

CONSTITUTION

COLUMBIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF BROOKLYN

ADOPTED - 1966
AMENDED - MARCH 17, 2009

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this organization shall be:

“COLUMBIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF BROOKLYN.”

ARTICLE II – Purpose and Goals

The purpose and goals of the Association shall be:

- a. To foster, promote, advance, support and preserve the values, customs, and traditions of Italian culture, heritage and history.
- b. To foster, promote, advance and support a greater understanding of, tolerance for and acceptance of persons of Italian ancestry in the legal and judicial community.
- c. To establish and develop, to foster and promote principles of truth and justice.
- d. To associate its members together for their mutual benefit as members of the legal profession.
- e. To foster advancement of the professional and technical skills of its members as lawyers.
- f. To encourage association among its members for the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience.
- g. To uphold the highest standards and best traditions of the legal profession.
- h. To provide continuing legal education and programs.
- i. To foster, promote and support the advancement of persons of Italian ancestry to the judiciary and other public offices and positions.
- j. To challenge and defeat negative stereotypes of persons of Italian ancestry.
- k. To eradicate discrimination, bias and prejudice against persons of Italian ancestry.
- l. To recognize and honor members of the judiciary of Italian ancestry at an annual gathering of members and their invited judicial guests.
- m. To participate in any legal proceedings as a party or amicus curiae in furtherance of these declared purposes.
- n. To achieve these aims and objects, in, by and through the legal profession and other means, and in association with other organizations having similar aims and objects.
- o. To uphold the Constitution of the United States and of the State of New York.

ARTICLE III – Membership

- (1) Any person who is duly admitted to the Bar of the State of New York, shall be eligible for membership if such person is and shall remain in good standing before the Bar of the State of New York and supports the purpose and goals of the Association.
- (2) No member of the Association shall be eligible to vote or hold office unless such person is in good standing. A member in good standing is one who has complied with the requirements of the within Constitution and of the By-Laws.
- (3) Membership shall be granted upon:
 - a) Submission of an application; and
 - b) Sponsorship by a member in good standing and a member of the Board; and
 - c) Approval by the Membership Committee; and
 - d) Swearing an oath to uphold the Constitution and By-Laws of the Columbian Lawyers Association of Brooklyn.
- (4) Membership shall be denied or revoked for any person who, on the basis of ethnicity, has criticized, denigrated or demeaned persons of Italian ancestry and/or the Association and/or demonstrated bias, bigotry, prejudice and/or discrimination toward persons of Italian ancestry and/or the Association.

ARTICLE IV – Officers

- (1) The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice President, a 2nd Vice President, a 3rd Vice President, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Historian.
- (2) No member shall be elected to the office of President for two successive terms.

ARTICLE V – Board of Directors

- (1) The Board of Directors shall consist of all of the elected officers and nine (9) elected Directors, and the ex-Presidents of the Association.
- (2)
 - a) At the first election nine (9) Directors shall be elected; three (3) to serve until June 30, 1969; three (3) to serve until June 30, 1970; and three (3) to serve until June 30, 1971.
 - b) The Directors shall be elected at each annual election meeting for a term of three (3) years.
 - c) A Director who has been elected to two (2) full terms of three (3) years shall not be eligible for a term immediately succeeding.
 - d) Members who are in good standing for three (3) consecutive years shall be eligible to serve as a member of the Board.

- (3) The Board of Directors shall have the power to conduct the general management of the affairs of the Association and shall have the power to take such action as is not inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws as it may deem advisable.
- (4) a) The Board of Directors shall meet, at least TWENTY (20) days prior to the general membership meeting in April of each year and act as a Nominating Committee, to nominate the Officers and Directors, whose names shall be presented for election at the annual meeting in May. The names of the candidates shall be set forth in the notice of the April meeting.
 - b) Candidates for any office may be nominated by petition in writing, signed by at least FIFTEEN (15) members of the Association in good standing. Said petition must be delivered to the Recording Secretary of the Association not later than TEN (10) days following the April meeting.
 - c) The Corresponding Secretary shall advise the general membership of the names of the candidates, by notice in writing at least FIVE (5) days before the annual election meeting in May.
- (5) The Board of Directors shall elect its own Chairman at its first annual meeting. The elected officers (ex-officio members) shall not be eligible to be elected Chairman.
- (6) No member of the Board of Directors shall be elected Chairman for more than one term.

ARTICLE VI - Elections

- (1) Elections of Officers and Directors shall be held at the annual meeting in May of each year.
- (2) a) The officers elected shall hold office for the term of ONE (1) year commencing with July 1st of each year, and no president shall succeed himself at the end of his term.
 - b) The officers elected at the organizational meeting shall serve until the installation meeting of June 30, 1969.
 - c) If a vacancy occurs in the Board or in any office during the year; a successor shall be chosen by the Board of Directors to serve until the next annual election meeting. Said vacancy shall be filled by election at said next annual election meeting for the unexpired term.
- (3) Elections shall be by closed ballot in the event of a contest. Candidates receiving a majority vote of the members present at said meeting shall be deemed elected. In the event a candidate does not receive a majority, then the two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be voted upon, and the candidate then receiving the majority shall be deemed elected to the office.
- (4) No member of the Judiciary shall be eligible to hold office or directorship.

ARTICLE VII - Meetings

- (1) Meetings shall be held in the Borough of Brooklyn on the first Tuesday of each month, except during the months of July and August, at such place as the Board of Directors may designate. The Board of Directors, for good cause, may change the date of the regular meeting.
- (2) Special meetings may be called by the President, or upon the written request of FIFTEEN (15) members in good standing, addressed to the President, or in his absence to the Recording Secretary, specifying the purpose or purposes, thereof. At such meeting no business shall be transacted except that specified in the notice.
- (3) At least FIVE (5) days notice of all meetings shall be given by mail to all members, except as provided in Article XI.
- (4) The annual meeting to honor the members of the judiciary of Italian ancestry shall be held on the first Thursday of every December.
- (5) Roberts Rules of Order shall govern all meetings.

ARTICLE VIII - Quorum

- (1) The presence of TWENTY-ONE (21) members at each meeting of the Association shall constitute a quorum.
- (2) A majority of the Board present shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX - Committees

- (1) The Board of Directors from time to time may provide in the By-Laws for such standing and special committees as it may deem necessary. The President shall fix the number of members to serve; appoint the chairman and members, and shall fill vacancies on said committees.
- (2) All Committees shall serve only during the term of the current President.

ARTICLE X - By-Laws

By-Laws may be adopted, amended or rescinded at any regular or Special Meeting of the Association by a majority vote of the members present, after due notice to the general membership in writing.

ARTICLE XI - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a TWO-THIRDS vote of the members present at a meeting, provided A WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS shall have been mailed to each member of the Association of not less than FIVE (5) days prior to such meeting.