



INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF LEGAL MEDICINE

STATUTE

Revision of the 19th of January, 2015

§1 NAME AND AIMS

The International Academy of Legal Medicine (IALM) - formerly known as the "International Academy of Legal Medicine and Social Medicine" – was originally founded in 1938 (in Bonn). Its aim shall be the furthering of scientific progress in the field of Legal Medicine, especially by promoting collaboration and information exchange among specialists on an international level, by holding scientific meetings and congresses, by recommending guidelines in the different areas of Legal Medicine, and through scientific publications. The IALM shall aim to collaborate with other scientific societies and shall endeavour to provide as required the information and expertise to answer public inquiries related to the discipline of Legal Medicine.

§ 2 MEMBERSHIP

- 1) Any academically qualified person involved scientifically and/or professionally in the speciality of Legal Medicine and its different areas can apply for full membership.
- 2) Corporate membership can be applied for by other bodies and legal entities (e.g. commercial companies, national societies); these members of the academy will not have the right to vote.



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- 3) Any other person who can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Academy that he has a scientific/professional interest in any field of Legal Medicine can apply for extraordinary membership, but will not have the right to vote.
- 4) Applications for membership must be made to the Presidium of the Academy and these should be accompanied by references from two full Members or from two recognized academics or professionals. The Presidium may request the submission of a curriculum vitae. Admission will always be subject to the decision of the Presidium.
- 5) Membership is terminated by written notice of withdrawal (by registered letter), by the death of the member or by disqualification. Disqualification's will be effected by the Presidium and will be considered if a member has been involved in activities which are deemed to be detrimental to the good name and professional standing of the discipline of Legal Medicine or of the IALM.
- 6) Scientists and specialists who have made a significant contribution to Legal Medicine and related fields, other persons who have effectively promoted the discipline of Legal Medicine on a national and international level, and private or public institutions or entities (e.g. commercial companies, national societies, foundations, etc) who have made a significant contribution to the discipline of Legal Medicine or to the IALM, can be awarded with the Academy Gold Medal. Nomination for such recognition can be made in writing by any full member to the presidium. The awarding of such recognition can be made only by the presidium.
- 7) Members of IALM, who have participated in at least 3 IALM triennial meetings, and presented at least 3 scientific works, and published at least 20 papers in international index journals in the fields of Legal Medicine and other forensic



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sciences, can be nominated Fellow Members. The awarding of such recognition can be made only by the Presidium, on personal application by the member.

8) Scientists and specialists who have made a significant contribution to the discipline of Legal Medicine and other persons who have effectively promoted the discipline of Legal Medicine on a national and international level can be elected as Honorary Members. Nominations for such recognition can be made only by the Presidium and the final decision will be subject to ratification by the General Assembly. Honorary Members are exempt from payment of any membership fees.

9) Members of the IALM, who have made relevant contributions to the development of the Academy can, after their professional retirement and of a membership lasting at least 15 years, be honoured by being elected as Members Emeriti. Nominations for such a recognition can only be made by the Presidium. On personal application, Members Emeriti can be exempt from payment of membership fees but still maintaining their right to vote.

10) Retired members can be exempt from payment of membership fees on a personal application to the Presidium: if this is accepted they will no longer retain the right to vote.

§ 3 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1) The membership of the IALM will constitute the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the IALM.

2) The General Assembly shall have the responsibility for the following matters:

- Receipt of the report of the Presidium.
- Election of the members of the Presidium



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- Election of the auditors
- Relieve the members of the Presidium
- Decisions on congresses
- Decisions on alterations of statutes
- Decisions on dissolution of the Academy
- Decisions on Honorary Members

3) Resolutions in meetings of the General Assembly will be passed with a simple majority as long as the Statutes do not indicate differently.

4) The regular meeting of the General Assembly takes place on the occasion of the main congress of the Academy. Invitations to attend the meeting together with the Agenda for the meeting will be dispatched by the Secretary of the Presidium six weeks in advance of the date of the meeting. A matter which was not included in the forwarded agenda can be introduced and discussed at the meeting of the General Assembly only if 3/4ths of the members present are in favour of this. This does not apply to fundamental matters such as alterations of statutes, increase of membership fees, dissolution of the Academy.

5) An Extraordinary Meeting of the General Assembly can be called by the Presidium. Such a meeting must be called if at least 1/4th of the voting members have applied to the Presidium to hold such a meeting expressing the reason(s) why this is required.

6) A postal ballot may be taken either on the decision of the Presidium or if 2/3rds of the members present at a General Assembly vote for this procedure. (This procedure must ensure that each voting member receives the necessary information together with a reply letter and reply form and to be returned to the



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Secretary of the Presidium by a deadline of eight weeks. The counting will be monitored and recorded fully).

7) A telematic ballot procedure may be taken if the Presidium so decides. In this case the IALM Members eligible to vote, being those Full and Extraordinary IALM Members who have paid all outstanding fees required in relation to their Membership status, shall be indicated by the IALM Treasurer.

8) The telematic ballot procedure implies that a motion to be put to the vote, shall be made known to all IALM Members eligible to vote through a telematic notice. Each Member will receive a document via email containing the motion and shall then be given 21 days to respond. The telematic ballot shall be valid when a response is received from at least $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the Members eligible to vote (§ 3.7). The motion is deemed to have been approved when $2/3^{\text{rds}}$ of the responding Members are in agreement with it.

§ 4 PRESIDIUM

1) The Presidium shall consist of: the President, two Vice President, the Treasurer and the Secretary who will constitute the executive Presidium and, the representatives of the sections (§ 5) and, one representative for international relations and, the Past President.

2) The General Assembly elects the members of the Presidium. Nominations can be made by the Presidium and (thereafter) by the General Assembly. If more than one candidate is nominated a secret ballot shall be held and the candidate attaining a simple majority will be elected.



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- 3) All Presidium members can be reelected for further terms of office with the exception of the President, who can be reelected once.
- 4) The newly elected Presidium shall take over his official duties on the 1st January following the election, until which date the outgoing Presidium remains in office.
- 5) The Presidium may co-opt onto it consultants and representatives as required.
- 6) The Presidium shall hold a meeting at least once per year. These shall be convened by the President together with the Secretary who shall notify the members of the date and venue of the meeting at least four weeks in advance, at which time an Agenda will also be dispatched. These meetings will either be residential or conducted telematically, via a teleconference system.
- 7) Two members of the Executive Presidium can represent the Academy in matters concerning registration as well as for other concerns.
- 8) The IALM Representative for International Relations, who shall act as effectively as possible as the “*Minister for foreign affairs*” of the Academy, shall be flanked in his role by a Group of *Assistants of the IALM Representative for International Relations*, who would have to act as “*Ambassadors*” of IALM, with the aim of developing and maintaining a network of Relations with a various number of Scientific Societies, Organizations, and Institutions. An annual amount of of the total balance of the Academy, to be approved by the *Executive Presidium*, shall be used to fund the aforesaid activities.

§ 5 SECTIONS

- 1) Within the Academy the constitution of sections on the basis of Continents and other relevant geographic distributions or of forensic subspecialisations shall be



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possible. The constitution of a section must be approved by the General Assembly. Each such section must produce its own rules about structure and goals which must be approved by the General Assembly. Sections are represented each by a representative in the Presidium who has the right to vote. Statements of principal character by sections can only be made after consulting the Presidium. The sections give a report about their activities at the General Assembly.

2) The Continental Sections shall consist of the following:

- European;
- North African;
- Central - South African;
- Middle Eastern;
- Central Asian;
- Far Eastern;
- North American;
- Central - South American;
- Oceanic.

The Sections shall be deemed to exist on the condition that they contain at least 50 Full or Extraordinary Members, who have paid all the outstanding fees, and that they have been approved by the General Assembly. Each Continental Section shall be represented in the Presidium by the related Representative, with the right to vote.

3) The constitution of a Board of Regional Representatives, made up of Members of National Societies and/or Academic Bodies, shall be possible if it is agreed upon by the General Assembly.



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4) The Youth Section shall consist of young Researchers, no more than 35 years of age. The said Section shall be deemed to exist on the condition that it contains at least 50 Full or Extraordinary Members, who have paid all the outstanding fees, and that it has been approved by the General Assembly. It shall be represented in the Presidium by the related Representative, with the right to vote.

§ 6 SUBCOMMITTEES

1) A "Scientific Committee" shall be constituted by the Presidium and it shall advise the Presidium on scientific matters. This "Scientific Committee" will include all the Past-Presidents of IALM that are not members of the Presidium but are still active within the Academy.

2) The "Young Scientific Committee" shall be established and be comprised of 2 young Researchers, no more than 35 years of age, for each one of the 5 main Continents (Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania, America), with a total of 10 Members. The role of said Committee will be to organise Scientific and/or Didactic Events, including Training Courses, at least once a year, under the supervision of the IALM Scientific Committee.

3) Consultants in specific fields of Legal Medicine can be nominated by the Presidium to form "advisory groups". Lists of the membership of such advisory groups can be given on request to national and international bodies.

4) The Presidium may nominate a reviewing board to look after the organization of the congress and the publication of its proceedings.



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§ 7 MEETINGS, PUBLICATIONS

- 1) IALM Meetings shall consist of main Triennial Congresses, Interim Meetings and Symposia.
- 2) The responsibility for the organization of the Main Triennial Congress shall lie with the Presidium and the Scientific Committee, in collaboration with the Congress President.
- 3) On the suggestion of the Presidium, the General Assembly can decide to hold a Main Triennial Congress at other time intervals.
- 4) The organization of Interim Meetings and Symposia shall be proposed by one or more Members of the Presidium and take place in the interval between two Main Triennial Congresses. The Presidium shall indicate an Interim Meeting or Symposium President. The responsibility for the organization of an Interim Meeting or Symposium shall lie with the Presidium and the Scientific Committee, in collaboration with the Interim Meeting or Symposium President.
- 5) Interim Meetings and Symposia can be held in conjunction with other International Meetings if the themes correspond with the aims of the Academy. Such decisions are the responsibility of the Presidium.
- 6) Each IALM Meeting President shall transmit to the next IALM Meeting President funds equal to the amount received from the previous President.
- 7) The official publication of the Academy will be the "International Journal of Legal Medicine" and subscription to it will be available for all full members (§ 2,1) at a reduced fee. This Journal will contain a special section dealing with communications from the IALM. The responsibility for the matters concerned in this section will lie with the Presidium. Other members (other than § 2,1) can also



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subscribe to the International Journal of Legal Medicine at the same special tariff applying to the IALM.

8) The official proceedings of a congress will be named 'Acta Medicinae Legalis'. The ownership rights of this publication will belong to the IALM. These proceedings will be published under the direction of the Presidium, in collaboration with the Congress President.

9) The official language of the Academy shall be English. This does not exclude the use of other languages in working sessions provided that all official reports of sessions are in English.

§ 8 MEMBERSHIP FEES / AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS / BUSINESS PERIOD

1) An annual membership fee shall be levied from each member (unless exempted) and this becomes due at the beginning of each chronological year. The amount of this fee shall be proposed by the Presidium and fixed by the General Assembly.

2) The following categories of membership fees exist:

- full members;
- extraordinary members;
- corporate members (a minimum fee equivalent to four times that for full members but this sum can be voluntarily exceeded);
- full/extraordinary members originating from the *Least Developed Countries* (paying a reduced fee equal to 1/3rd of the full membership fee).

3) At the occasion of a congress the cash balance shall be checked by two auditors elected by the General Assembly.



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4) The accounts of the Assembly and the cash balance shall be checked once per year by the Presidium in its regular annual meeting.

§ 9 ALTERATIONS OF THE STATUTES

1) The Statutes shall be modified by the General Assembly on the occasion of its regular meetings (§ 3,3) when at least 3/4ths of the members present so decide or, alternatively, through a telematic ballot.

2) Proposals to change the Statutes must be made known to all members at the time that the invitation to the General Assembly is mailed out. These shall only be made by the Presidium. They have to be put forward by the Presidium to the General Assembly if at least 1/5th of the members apply for this motion at least 2 weeks before the regular dispatch deadline for the General Assembly.

3) The utilization of the telematic ballot procedure, as described in §3,7 and §3,8, to modify the Statute requires that the proposed modifications shall only be made by the Presidium. If the Presidium agrees to submit the proposed modifications, it shall do so at least 4 weeks before the telematic notice is sent to the Members eligible to vote.

§ 10 DISSOLUTION

1) A dissolution of the Academy shall only be considered if the Presidium has informed all members about this motion at least three months in advance of a General Assembly meeting. A motion of dissolution shall be forwarded by the Presidium if at least 1/2 of the members apply for this in writing. The Presidium



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can also propose this motion. The decision of dissolution necessitates a 3/4ths majority of the members present.

§ 11 CHARITABLE STATUS

- 1) The Academy shall at all time maintain a non-profit making status and shall pursue exclusively and directly the welfare and scientific purpose in terms of the "beneficiary tax purpose" of the relevant legislation.
- 2) The funds of the Academy may only be used for the appropriate statutory purposes. The members and the Presidium shall receive no fees and also no other allowances shall be paid out to them out of the funds of the Academy.
- 3) No person may be supported in a way inappropriate to the purposes of the Society nor benefit from inappropriate allowances.