

**BYLAWS
FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL LAW SECTION
OF THE
STATE BAR OF TEXAS**

January 31, 2019

PREAMBLE

Lawyers in the state of Texas whose clients are involved in international business may be confronted more frequently with the human, legal, and reputational risk associated with violations of internationally recognized human rights. The International Human Rights Committee of the International Law Section of the State Bar of Texas is charged with providing information and guidance on this topic for practicing lawyers in Texas.

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND BYLAWS**

Section 1: This committee, established on August 6, 2015 by unanimous vote of all present Council members of the International Law Section of the State Bar of Texas (“ILS”), shall be known as the International Human Rights Committee (“IHRC”).

Section 2: IHRC operates subject to and in accordance with these Bylaws. The role of IHRC is to pursue the objects stated herein for and on behalf of the ILS.

**ARTICLE II
OBJECTIVES**

The Committee shall pursue the following activities:

- (a) To study the issues that confront practicing lawyers due to violations of international human rights;
- (b) To develop guidance for lawyers practicing in the international arena on the issues presented by international human rights violations;
- (c) To provide information on international human rights at the State Bar of Texas’s annual meeting, the International Section’s Annual Institute, or at other state or local meetings;

- (d) To assist law firms and law schools to further address in their training and education programs the issues of internationally recognized human rights and the issues presented in international law practices;
- (e) To encourage lawyers within the ILS and within the State Bar of Texas in general to take a leadership role with regard to addressing violations of internationally recognized human rights;
- (f) To review the rules of disciplinary procedures of the State Bar of Texas to determine if any amendments would be appropriate in order to further advise and guide the members of the bar on the issue of internationally recognized human rights;
- (g) To establish a network of lawyers within the state of Texas with experience in international matters and international human rights to provide technical assistance to lawyers confronted with such issues;
- (h) To discuss with government officials and other stakeholders the importance of addressing issues related to internationally recognized human rights by the legal profession in Texas; and
- (i) To report to the ILS and the State Bar of Texas on an annual basis on the progress that the Committee has made on each of the goals stated herein.

ARTICLE III AUTONOMOUS AND INDEPENDENT

The IHRC shall remain autonomous, subject only to:

- (a) the supervision of the Council of the ILS; and
- (b) keeping the Council of the ILS informed of its deliberations.

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1: Any in good standing of the State Bar of Texas who is a member of the ILS shall be eligible for consideration for membership in IHRC.

Section 2: Any Associate Member of the ILS shall be eligible for consideration of membership in IHRC.

Section 3: Any Legal Assistant Member of the ILS shall be eligible for consideration for membership in IHRC.

Section 4: Any Student Member of the ILS shall be eligible for consideration for membership in IHRC.

Section 5: Any other party's eligibility for membership in IHRC shall be determined at the IHRC's discretion.

Section 6: IHRC shall instate eligible parties as members of the IHRC by vote.

Section 7: The Chair of the IHRC may request members to leave the IHRC on the basis of inactivity.

Section 8: IHRC members may withdraw their membership at any time.

Section 9: IHRC shall not collect dues from its membership.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of this section shall be a Chair and a Chair-elect.

Section 2: The Chair-elect shall be nominated and elected, in the manner hereinafter provided, at a meeting of the IHRC held before the annual meeting of the ILS in even-numbered years, to hold office for a term beginning at the close of the ILS annual meeting on even-numbered years, and ending at the close of the next succeeding annual meeting of the ILS on an even-numbered year, and until their successors shall have been elected and qualified. The Chair-elect shall automatically become the Chair at the end of his or her term as the Chair-elect without need of a further election, to serve until the close of the next succeeding annual meeting of the ILS on an even-numbered year.

Section 3: The Chair of the Section shall seek nominations for the Chair-elect position not less than thirty days prior to the date set for the election. Floor nominations may be permitted at the election meeting without such thirty-day notice.

ARTICLE VI DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1: Chair: The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the IHRC. The Chair shall formulate and present to ILS at each annual meeting of the ILS a report of work of the IRHC for the then past year and shall perform such other duties and acts as usually pertain to such office.

Section 2: Chair-elect: Upon the death, resignation, or during the disability of the Chair, or upon the Chair's absence or refusal to act, the Chair-elect shall perform the duties of the Chair.

ARTICLE VII DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

Section 1: The Council shall have general supervision and control of the affairs of the IHRC, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the State Bar of Texas and the Bylaws of the ILS.

**ARTICLE VIII
MEETING**

Section 1: Meetings of the IHRC may be called by the Chair.

Section 2: The members of the IHRC present at any meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 3: All binding action of the IHRC shall be by a majority vote of the members present, subject to the provisions in Article III.

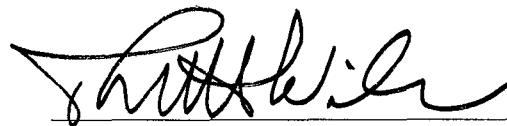
**ARTICLE IX
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

Section 1: No salary or compensation shall be paid to any officer.

Section 2: No action, policy determination, or recommendation of this committee shall be deemed to be, or be referred to as, the action of the State Bar of Texas or the ILS, respectively, prior to submission of the same to, and approval by, the Board of Directors of the State Bar of Texas, or the General Assembly of the State Bar of Texas in annual convention, or duly authorized referendum of the State Bar of Texas and the Council of the ILS, respectively . Any resolution adopted or action taken by the IHRC may, on request of the ILS on behalf of the IHRC, be reported by the Chair on behalf of the ILS or by the ILS Chair to the annual meeting of the State Bar of Texas for action thereon.

Section 3: These Bylaws may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the IHRC by a majority vote of the members of the IHRC present and voting, and with approval of the ILS. All amendments to these Bylaws shall not become effective until approved by the ILS.

Section 4: These Bylaws shall become effective upon approval by the ILS. Certified Correct as Restated, January 31, 2019:



Thomas H. Wilson, Chair
International Law Section
State Bar of Texas