

SOLICITORS ASSOCIATION OF HIGHER COURT ADVOCATES
President: The Lord Slynn of Hadley

Constitution

1. The name of the Association shall be 'Solicitors' Association of Higher Court Advocates'.
2. The aims and objectives of the Association are:-
 - (1) To promote the maintenance of the highest ethical and professional standards of Higher Court Advocacy
 - (2) To promote the interests of those who practice or seek to practice as Solicitor Higher Court Advocates.
 - (3) To represent its members and to maintain all necessary professional contact with representatives of the Lord Chancellor, the Law Society and the Bar
 - (4) To promote and encourage education and training of Solicitor Higher Court Advocates
 - (5) To provide opportunities and facilities for members to meet and to exchange views and ideas.
 - (6) To undertake such other activities as the Association or Committee may determine in order to further the foregoing aims and objectives
 - (7) To make donations for charitable or voluntary purposes in furtherance of the foregoing aims and objectives.
3. **FULL MEMBERSHIP**
 - (1) The Membership of the Association shall comprise:-
 - (a) The Founder Members who adopted this Constitution at the inaugural meeting of the Association held at the Law Society's Hall on 28th April 1994 and
 - (b) Any Solicitor who is currently the holder of the Solicitors Higher Courts Advocacy qualification
 - (2) The Secretary shall maintain a Register of Full Members.
4. **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**
 - (1) Associate Membership of the Association shall be open to:-
 - (a) a solicitor who aspires to the Higher Courts Advocacy qualifications and
 - (b) any Justice of the High Court of Justice, Her Majesty's Court of Appeal, the Judicial Committee of the House of Lords and any Circuit of District Judge and any law lecturer teaching at a College, University or other Institution whose degrees are recognised by the Law Society as conferring exemption from the Common Professional Examination.
 - (2) Associate Members shall be entitled to such benefits and privileges of membership as the Committee shall from time to time determine.
 - (3) The Secretary shall maintain a Register of Associate Members.
5. **Honorary Members**

The Committee may nominate candidates for Honorary Membership of the Association and such candidates shall be confirmed as Honorary Members by resolution of the Association in General Meeting.
Such Honorary Membership shall be for life or for such shorter period as the Association may resolve.

6. **GENERAL MEETING – NOTICES OF GENERAL MEETINGS
PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS**

In so far as the provisions of Table A (Companies Acts 1948 – 1981) do not conflict with these Rules (in which event the Rules shall prevail) Table A paragraphs 47 – 61 shall apply on the basis that

- (a) reference to the Company shall be construed as references to the association; and
- (b) reference to Directors shall be construed as references to the Committee and with following provisos
 - (a) all references to 21 or 14 days notice for convening Meetings shall be replaced by reference to 42 days or such shorter notice as the Committee may decide;
 - (b) the quorum for any General Meeting of the Association shall be ten members;
 - (c) all references to proxy voting shall not apply.

7. **OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Association shall consist of:-

- (i) President - Lord Slynn of Hadley
- (ii) The Chairman -
- (iii) The Vice-Chairman -
- (iv) The Secretary -
- (v) The Treasurer -

8. **COMMITTEE**

The Committee shall consist of:-

- (i) Officers
- (ii) not more than eleven elected members
- (iii) such other members as the Committee may from time to time co-opt to serve as co-opted members or Associate Members not exceeding 4 in number at any one time
- (iv) the most recently retired President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the association, each of whom shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Committee until the retirement of the current holder of each such office.

The Committee shall nominate the officers for election at each Annual General Meeting. The quorum of the Committee shall be 5 members provided that at least 2 Officers shall be present.

9. **ELECTIONS**

At each Annual General Meeting the retiring Secretary shall be responsible for supervising the election of the Officers and the Committee Members for the ensuing year save that the First Officers and Members of the Committee shall be those persons who were elected at the Inaugural Meeting of the Association.

10. **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The rates of subscription for Membership for the calendar year 1994 and (until varied) for all subsequent calendar years shall be:-

£50.00 for Members and
£40.00 for Associate Members

which rates may be varied by Resolution of the Committee of the Association.

11. **ACCOUNTS**

The Treasurer shall ensure that all subscriptions and other income are placed to the credit of a banking account in the name of the Association and proper books of account are maintained. The Treasurer shall produce to each Annual General Meeting the accounts of the Association.

Withdrawals from the Association's Accounts may be effected in such manner as the Committee shall from time to time determine.

12. **AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES**

The Committee or failing them any 5 Members may by notice delivered to the Secretary not later than 28 days before any General Meeting propose an amendment to the Rules to be put to the Membership at such General Meeting. Such amendment will be carried and put into effect only upon 65% of the Members voting in person or by post (being not less than 25% of the total Membership of the Association) voting in favour of the amendment.

13. **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

- (1) A Member or Associate Member shall automatically cease to be such (for such period as the Committee may determine) upon his or her being struck from or suspended from the Roll of Solicitors.
- (2) A Member of associate Member may resign by giving notice to that effect to the Secretary.
- (3) In the event of a Member or associate Member having failed to pay his or her subscription for a period of 3 months after the same shall have been due, the Committee may at its discretion treat such non-payment as the resignation of the Member or associate Member in question.

14. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

The number constitution and membership of the Standing Committee or Working Parties of the Association shall be determined in all respects from time to time by the Committee, save that the Chairman of each Standing Committee or Working Party must be a member of the Committee. All Members and Associate Members shall be eligible for service on a Standing Committee or Working Party but not more than 2 associate Members may serve on any one such Committee or Party simultaneously.

15. **ADDRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

The address of the Association shall be such address as the Committee shall from time to time determine and of which notice has been given by the Secretary to all Members and Associate Members of the Association. Unless otherwise decided the address of the Association shall be the professional practice address of the Secretary.