be elected for one of the three positions reserved for members under ten years in practice, the nomination paper shall clearly specify the name of the Branch Association of the candidate and as to whether the Branch Association is located within the territorial limits of the Zones of Colombo Central and Colombo South.*
5. *Every nomination paper and copy thereof should be lodged with the person nominated by the Council for that purpose hereinafter referred as the Returning Officer on/or before 4.00 p.m., Ten (10) days prior to the first meeting of the Council to be held in the month of March, Or Ten (10) days prior to the scheduled first meeting of the Council, whichever is applicable.*
6. *On the nomination lodged with the Administrative Secretary or Person nominated by the EXCO being forwarded to the Returning Officer he shall determine forthwith whether he should accept such nomination subject to any objections that may be lodged under the provisions hereinafter set out. The decision of the Returning Officer*

- accepting or rejecting a nomination paper shall subject to any appeal as provided in Rule 10 herein be final. No nomination paper shall be rejected if it is substantially in compliance with the rules.*
- 7. The Returning Officer shall post a copy of each nomination paper received and accepted by him or, in the case of an appeal, (accepted by the Advisory Board), on the notice board of the Bar Association Secretariat on or before 10.00 a.m. on the first working day after the receipt of the said nominations. Objections to any such nominations may be made by any registered member to the Returning Officer before 10 a.m. of the next working day.*
 - 8. Every objection shall be made in writing and shall specify the ground of objection and shall be signed by the member who is raising the objection.*
 - 9. The Returning Officer shall decide on the objection before 12 noon on the same day. He shall inform the member objecting and the nominee, whose nomination has been objected to, his decision with reasons. The Returning Officer's decision subject to any appeal under Rule 10 shall be final.*
 - 10. Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Returning Officer shall be entitled to appeal in writing to the Advisory Board lodging his appeal with the Returning Officer before 3.00 p.m. of the day on which the Order appealed against was made.*
 - 11. The Advisory Board shall decide on any appeal made to it within a period of 24 hours of lodging such appeal.*

(B) Election (Uncontested)

- 1. Where only three candidates are duly nominated to represent the Junior Members of the Association, the Returning Officer shall declare such candidates elected to such posts. Provided that at least one of the said candidates is nominated to represent the Junior Members of the Association outside the territorial limits of the Zones of Colombo Central and Colombo South*
- 2. Where only eight candidates are duly nominated to be elected to the other eight positions of the Executive Committee set out in Article 11:1 (vii), the Returning Officer shall declare such candidates as elected to such posts.*

(C) Election (Contested)

1. *Where more than three candidates are duly nominated to represent the Junior Members of the Association, the Returning Officer shall post their names as being candidates for the said offices on the Notice Board of the Secretariat of the Bar Association as provided in Rule (A-7) above.*
2. *Where more than eight candidates are duly nominated to be elected to the other eight positions of the Executive Committee set out in Article 11:1 (vii), the Returning Officer shall post their names as being candidates for the said offices on the Notice Board of the Secretariat of the Bar Association.*
3. *The election of the said Posts shall be held on the date of the first meeting of the Bar Council for each year.*
4. *The names of the candidates whose names were posted by the Returning Officer in terms of Rule (C 1) and/ or Rule (C 2) above together with the names of the persons who proposed and seconded each candidate shall be circulated among the delegates of the Bar Council for the relevant year at least three (03) days prior to the 1st meeting of the Bar Council.*

(D) ELECTION PROCEDURE

1. *Voting shall be by secret ballot and shall be conducted at the venue of the first meeting of the Bar Council for the relevant year.*
2. *No member of the Bar Council shall cast*
 - a) *more than three votes for the election of Junior Members of the Association and*
 - b) *more than eight (08) votes for the election of eight Members to the Executive Committee*
3. *The Hon. Attorney General or in his absence the Solicitor General or his Nominee shall be the Presiding Officer and be responsible for the conduct of the election and the counting of the ballots cast.*
4. *Polling shall be open for a reasonable period of time enabling the delegates present to cast their votes. The Presiding Officer shall have the discretion to decide the time period within which the said polling shall be conducted.*

(E) BALLOT PAPERS

The ballot papers shall contain the names of the candidates and each member of the Council may indicate their preference with an appropriate mark against the name of the candidate. Each member of the council may cast his vote up to a maximum of three candidates to represent the Junior Members of the Association, one such vote being for the Junior Member of the Association representing the outstation bars (outside the territorial limits of the Zones of Colombo Central and Colombo South) and up to a maximum of eight members to the Executive Committee.

(F) COUNTING

- 1. As soon as practicable after the closing of the poll the Presiding Officer shall count the ballots cast in the presence of the candidates and their authorized agent if any.*
- 2. The Presiding Officer shall count the number of votes cast in favour of each of the candidates.*
- 3. After the closing of the counting, the Presiding Officer shall forthwith announce the number of votes cast in favour of each of the candidate for the respective posts, the number of ballots cast, the number of ballots spoilt and the number of unused ballot papers, all of which shall be separately sealed and kept in the Presiding Officer's custody at least for a period of two (2) months.*

(E) Disputed Election

Any unsuccessful candidate dissatisfied with the result of any election in which he was a candidate by reason of any irregularity in the conduct of such election may appeal to the Advisory Board within a period of 24 hours of the announcement of the result challenging the validity of the election setting out the grounds thereof.

The Advisory Board shall, after giving due notice to all candidates for that post at that election holding such inquiry as it may deem proper, decide and declare which candidate has been duly elected. Such decision shall be given within two working days of the appeal being lodged and shall be final and conclusive and should not be called in question in any court.

(F) Definitions

- 1. "Advisory Board" means a Board consisting of three (3) members of the Council who are not candidates and who are appointed by the Council before Nomination Day, with a right to fill any casual vacancy vested in the remaining members of the Board.*
- 2. "Prescribed" means as prescribed by the Advisory Board.*

Schedule 'F'

Respective Zones for the Branch Associations

	Judicial Zone	Branch Associations
1	Ampara	Ampara, Akkaraipattu, Kalmunei, Sammanthurai
2	Avissawella	Avissawella, Homagama, Kaduwela,
3	Anuradhapura	Anuradhapura, Pollonnaruwa, Kekirawa, Hingurakgoda,
4	Badulla	Badulla, Bandarawela, Welimada, Wellawaya, Monaragala, Bibile, Mahiyanganaya, Dehiattakandiya
5	Batticaloa	Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Kantale, Muthur,
6	Colombo Central	Colombo Law Society, Colombo Magistrates Court, Maligakanda, Corporate Lawyers' Association
7	Colombo South	Mount Lavinia, Nugegoda, Moratuwa,
8	Chilaw	Chilaw, Marawila, Puttalam, Anamaduwa
9	Galle	Galle, Balapitiya, Elpitiya, Baddegama
10	Gampaha	Gampaha, Attanagalla, Mahara, Pugoda
11	Jaffna	Jaffna, Chavakachcheri, Kytes, Point Pedro, Mallakam
12	Kalutara	Kalutara, Panadura, Horana, Matugama
13	Kandy	Kandy, Matale, Dambulla, Gampola
14	Kegalle	Kegalle, Mawanella, Warakapola, Ruwanwella
15	Kurunegala	Kurunegala, Kuliyaipitiya, Nikaweratiya, Galagamuwa, Hettipola, Maho, Wariyapola
16	Matara	Matara, Tangalle, Hambantota, Morawaka,
17	Negombo	Negombo, Minuwangoda, Wattala
18	Nuwara Eliya	Nuwara Eliya, Hatton, Nawalapitiya
19	Ratnapura	Ratnapura, Pelmadulla, Balangoda, Embilipitiya,
20	Vavuniya	Vavuniya, Mannar, Mulative,