

THE AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE

CHARTER FOR THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE ALI YOUNG SCHOLARS MEDAL

(Adopted by resolution of the Executive Committee on March 28, 2009.

Last amended on January 16, 2015.)

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Special Committee is to establish the process for nominating and selecting individuals to receive the Institute's new award for young scholars, to administer that process, and to recommend qualified candidates to the Council (or Executive Committee). (The award is designed to be bestowed no more often than biannually and given to approximately two legal scholars in each two-year period. After the Special Committee has been functioning for up to three years, the Council will consider the experience over that period as it considers whether to replace it with a Standing Committee.)

II. Membership

The Special Committee should have no fewer than three and no more than twenty members, one of whom is the President. The Executive Committee appoints the other members including the Special Committee's Chair (and, if desired, a Vice Chair), and sets each member's term not to exceed two years. All members must be members of the Institute and at least one (other than the President) must also be a Council member or Council emeritus.

III. Meetings

A. The Special Committee should meet as often as it determines is appropriate.

B. A majority of the members of the Special Committee constitutes a quorum for a meeting, but a majority need not be present at all times. A majority vote of those present when the vote is taken on any matter at a meeting is effective as the Special Committee's action. Proxy voting is not permitted.

C. Any meeting of the Special Committee may be held in person, by teleconference, or by any other means whereby all participants in the meeting are able to talk with each other. Any member who cannot attend a meeting in person may participate in and vote at the meeting by telephone or other means and such participation constitutes the member's attendance at the meeting.

D. Any action that may be taken at a meeting of the Special Committee may be taken without a meeting by an approving vote of a majority of its members.

IV. Authority and Responsibilities

The Special Committee's authority and responsibilities are as follows:

- A. Establish initial eligibility criteria for the award; the criteria may, but need not, include one or more subject areas of scholarship in which the Special Committee desires to see publications by the successful candidate or candidates. In establishing the criteria, the Special Committee should bear in mind the intent is that the recipients ordinarily should (1) be full-time law school faculty, (2) have been teaching law no more than 10 years, and (3) have one or more distinguished academic publications that focus on legal problems and legal doctrine, with a preference to work that has the potential to influence improvements in the law.
- B. Define, structure, publicize, and direct the initial nomination and review process for the award, which should include soliciting nominations from law school deans and ALI members and acknowledging receipt of same.
- C. Identify and recommend to the Council or Executive Committee one or more young scholars to whom the award should be given.
- D. Recommend, for the Director's consideration, one or more potential subjects for the scholarly conference that the award recipient(s) will be expected to organize and lead.
- E. Recommend an appropriate permanent manifestation of the award to be presented to the recipients.