

RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
HASTINGS & DISTRICT LAW SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP

1. All admitted Solicitors of the Supreme Court of Judicature in England practising, employed or resident within the area of the Society shall be eligible to be members of the Society. All fully qualified barristers employed by a firm of solicitors within the area of the society shall be eligible to be members of the Society. In addition any Clerk to the Justices, trainee solicitor or affiliate member (or above) of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives within the area of the Society shall be eligible to be a member of the Society. The area of the Society shall mean the Borough of Hastings, the District of Rother (excluding the parishes of Burwash, Etchingham and Ticehurst) and the Parishes of Hooe and Ninfield in the District of Wealden.

HONORARY MEMBERS

2. The Society may, at any General Meeting, elect any persons, being Judges or non-practising Barristers or Solicitors, to be Honorary Members of this Society. Such Honorary Members shall not be required to pay any subscription, or be entitled to attend at any Meeting of the Society.

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

3. The Principal objects of the Society shall be:
 - (a) To protect the character, status, rights and interest of the Members of the Society, and the professional generally.
 - (b) To promote honourable practice amongst Solicitors.
 - (c) To settle disputed points of practice, and to decide all questions of professional conduct, usage or courtesy which may be referred to the Society by all parties concerned, being Members of the Society.
 - (d) To consider and take any action which may be thought desirable on all questions affecting the interests of the profession at large, or the alteration or administration of the law.
 - (e) To promote improved legal education.
 - (f) To do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

4. The management of the Society shall be entrusted to a Committee, which shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the immediate Past President, the Honorary Treasurer, the Honorary Secretary, and not more than six elected Members, three to form a quorum. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. The President, Vice-President, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, and the Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting by a majority of the Members then present and voting, and elected Members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election.
5.
 - (a) The Annual General Meeting of the Society for transacting general business shall be held upon such day in the months of January, February or March and at such hour and place, as shall be appointed from time to time by the Committee.
 - (b) A Special General Meeting of the Society shall be called by the Secretary on the written requisition of the President or any five Members (none of them being partners together) stating the purpose of the proposed Meeting. The business of Special General Meetings shall be confined to the objects expressed in this notice.
 - (c) Five clear days' notice at least of every General Meeting and its object shall be given by the Secretary to each Member of the Society by circular.
 - (d) Except for special purposes, as provided by these Rules, five Members shall be a quorum at any General Meeting.

6. Candidates for election to the Society must be proposed by one and seconded by another member of the Society. They shall be elected by the Society in General Meeting or by the Committee. A rejected Candidate shall not, without the consent of the Committee, be again eligible for election until after one year from the Meeting at which he was last proposed.

PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

7. The President of the Society shall take the chair at all Meetings : but if absent, the Vice-President, and failing him the Meeting shall elect a Chairman. All proceedings shall be brought forward by way of motion and amendment, duly made and seconded, and put from the Chair, and shall be determined by the votes of a majority of the Members then present and voting and in case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Every question shall be decided by a show of hands or in such other manner as the Chairman of the Meeting shall determine.

EXPULSION

8. Three-fourths of the Members personally present and voting at any General Meeting (such Meeting consisting of not less than twelve Members personally present) shall be competent to expel any Member of the Society for a breach or non-observance of the Rules, or for any dishonourable, unprofessional or improper conduct; the Member whose conduct is complained of shall have ten clear days' previous notice in writing

from the Secretary, sent him by registered post, addressed to his last known place of abode or business in England, that a motion is intended to be proposed against him, and such notice shall state generally the nature and grounds of complaint.

EVENTS OF TERMINATION

9. Upon the death, resignation, expulsion, bankruptcy or insolvency of any Member, he shall, ipso facto, cease to be a Member of the Society, and his interest in the property of the Society shall lapse, but the Committee shall have power to reinstate a Bankrupt or insolvent Member if a majority of two-thirds of the whole Committee be of opinion that his professional character is not affected by such bankruptcy or insolvency.

POWERS OF COMMITTEE

- 10(a) The Committee shall have power generally to adopt all such proceedings as they shall think expedient for promoting fair and honourable practice and for opposing and discountenancing all practices that may have a tendency to bring the profession into discredit or lessen its respectability, and generally to exercise all such powers of the Society as are not expressly reserved to the Members in General Meeting.
- (b) The Committee shall have power to dispose of the funds of the Society according to the Rules of the Society: to rent or otherwise acquire premises for the purposes of the Society: to appoint their own Meetings and regulate their proceedings: to make, repeal and amend such Regulations (not inconsistent with these Rules) as they shall consider expedient for the management and well-being of the Society and such Regulations shall have effect until set aside by the Committee or a General Meeting. The Committee shall also have power to fill any vacancy in their own body, or any vacancy that may occur in the Officers of the Society by death, resignation, or otherwise, between the General Meetings.

NON-ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS

11. If any Member of the General Committee shall be absent from three consecutive Meetings he shall be considered, by such absence, to have tendered his resignation, and the Committee shall be at liberty to consider such absence a resignation or not as they may think proper.

SUBSCRIPTIONS AND ENTRANCE FEES

- 12 (a). Every Member shall pay an annual subscription due on the 1st January in each year. The subscription shall be fixed by the Committee each year for the following year and the Committee may determine a varying rate of subscription for Members employed by a Local Authority as an Assistant Solicitor and for trainee solicitors.
- 12 (b) Every Member shall, when paying their subscription, give to the Honorary Treasurer or to the Honorary Secretary an email address to which correspondence may be sent to them. Any notice that these Rules require to be served upon any member may be served by email at the address so provided to the Honorary Treasurer or the Honorary Secretary and if no email address has been supplied by a member then no notice need be given to that member notwithstanding any other provision in these Rules.

13. If any Member suffers his subscription to become more than one year in arrear, he shall thereupon cease to be a Member of the Society, and his interest in the property of the Society shall be absolutely forfeited for the benefit of the Society. A Member wishing to retire from the Society must give written notice to the Secretary of his intention so to do before the 1st of January, or he will remain liable for the subscription for the following year.
14. Subject to Rule 13 no persons elected as Members of the Society shall be actual Members thereof until they have paid the subscription. All Members shall be bound by the Rules and Regulations of the Society for the time being in force.

ACCOUNTS

15. The Treasurer's accounts shall be made up to the 31st day of December in every year, and laid before the Annual General Meeting of the Society, having been previously audited by two Members of the Society.

ALTERATIONS OF RULES

16. It shall be competent for a two-thirds majority of the Members present personally or by proxy and voting at any General Meeting of the Society, of which seven clear days' previous notice shall have been given, and at which not less than twelve Members shall be personally present, from time to time to alter or rescind any of the Rules and Regulations, and to make new or additional Rules or Regulations, provided that the purport of such new Rules and Regulations or alterations shall have been given by the person intending to propose the same to the Secretary twelve clear days previous to such Meeting, and shall appear upon the agenda of the notice calling the same.

DISSOLUTION OF SOCIETY

17. The Society shall be dissolved upon a resolution to that effect, passed at a Special General Meeting to be held for the purpose by a majority of not less than three-fifths of the Members so present shall have the power of disposition of the property of the Society.