

Dallas Criminal Defense Bar

BYLAWS

Adopted Jan 10, 2026

ARTICLE I - NAME AND STATUS

The name of this organization shall be the Dallas Criminal Defense Bar (“DCDB”). It shall be a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Texas.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSES

The mission of the Dallas Criminal Defense Bar is to strengthen and support the criminal defense community in Dallas County, Texas through education, professional collaboration, and the advancement of ethical, effective advocacy for individuals accused of criminal offenses. The organization is committed to protecting constitutional rights, promoting due process, and elevating the practice of criminal defense law within the Dallas County court system.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Sec 3.1. Membership, Generally. The membership of DCDB shall be comprised of Founding Members, Members and Affiliate (Non-Attorney) Members.

Sec. 3.2. Founding Members. Founding Members established the bar association.

Sec. 3.3. Members. An attorney who is actively engaged in the defense of criminal cases, except for county prosecutors, county judges, district attorneys or district judges, is eligible to be a Member of DCDB. Attorneys who meet these criteria, and who apply for and pay the applicable membership dues, shall be deemed a Member of DCDB until such membership is revoked or resigned. Members are required to abide by the rules and regulations of these Bylaws. If a Member ceases to actively engage in criminal defense or becomes a county prosecutor, county judge, district attorney or district judge, Membership shall be automatically revoked, except for those who retire from the practice of law. Violations of the rules of these Bylaws will subject the Member to revocation by action of the Board of Directors or Executive Board as described herein.

Sec 3.4. Affiliate Membership. A person active in a field that contributes regularly to the defense of criminal cases and the goals of DCDB is eligible for Affiliate Membership. Examples include legal assistants working for current members, investigators, and other persons approved by the Board of Directors. A person who is enrolled in a school of law is also eligible for an Affiliate Membership. If an Affiliate Member becomes a county prosecutor, county judge, district attorney or district judge, Affiliate Membership shall be automatically

revoked. Violations of the rules of these Bylaws will subject the Affiliate Member to revocation by action of the Board of Directors or Executive Board as described herein. If a law student becomes a licensed attorney, the Affiliate Member shall be automatically afforded the rights of a Member unless otherwise disqualified, resigned or revoked.

Sec. 3.5. Voting. All Members are entitled to vote as provided herein. No Affiliate Members are eligible to vote.

Sec. 3.6. Revocation of Membership. Members may be revoked for cause by a three-fourths vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors, or by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board called by any member of the Executive Board (such vote shall be a closed vote). A quorum shall consist of more than 50% of the Board.

Sec. 3.7. Membership Application and Approval. Application for membership must be made through such process approved by the board through resolution. New members must be approved by the Secretary or President and new members must be inducted by resolution of the Board.

ARTICLE IV - FINANCES

Sec. 4.1. Annual Dues. All members are required to pay annual dues beginning in 2027.

Sec. 4.2. Dues Schedule. TBD at a future date

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Sec. 5.1. General Meetings. General meetings of DCDB shall be held on a schedule set by the Board of Directors and announced on website calendar.

Sec. 5.2. Board Meetings. The Board of Directors shall hold quarterly board meetings at such time and place as designated by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. Non-DCDB members may not be present after the commencement of the board meeting. An agenda will be sent to each Board member prior to the Board Meeting pursuant to the following:

- All requests for items/issues to be placed on the DCDB board meeting agenda and/or requests to address the board must be made no less than 2 days prior to the next board meeting.
- A person need not be a DCDB member to make a request.
- The Secretary monitors all agenda item requests and is responsible for communicating with those who make the requests to let them know if their requested agenda item will be heard at the board meeting and, if so, when.

- Any person who has received approval from the Secretary for their item to be placed on the agenda will be given no more than 5 minutes to address the board.
- Emergency items/issues will take precedence to pre-approved agenda items at the discretion of the President. If the President is unavailable to make this determination, the determination will be made by the President-Elect.

Sec. 5.3. Special Board Meeting. The Board of Directors shall hold such special meetings as may be called by the President or upon written request by at least three members of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 5.4. Special Membership Meetings. Special meetings of membership may be called by a three-fourths vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors or by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 6.1. Membership and Terms. The business and affairs of DCDB shall be managed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall consist of elected officers, directors and past presidents. Board of Director positions, other than Executive Board positions, shall be for a two-year term. Term limits do not apply. All members of the Board of Directors must be current Members in good standing at the time of election, maintain Membership throughout their term, and engage in the practice of criminal defense in Dallas County on a regular and consistent basis. No member of the Board of Directors may be a candidate for political office including a primary. Announcement of an intent to run for political office shall constitute a resignation from leadership in DCDB.

Sec. 6.2. Past President. A person who served as President of DCDB for 183 days or more of his or her term of office will be considered a Past President for purposes of serving as a voting member of the Board of Directors, except that no Past President whose membership has been automatically revoked (because he or she is a county prosecutor, county judge, district attorney, or district judge) shall be eligible to be a member of the Board of Directors or a Regular Member. Past Presidents do not pay dues.

Sec. 6.3. Duties. Members of the Board are expected to attend all board meetings and participate in DCDB activities.

Sec. 6.4. Organization. The President of DCDB shall serve as chair of meetings of the Board of Directors. In absence of the President, the President-Elect shall serve as chair of the meetings of the Board of Directors. In the absence of the President and the President-Elect, the Treasurer shall serve as chair of the meetings of the Board of Directors. In the absence of the President, President-Elect, and the Treasurer, the Secretary shall serve as chair of the meetings of the Board of Directors. In the absence of all members of the Executive Board, any member of the Board of Directors may serve as chair of the meetings of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 6.5. Procedures. The Board of Directors may act by telephone, text message, email, or any reasonable method approved by the Board of Directors. A quorum must be present which is more than half of the Board.

Sec. 6.6. Vacancies. A vacancy occurring in the general Board of Directors caused by the death, resignation, or removal of the person elected thereto may be filled by appointment of any eligible DCDB member by the President. If a vacancy occurs in the Executive Board, the President shall seek to fill that spot with the closest-ranking Executive Board member. If none are willing or available to assume the vacancy, the President shall seek to fill the Executive Board vacancy with a current board member. If no current board members are willing or available to assume the vacancy, the President shall seek to fill the Executive Board vacancy with a current DCDB member in good standing. For the purposes of responding to vacancies, the Executive Board ranking hierarchy is as follows (in ascending order): Secretary, Treasurer, President-Elect, President.

Sec. 6.7. Removal and Absences. A member of the Board of Directors may be removed by a unanimous vote by the Executive Board of Directors, or by a majority vote of the Board of Directors when there is a quorum present. Executive Board members may only be removed by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board of Directors. All members of the Board of Directors must be present to vote in order to remove an Executive Board member. Removal of a member of the Board of Directors or the Executive Board may result from failure to attend three board meetings without good cause, lack of consistent participation in DCDB events, failure to participate in or respond to DCDB business in person or via email, or other good cause shown.

Sec. 6.8. Actions, Generally. Any action taken by any member without the consent of the Board of Directors shall not constitute an official action of DCDB. No member may partake in any action or activity on behalf of DCDB, or purporting to be on behalf of DCDB, without the prior written consent of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 6.9. Actions by the Board. No member of the Board of Directors, except Executive Board members acting in their official capacity, shall take independent action on behalf of DCDB or the whole Board of Directors without prior authorization of the Board of Directors. The Board shall take action by oral or written vote recorded by the Secretary of DCDB or through unanimous written consent.

ARTICLE VII - EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sec. 7.1. Membership and Term. The Executive Board of DCDB shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary. Executive Board positions will be for a one-year term. Term limits do not apply. All members of the Executive Board must be current DCDB members in good standing and engage in the practice of criminal defense in Dallas County on a regular and consistent basis.

Sec. 7.2. Qualifications.

(a) All Executive Board members shall be current Members in good standing, a member of the Board of Directors, and engage in the practice of criminal defense in Dallas County on a regular and consistent basis; and

(b) An Executive Board member must have served at least one (1) full term as a member of the Board of Directors; however,

(c) A member of the Board of Directors who has not served one (1) full term as a member of the Board of Directors may run for the Executive Board if no other qualified member runs for that position, or by appointment by the President due to exceptional circumstances.

Sec. 7.3. Voting Procedure for Secretary. Prior to the expiration of the term of any current Secretary, the Board shall elect the next Secretary at any regular or special Board meeting, so long as a quorum is present.

Sec. 7.4. Assumption of Office. The Secretary shall assume the office of Treasurer upon the expiration of the term of the preceding Treasurer. The Treasurer assumes the office of President-Elect upon the expiration of the term of the preceding President-Elect. The President-Elect shall assume the office of President upon the expiration of the term of the preceding President. In the event of the death, resignation, or removal from office of the President, the President-Elect shall ascend to the office of President, holding said office for the remainder of said term, and for the full succeeding term.

Sec. 7.5. Duties of the President. The President is the chief executive officer of DCDB and shall supervise and coordinate the activities of DCDB and preside at its meetings. The President shall appoint chairs to each committee. The President will represent the organization at meetings and will speak on behalf of the organization as deemed necessary in furtherance of the business and objectives of DCDB. The President shall be authorized to spend up to \$500.00 on behalf of and for the benefit of DCDB without prior approval from the Board of Directors, or may transfer said authority to another board member or officer of DCDB. The President may authorize an amount of money greater than \$500.00 to be expended on behalf of or for the benefit of DCDB without prior approval from the Board of Directors when there is a unanimous vote to do so by the Executive Board.

Sec. 7.6. Duties of President-Elect. The President-Elect shall assist the President and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. In case of the absence of the President, the President-Elect shall act as chief executive officer of DCDB. The President-Elect is responsible for coordinating speakers and refreshments for the third Thursday CLEs and General Meetings in Sec. 5.1 of these Bylaws. The President-Elect may delegate the responsibility for coordinating speakers and refreshments for the third Thursday CLEs and General Meetings if another member agrees to assume the task.

Sec. 7.7. Duties of Treasurer. The Treasurer shall oversee the financial affairs of DCDB and ensure all bills are paid and reimbursements settled. The Treasurer is responsible for

handling, through a third-party accountant, all tax matters related to DCDB in a timely manner. At each board meeting the Treasurer will give a report to the Board of Directors regarding the financial status of the organization. The Treasurer is responsible for coordinating lunch for the second Thursday of the month board meetings. The Treasurer may delegate the responsibility for coordinating lunch for the second Thursday of the month board meetings if another member agrees to assume the task.

Sec. 7.8. Duties of Secretary. The Secretary of DCDB shall attend all DCDB meetings and ensure that the minutes of all such meetings are kept and disseminated timely to the Board. The Secretary shall assist the Treasurer and shall also perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors. In the absence of the Treasurer, the Secretary also shall act as Treasurer and Secretary.

ARTICLE VIII - ELECTIONS

Sec. 8.1. Nominations. It shall be announced on the website, via email, and no later than September 15th that nominations for Board of Directors positions are open. Any current DCDB Member may nominate any eligible Member for a position on the Board of Directors. Nominations must be made via the method specified by the Board of Directors. The nomination period will be open for 15 business days, starting on September 15th and closing 15 days thereafter. No nominations made before or after the nomination window will be considered.

Sec. 8.2. Vetting Nominated Candidates. All candidates who are formally and properly nominated will be vetted by the current Executive Board. The Executive Board will vet the candidates by confirming the following: current membership status, engagement in the practice of criminal defense in Dallas County on a regular and consistent basis, and the candidate's willingness to participate and volunteer time in accordance with board membership standards.

Sec. 8.3. Voting Procedure. If all races are uncontested, the results of the election shall be announced by October 15th. These results shall be posted on the website on the same date. If any races are contested, a ballot shall be issued within 14 days of the end of the nomination window. Online voting will remain open for no less than 10 days. The results of the contested election shall be announced at on or before November 15th.

ARTICLE IX - POLICIES

Sec. 9.1. Pronouncement or Declaration of Policy. No member of DCDB shall make any official or public pronouncement or declaration on a question of DCDB policy, nor create materials, virtual or otherwise, marked or associated with DCDB name or insignia, unless it has been authorized by the Board of Directors except by action of the Board of Directors as specified in Sec. 6.9. A member who violates this Section is subject to removal from membership by the procedures described herein.

Sec. 9.2. Special Circumstances. As a matter of discretion, when the President determines it necessary to make a pronouncement or declaration of policy, and where circumstances do

not reasonably permit a meeting or poll of the Board of Directors, he or she may make said pronouncement or declaration, or create said materials.

ARTICLE X - COMMITTEES

Sec. 10.1. Formation of Committees. There shall be as many committees as deemed necessary by the President or the Board of Directors. Any committee created that is taking action on behalf of DCDB shall be defined by written resolution and approved by the Board of Directors, unless specified otherwise herein.

ARTICLE XI - PROCEDURE FOR VOTING

Sec. 11.1. Board Meetings. A quorum of Board of Directors in good standing must be present to transact business. A quorum shall consist of more than 50% of board members. All decisions shall be made by majority vote, except as otherwise specified in other provisions of these Bylaws.

Sec. 11.2. General Meetings. The transaction of business at all meetings shall be by majority vote of the members in good standing present and voting.

Sec. 11.3. Proxy Voting. Any member of the Board of Directors or Executive Board who cannot be present to participate in a vote may designate as a proxy any other member of the Board of Directors or Executive Board.

Sec. 11.4. Re-Voting. If the Board of Directors has properly voted on an issue with a quorum present, such decision shall not be voted upon again at subsequent board meetings unless a board member makes a motion to abandon the board's previous decision, the motion is seconded, and, with a quorum present, a majority favors abandoning the previously voted upon decision. If the motion to abandon the board's previous decision fails, the previous decision stands, and another vote on the issue will not occur within the calendar year.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENT

Sec. 12.1. Amendment. These Bylaws may be amended by three fourths vote of the entire Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIII - DISSOLUTION

Sec. 13.1. Dissolution Procedures. Upon the dissolution of DCDB, the Board of Directors shall, after making provisions for the payment of all DCDB liabilities, dispose of DCDB assets to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for the charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify to exempt said organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law, as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of proper jurisdiction of Dallas County, Texas, exclusive for such

purposes or such organization or organizations as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purpose.