

**APPLICATION TO CREATE A RELIGIOUS LIBERTY LAW SECTION OF THE  
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA**

**APPLICATION**

Pursuant to Article IX, Section 4 of the State Bar Handbook of the State Bar of Georgia, the 104 undersigned members in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia respectfully request the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia to approve the creation of a new Section of the State Bar of Georgia to be known as the *Religious Liberty Law Section*.

**THE AREA OF LAW OR PRACTICE TO WHICH THE SECTION IS TO BE  
DEDICATED**

The area of law and practice to which the Section is to be dedicated is Religious Liberty Law.

**NEED FOR THE PROPOSED RELIGIOUS LIBERTY LAW SECTION**

**A. Religious Liberty Law is an Important and Specialized Area of Practice.**

Religious liberty is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as well as the Georgia Constitution (Ga. Const. Art. I, Sec. I., Para. III; Ga. Const. Art. I, Sec. I., Para. IV).

Religious liberty is often referred to as our “first liberty” (see, for example, *The First Liberty*, William Lee Miller, Georgetown University Press, 2003 and the 2015 *Annual Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom*, page 2, stating “religious freedom is our nation’s first freedom”).

Given the fact that, in 2017, nearly 80% of Americans identified themselves with a specific religion (<https://news.gallup.com/poll/224642/2017-update-americans-religion.aspx>), it is not surprising that religion intersects with the law at a great many levels. Indeed, legal issues involving religious liberty are becoming more and more common, in both the public and private sectors.

The Supreme Court of the United States has recently addressed religious issues on numerous occasions. See, for example, *Town of Greece, N.Y. v. Galloway*, 134 S.Ct. 1811 (2014)(legislative prayer); *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.*, 134 S. Ct. 2751 (2014)(religious liberty rights of closely held for-profit corporations); *Holt v. Hobbs*, 135 S.Ct. 853 (2015)(religious rights of prisoners); *EEOC v. Abercrombie & Fitch*, 135 S.Ct. 2028 (2015)(religious accommodation in employment); *Reed v. Town of Gilbert, Ariz.*, 135 S.Ct. 2218 (2015)(free speech rights of a church); *Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, 138

S.Ct. 1719 (2018)(religious beliefs as a defense to public accommodation discrimination claims); *American Humanist Association v. American Legion*, 139 S.Ct. 2067 (2019)(Establishment Clause implications of cross-shaped war memorial on public property).

Due to the fact that the law relating to religious liberty is both complicated and fluid, attorneys in many different fields of practice will be faced with an ever-increasing number of religious liberty law-related issues and, without adequate education and resources, will not be armed with the professional knowledge necessary to competently address and handle these issues. Among the practice areas affected are:

(a) **Employment/Labor Law.** Religion-based EEOC complaints have more than doubled over the past 15 years (*Religious-Discrimination Claims on the Rise: Complaints Include Dress Codes, Working on the Sabbath, Handling Alcohol,*” Melanie Trotman, *The Wall Street Journal*, Oct. 27, 2013). And different rules apply to religious and non-religious employers (*Conlon v. Intervarsity Christian Fellowship*, 777 F.3d 829 (6<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2015)(right of faith-based groups to make employment decisions consistent with their beliefs).

(b) **Family Law.** Religious liberty issues arise often in the family law and parental rights contexts, including such issues as a parent’s right to determine the religious upbringing of his or her children (*Religion as Factor in Child Custody Cases*, 124 A.L.R.5th 203 (Originally published in 2004)). Such issues are not uncommon, especially given the fact that interfaith marriages are on the rise and that marriages between spouses of different faiths dissolve at a much higher rate than marriages between spouses of the same faith. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/04/AR2010060402011.html>. Religious liberty issues also arise in contexts where parental rights are pitted against government interference with those rights, including with respect to a child’s education and medical treatment. Religious law issues are also becoming more common in foster care and adoption contexts.

(c) **Business Law.** There are many recent and pending cases around the country addressing the controversial legal issue of whether a commercial establishment may decline business for religious reasons. See, for example, *Masterpiece Cake Shop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, 138 S.Ct. 1719 ; *Elane Photography, LLC v. Willock* (New Mexico); *State of Washington v. Arlene’s Flowers* (Washington); *Hands On Originals v. Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission* (Kentucky); *Brush & Nib Studio v. City of Phoenix* (Arizona); *Stormans, Inc. v. Wiesman* (Washington); *Telescope Media Group v. Lindsey* (Minnesota); *Country Mill Farms v. City of East Lansing* (Michigan). Attorneys in increasing numbers will undoubtedly be called upon to represent business owners in this and other religion-related contexts.

(d) **Real Estate and Land Use Law.** Local governments and religious organizations are often faced with land use and zoning issues related to religion, including actions brought

pursuant to the federal Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), which was enacted in order to protect religious liberty.

(e) **Government and Public Law.** Governmental bodies, public schools, and public employers are often confronted with both Establishment and Free Exercise of religion issues, including what sorts of religious activities and displays are allowed on public property; whether and what sorts of religious accommodations must be made for public employees; and what sorts of religious exercise rights public school students, faculty, and administrative employees have.

(f) **Tax Law.** Many provisions of federal, state, and local income and property tax laws relate specifically to religion, premised upon respect for religious liberty.

(g) **International Law.** The 193 member states of the United Nations – including the United States – have agreed to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. These rights and freedoms include the freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief, which is protected and affirmed in numerous international instruments, including the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the 1981 Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief. In 1988 the United States Congress unanimously enacted the International Religious Freedom Act, which seeks to make religious freedom a higher priority in U.S. foreign policy.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg.

## **B. Religious Liberty Law Sections Have Been Created in Other State Bar Associations.**

The increasing importance of, and growing interest in, religious liberty law is evidenced by the activities of other bar associations around the country. For example:

- the State Bar of Arizona has created a Religious Liberty Law Section;
- the Michigan Bar Association has created a Religious Liberty Law Section;
- the Civil Rights and Social Justice Section of the American Bar Association has established a Religious Freedom Committee which “*addresses the liberty interest that was a founding purpose of our nation – the ‘First Freedom,’ freedom of religion.*”

Many state and local bar associations and other legal organizations have sponsored an ever-increasing number of CLEs addressing religious liberty law topics. For example:

- the Arizona Bar Association Religious Liberty Law Section has sponsored multiple CLEs on a variety of religious liberty law topics, including: “*In Search of a More Perfect Union:*

*When Rights of Religious Liberty and Anti-Discrimination Collide*” (June 16, 2017); “*Who Prays: Unsettled Questions for Legislative Prayer*” (October 20, 2017); “*Religious Speech in Public Schools*” (February 27, 2018); “*Religion and the Workplace: Navigating the Issues for Employers and Employees*” (June 29, 2018); “*In God We Trust?: Government Endorsement of Religion*” (September 14, 2018); “*Inclusion: The Legal Landscape Affecting Religion and People of Faith*” (June 28, 2019); “*Representing Churches, Synagogues, Gurdwaras, Mosques & Temples: Tips and Practical Takeaways for Outside Counsel*” (November 20, 2019); and *Trinity Lutheran, Espinoza and Beyond: Establishment of Religion or Discrimination Against Religion?* (March 16, 2020).

- the Religious Liberty Section of the Michigan Bar Association has sponsored several CLEs on religious liberty law topics, including “*Religious Liberty Issues in Public Schools*” (2018), “*When Legal Protections to Religious Freedom and Sexual Freedom Collide*” (2019), and “*Religious Liberty Issues in Michigan: Where Do We Go From Here?*”(2019).

- the Chicago Bar Association has sponsored several CLEs on religion and the law, including “*When Church and State Collide: Defending Religious Freedom*” (June 22, 2012), “*Religious Expression in the Public Square*” (December 19, 2012), and “*End of Life: Ethical Concerns, Religious Perspectives and Civil Law*” (October 6, 2014);

- the Colorado Bar Association sponsored a three-part series of CLEs entitled: “*Religious Liberty – Our First Freedom*”, covering the topics “*Religious Expression in Public Schools During the Holidays*” (December 3, 2012), “*Hercules Meets Obamacare: Does the Affordable Care Act Violate a Company’s Religious Liberty?*” (February 19, 2013), and “*School Vouchers: Student Choice or Establishment of Religion?*” (April 16, 2013);

- the Law School at the University of Missouri, Kansas City has sponsored three Annual Law and Religious Freedom Conferences, in 2017, 2018, and 2019;

- the North Carolina Bar Association Foundation presented “*Hobby Lobby, Town of Greece and Hosanna Tabor: The U.S. Supreme Court’s Recent Religion Cases*” (January 29, 2015);

- the Pennsylvania Bar Institute presented “*Legal Concerns For People And Entities of Faith*” (July 7, 9, and 10, 2015).

- In July of 2015, the ABA presented a CLE titled “*Religious Freedom: Rising Threats to a Fundamental Human Right*”; on January 22, 2016, the ABA presented a CLE titled: “*Start the Morning with a Prayer – Religion in Schools*” and in February, 2016, the ABA presented a CLE titled “*Accommodating Religious Attire: The Ethical Implications of EEOC v. Abercrombie’s ‘Notice’ Requirements.*”

**C. A New Section Dedicated to Religious Liberty Law Would Not Duplicate Any Other Section of the State Bar and Would Provide Georgia Attorneys With Legal Education and Support Not Provided by Any Other Section.**

The State Bar of Georgia has no Section dedicated to addressing the law of religious liberty. In fact, it appears that no other Section of the State Bar of Georgia has addressed religious liberty law topics at all, presumably because such Sections do not consider religious liberty law within their purview, are not interested in religious liberty law topics, or do not deem themselves qualified to address such topics

As noted above, religious liberty law issues cut across a wide spectrum of legal practice areas, and there is no Section of the State Bar of Georgia dedicated to comprehensively addressing the issues of religious liberty law and treating religious liberty law as a specialized area of practice.

Therefore, a Religious Liberty Law Section would not be dedicated to an area of law or practice duplicated by any other Section of the State Bar. A Religious Liberty Law Section would provide currently unavailable education and support to attorneys faced with religious liberty law issues across a wide spectrum of practice areas.

**D. The Purposes of the Proposed Religious Liberty Law Section are Within the Purposes of the State Bar of Georgia.**

The State Bar of Georgia exists to foster among the members of the Georgia Bar the principles of duty and service to the public, to improve the administration of justice, and to advance the science of law. <https://gabar.org/aboutthebar/index.cfm>. And Article IX, Section 4 of the State Bar Handbook provides that, in addition to a Young Lawyers Division and a Senior Lawyers Section, “[o]ther sections may be created for members of the bar interested in a specialized area of law or practice.”

The Religious Liberty Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia is formed to educate, to discuss, and to disseminate information regarding, as well as to advance and to protect, the basic human and constitutional right of religious liberty through law. To those ends, the mission of the Religious Liberty Law Section will be:

- To further the interest of the State Bar of Georgia and of the legal profession as a whole in all ways related to religious liberty law;
- To advance and protect the basic human and constitutional right of religious liberty through law;
- To promote throughout the State of Georgia the education of members of the State Bar and the public about issues related to religious liberty law by organizing presentations on various topics relating to religious liberty law; sponsoring and presenting lectures, workshops, and publications, such as newsletters, on religious liberty topics; and presenting continuing legal education programs on topics related to religious liberty law;

- To promote religious liberty law among Georgia attorneys as a specialized field of practice;
- To provide a forum for developing relations and exchanges of viewpoints with persons and organizations having related interests in the field of religious liberty law;
- To encourage and facilitate debate within the legal profession on religious liberty issues;
- To cooperate with other Sections of the State Bar of Georgia in matters concerning religious liberty law;
- To encourage and to support mutual respect for, and understanding of, differing religious belief systems and practices and how they relate to religious liberty law; and
- To inform the Board of Governors on matters appropriate for Board action.

Representative topics of interest to the Section would include, but not be limited to: the legal and philosophical foundations of religious liberty; the history of religious liberty and religious liberty law; the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution, including religion and public schools, religious expression on government property, and religious exercise by government officials and bodies in public venues; the Free Exercise Clause of the U.S. Constitution, including religious practice and conscience claims in the public and private sectors and the intersection of religious liberty claims and anti-discrimination laws; religious liberty protections in the Georgia Constitution; statutory religious liberty protections, including Religious Freedom Restoration acts, federal and state Equal Access acts, and the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act; religious discrimination under Title VII, Title IX and other federal and state laws; international religious liberty protections; and current religious liberty violations at both the domestic and international levels.

Therefore, the purposes of the proposed Religious Liberty Law Section are within the purposes of the State Bar of Georgia.

**E. There is Widespread Support for the Creation of a Religious Liberty Law Section.**

The high level of interest in religious liberty law among Georgia attorneys is evidenced by the fact that 104 Georgia-licensed attorneys are supporting this application to establish a State Bar of Georgia Religious Liberty Law Section. That is more attorneys than belong to eight already existing Sections, including Animal Law (96 members), Bike Law (47 members), Class Action (4 members), Construction Law (56 members), Equine Law (52 members), Individual Rights (84 members), Law and Economics (19 members), and Legal Economics (52 members).

Thus, there is more than sufficient support among Georgia attorneys to justify the creation of a Religious Liberty Law Section in the State Bar of Georgia.

**PROPOSED BYLAWS**

The proposed Bylaws for the Religious Liberty Law Section are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

**APPLICANTS**

The names and addresses of 10 State Bar of Georgia members applying for creation of a Religious Liberty Law Section are set forth below. The names and bar numbers of 92 additional State Bar of Georgia members who support creation of a Religious Liberty Law Section are also set forth.

**REQUESTED BOARD ACTION**

It is respectfully requested that the Board approve the creation of a new State Bar of Georgia Section to be known as the “Religious Liberty Law Section.”

**Respectfully submitted,**

Cortney S. Alexander (#142690), 271 17th Street, NW, Suite 1400, Atlanta, GA 30363

David N. Baker (#033075) 914 Collier Road NW, #2205, Atlanta, GA 30318

R. Wayne Bond (#066759), 1600 Parkwood Circle, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30339

Vernadette R. Broyles (#593026) 5425 Peachtree Parkway, Suite 110, Norcross, GA 30092

David D. Dennison (#218105) 24 Pinewood Avenue, Savannah, GA 31406

Esther Slater McDonald (#649005) 1075 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 2500, Atlanta, GA 30309

Blake W. Meadows (#569729) 115 Kylemore Court, Tyrone, GA 30290

D. Kent Shelton (#640545) 305 Lawrence Street, Marietta, GA 30060

Mathew K. Titus (#479107) 5755 North Point Parkway, Suite 69, Alpharetta, GA 30022

Mark L. Wells (#747822) 4245 Amberglade Court, Norcross, GA 30092

**In addition to the foregoing 10 members of the State Bar of Georgia, the following additional 94 members of the State Bar of Georgia also support the creation of a State Bar of Georgia Religious Liberty Law Section:**

Drew Ashby

#455020

Dale S. Austin	#940626
Daniel H. Baquerizo	#563664
Travis C. Barham	#753251
Robert Barker	#037651
Deanna L. Baxam	#902508
Timothy Belz	#049787
Craig E. Bertschi	#055739
Wendell R. Bird	#057875
Bryan W. Bockhop	#065127
Benjamin J. Bogos	#853291
Tyler Bridgers	#160740
Richard L. Brittain	#083275
Kevin Broyles	#090259
Birney Bull	#094180
Bruce N. Cameron	#105357
Scott Campbell	#142384
Dan Castro	#116157
Rebecca D. Clements	#411059
Eric D. Cochling	#172420
Chris Conway	#823011
David Cortman	#188810
Casey C. Crumbley	#741428
Matthew Drew DeMott	#217655
Antionette Nichole Duck	#193261
Anne Elizabeth Goodgame	#931337

C. Edward Goodgame	#300543
Rory T. Gray	#880715
Michael Gumprecht	#903081
Alan Hamilton	#320698
Ben C. Hand	#322660
Denise Harle	#176758
Brett B. Harvey	#335170
Jerry Hester	#349850
J. B. Hilliard	#235051
W. Hunter Holliday	#362520
Chad A. Hunt	#378492
Robyn W. Iler	#382050(Inactive)
Jennifer L. Jack	#385858
Lindsey Kesler	#454747(Inactive)
Steve Kyle	#430700
John Legg	#218035
S. Fenn Little, Jr.	#454360
Terry L. Lloyd	#455349
Kevin J. Loechl	#755710
Harris G. Martin	#940358
Keri M. Martin	#679803
Terry N. Massey	#476140
Emily Joy Matson	#639447
Jonathan Terry McCants	#480485
Aaron K. McCullough	#398116

Josh McKoon	#495878
McLaine Merrick	#791458
J. Philip Milam	#505150
Mark P. Miller	#435146
Chae Mims	#936767
Daniel Murray	#443852
Heidi G. Neal	#784194
Henry L. Perry	#573216
Jennifer Peterson	#601355
Kort D. Peterson	#225108
Victoria Cuneo Powell	#353975
John E. Price	#142012
Scott Pryor	#589155
Ryan P. Reavis	#585240
Morgan M. Robertson	#609750
Jane W. Robbins	#738415
Rebecca D. Ross	#615122
Stuart Roth	#615650(Inactive)
Adam Sanders	#126280
Sherlyn Selassie	#933858
John Matthew Sharp	#607842
Jeffrey A. Shaw	#557870
Jeff Shiver	#001303
Ben Shoemaker	#958395
Timothy T. Silvester	#109544

Kathleen C. Simon	#142410(Inactive)
Brandon Smith	#732793
Travis W. Smith	#153045
Charles C. Stebbins	#667350
Christopher R. Stovall	#621780
R. Scott Tewes	#702677
G. William Thackston, Jr.	#703100
Maxwell K. Thelen	#311404
Kevin H. Theriot	#373095
Benjamin R. Thomsen	#783046
Joel Thornton	#643040
Kory Verdonck	#452640
Kristen K. Waggoner	#127116
William Thomas Watts, Jr.	#742310
George M. Weaver	#743150
Anna Wetzel	#905359
Juli Wisotsky	#246135
Troy G. Woollen	#567866

Approved by the Board of Governors

this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

**EXHIBIT A**  
**PROPOSED BYLAWS**

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA**  
**RELIGIOUS LIBERTY LAW SECTION**  
**BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I**

**Name and Purpose**

Section 1: The name of this Section shall be the “Religious Liberty Law Section.”

Section 2: The purpose of this Section is to increase the awareness, further the knowledge, and foster professionalism and excellence, of members of the State Bar of Georgia and the general public in the field of religious liberty law. To that end, the Section’s purposes are set forth in its Mission Statement and include, among others:

- To further the interest of the State Bar of Georgia and of the legal profession as a whole in all ways related to religious liberty law;
- To promote throughout the State of Georgia the education of members of the State Bar and the public about issues related to religious liberty law, by organizing presentations on various topics relating to religious liberty law, by sponsoring and by presenting lectures, workshops, and publications such as newsletters, on religious liberty topics, and by presenting continuing legal education programs on topics related to religious liberty law;
- To promote religious liberty law among Georgia attorneys as a specialized field of practice;
- To provide a forum for developing relations and exchanges of viewpoints with persons and organizations having related interests in the field of religious liberty law;
- To encourage and facilitate debate within the legal profession on religious liberty issues;
- To cooperate with other Sections of the State Bar of Georgia in matters concerning religious liberty law; and
- To encourage and to support mutual respect for, and understanding of, differing religious belief systems and practices and how they relate to religious liberty law.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Membership and Dues**

Section 1: In order to be a member of this Section one must be a member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia. Any member of the State Bar of Georgia, upon request and payment of annual Section dues for the current year, shall be enrolled as a member of this Section. Thereafter, such dues shall be paid in advance each year at the time of the payment of dues to the State Bar of Georgia. Members so enrolled and whose dues are so paid shall constitute the membership of this Section. Any member whose annual dues shall be past due shall cease to be a member and shall be removed from the rolls of the Section, subject to reinstatement at any time upon the payment of dues for the current year.

Section 2: The annual Section dues payable by each member of this Section shall be established from time to time by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Officers**

Section 1: The Officers of the Section shall be a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be members in good standing of the Section.

Section 2: Each Officer shall hold office for a one (1) year term beginning at the close of the Annual Meeting of the Section at which the Officer is elected and ending at the close of the next succeeding Annual Meeting of the Section and until his or her successor shall have been elected and qualified. If a vacancy shall arise in the office of Vice Chairperson, Secretary, or Treasurer, the Chairperson shall appoint a successor for the unexpired term(s). If a vacancy shall arise in the office of Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson shall become Chairperson for the unexpired term. If a vacancy shall arise in the office of the Chairperson and there shall, at the same time, exist a vacancy in the office of Vice Chairperson, the Executive Committee of the Section shall appoint a successor Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the unexpired terms.

Section 3: The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Section and all meetings of the Executive Committee, appoint appropriate committees of the Section to serve during the Chairperson's term, plan and supervise the program of the Section at its annual meeting, and perform all other executive and administrative duties necessary or proper to the organization and functioning of the Section, including any duty as from time to time may be prescribed by the Section or by the State Bar of Georgia.

Section 4: The Vice Chairperson shall assist the Chairperson and, in the absence or disability of the Chairperson, shall perform the duties of the Chairperson.

Section 5: The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Section, maintain the permanent records, give notices of meetings and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Chairperson.

Section 6: The Treasurer shall maintain the budget of the Section, update the income and expenses of the Section, ensure that the bills of the Section are paid, maintain contact with the Section Liaison of the State Bar of Georgia for purposes of maintaining the budget, and report on the budget at the annual meeting or when otherwise requested by the Chairperson.

Section 7: Upon the organization of the Section, the President of the State Bar of Georgia shall appoint, from among the attorneys filing the application for the creation of the Section, a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer to serve until the close of the next annual meeting of the State Bar of Georgia.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Actions and Meetings of the Section**

Section 1: An Annual Meeting of the Section shall be held each year at or about the time and place of the Annual Meeting of the State Bar of Georgia, the date, time, and location to be fixed by the Chairperson.

Section 2: Special Meetings, if any, of the Section may be called by the Chairperson, to be convened at such time and place and with such agenda and order of business as may be fixed by the Chairperson.

Section 3: Ten (10) members of the Section present at any Annual or Special meeting of the Section shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Only members physically present at an Annual or Special meeting of the Section count towards a quorum.

Section 4: All actions of the Section shall be by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, except for actions of the Section submitted to members of the Section present at any properly called Annual or Special Meeting of the Section which actions shall be by majority vote of the members present and voting. Only members physically present may vote on Section business at any Annual or Special meeting of the Section.

Section 5: Notice of the date, time, and place of each Annual or Special meeting of the Section shall be given to each member of the Section on the rolls of the Section in the office of the State Bar of Georgia. In the absence of actual notice sent at least ten (10) days in advance of any meeting, written or printed notice sent by United States Mail or by e-mail no less than ten (10) days in

advance of such scheduled meeting sent to the member's address or e-mail address on record in the office of the State Bar of Georgia, shall constitute due, adequate, and sufficient notice of such meeting of this Section. Further, any such notice may be included with other written or printed material mailed or e-mailed to all of the members of the State Bar of Georgia or any part thereof which includes all members of the Section and such notice shall also be due, adequate, and sufficient notice of such meeting of this Section.

Section 6: There shall be no voting by proxy at any Annual or Special Meeting of the Section.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Executive Committee**

Section 1: The Executive Committee of the Section shall consist of the four Officers of the Section and three (3) other members of the Section by the Chairperson, whose terms shall be co-existent with that of the Chairperson.

Section 2: The Executive Committee shall have full authority to act for the Section in any way in which the Section itself would be authorized to act and any such action taken by the Executive Committee pursuant to this provision shall be reported to the members of the Section at the next Annual Meeting of the Section.

Section 3: The Executive Committee may convene in person, by telephone, or by a combination of both, and may take Section action in person, by telephone, or by email.

Section 4: The Executive Committee may form subcommittees to perform Section business and may appoint members of the Section to serve on those subcommittees, answerable to the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Elections**

Section 1: Elections for Officers of the Section shall be held once per calendar year at the Annual Meeting of the Section. The members, including Officers, shall nominate one or more members of the Section qualified to hold each of the Offices of the Section for the ensuing terms of Office.

Section 2: The names of all members of the Section nominated for each Office shall be submitted to the Section at large, by United States mail or email. In the event that more than one

candidate is nominated for an Office, ballots shall be cast until there shall be a majority of the members of the Section present and voting at the Annual Meeting favoring the election of a designated member to that Office. In the event there is only one candidate for an Office, voting for that Office at the Annual Meeting may be by voice vote.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Finances**

Section 1: Funds of the Section shall be deposited in the treasury of the State Bar of Georgia and shall be disbursed by the Treasurer of the State Bar of Georgia to pay bills of the Section which have been approved for payment by any Officer of the Section.

Section 2: Funds of the Section shall be expended for such purposes related to the activities of the Section as from time to time shall be authorized by the Section's Executive Committee.

Section 3: Officers and members of the Section shall not be compensated for services thereto.

Section 4: A financial report of the funds of the Section shall be rendered at each annual meeting thereof. This Section shall have the same fiscal year as the State Bar of Georgia.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Miscellaneous**

Section 1: The Section shall from time to time conduct programs for the continuing education in the area of religious liberty law, but may coordinate its efforts in this regard with other Sections of the State Bar of Georgia.

Section 2: The Section may from time to time, subject to the Rules, Bylaws and Standing Board policies of the State Bar of Georgia, sponsor, promote, study or review proposed legislation. The Section may from time to time report on its legislative activities to the State Bar of Georgia.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Effective Date and Amendment**

Section 1: These Bylaws shall become effective upon approval by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia.

Section 2: These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Section present at any properly called meeting at which a quorum is present, and subsequent approval thereof by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia.

Signed, sealed and subscribed before the undersigned this the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness

\_\_\_\_\_

CHAIRPERSON

\_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDENT

\_\_\_\_\_

SECRETARY