

Deutscher Juristinnenbund e.V.

Vereinigung der Juristinnen,
Volkswirtinnen und Betriebswirtinnen

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CONSTITUTION

of the German Women Lawyers' Association

in the version of September 17, 2000, last amended on September 16, 2023

§ 1 Name, Purpose and Principal Office

1) The association bears the name "Deutscher Juristinnenbund e.V." (German Women Lawyers' Association). It is an association of female lawyers, economists, and business economists.

The purpose of the association is:

The promotion of science through the further development of law, including in the field of gender equality in society, the profession, and family, as well as the legal safeguarding of the living conditions of children and the elderly.

The promotion of gender equality for women and men.

(2) The purpose of the association shall be realized in particular through the organization of academic and legal policy events and seminars, participation in legal policy campaigns and other public relations measures, the provision of free legal opinions and statements to legislative bodies and governments of the Federation and the Länder as well as the Federal Constitutional Court, the publication of research results, and the awarding of scholarships, grants, and prizes, particularly in the field of academic education and research.

(3) The association shall cooperate internationally with similar organizations and promote international relations.

(4) The association shall be independent, non-partisan, and non-denominational.

(5) The association exclusively and directly pursues non-profit purposes within the meaning of the section "Tax-Privileged Purposes" of the German Fiscal Code (Abgabenordnung). The association is selflessly active and does not primarily pursue its own economic purposes. Funds of the association may only be used for statutory purposes. Members shall not receive shares in profits or any other payments from association funds. No person may benefit from expenses that are unrelated to the purpose of the association or receive disproportionately high compensation.

(6) The registered office of the association is Dortmund. The fiscal year is the calendar year.

§ 2 Membership

(1) Any woman who has studied or is studying law or economics may become a member of the association.

(2) Membership applications must be submitted in writing.

(3) Honorary membership is possible.

(4) Membership ends through:

Written notice of resignation with three months' notice at the end of a calendar year.

Expulsion for good cause, particularly for non-payment of three consecutive annual membership fees. A member may appeal an expulsion decision to the General Assembly within one month of receiving the decision.

§ 3 Sub-divisions

(1) The German Women Lawyers' Association consists of regional groups and state organizations. The regional groups within a federal state constitute the state organization. If a federal state has only one regional group, it serves as the state organization. The formation of regional groups outside Germany is possible.

(2) The establishment of a regional group requires the approval of the Federal Executive Board. Each regional group shall establish its own rules of procedure and elect a board. In all other respects, this constitution applies mutatis mutandis. Each regional group has the right to send a representative to the Regional Groups' Council (§ 12).

(3) Within regional groups, subgroups may be established based on thematic or geographical criteria. Thematic subgroups may extend across multiple regional groups. Establishing such a subgroup requires the approval of the boards of the involved regional groups. These boards may dissolve a subgroup if its membership falls below eight.

(4) Each state organization shall establish its own rules of procedure, particularly governing the formation of its state board. Statements on state political matters require the approval of the Executive Committee.

(5) The Federal Executive Board determines biennially the advance payment for financing the ongoing activities of the state organizations, regional groups, and subgroups. Expenditure must be accounted for annually; unused funds must be returned.

§ 4 Commissions

(1) The German Women Lawyers' Association develops its substantive positions in commissions. Permanent commissions continuously work on key legal issues, while other (non-permanent) commissions usually address specific topics on short notice.

(2) Standing commissions shall be established for:

- Labor, Gender Equality, and Business Law,
- Family, Inheritance, and Civil Law,
- Criminal Law,
- Social Security Law, Family Burden Sharing,
- Constitutional Law, Public Law, Gender Equality,
- European and International Law.

The chairpersons of the standing commissions are elected for a term of two years by the General Assembly in individual ballots, which may be counted simultaneously, by simple majority, and shall be members of the Federal Executive Board. Their term of office ends with the acceptance of the election by their successors elected by the General Assembly. Their tenure shall not exceed eight years. They are responsible in the Federal Executive Board for the area of law for which they were elected. In the event of a vacancy, the Federal Executive Board may make an interim appointment.

The other members of the standing commissions shall be appointed by the Federal Executive Board on the recommendation of the commission chairpersons. Attention shall be paid to ensuring a balanced participation of different age and professional groups.

The term of office of the commission members ends with the term of office of the commission chairpersons.

(3) Non-permanent commissions shall be appointed by the Federal Executive Board for a specified work assignment and time frame. Their work ends automatically upon completion of the task or expiration of the period for which they were appointed; an extension is possible by resolution of the Federal Executive Board.

(4) The Federal Executive Board shall establish guidelines regulating the number and selection of commission members, principles of work, and expense reimbursement.

(5) Public statements by commissions require the approval of the Federal Executive Board, or in urgent cases, of the Executive Committee.

(6) All commissions shall submit written reports on their work to the General Assembly. In the case of fundamental, socially controversial issues, the commissions shall seek the Federal Executive Board's approval to involve members at an early stage (§ 10 para. 3).

§ 5 Organs

The organs of the Association shall be

- the general meeting,
- the presidium,
- the national board (*Bundesvorstand*),
- the regional groups' council (*Regionalgruppenbeirat*).

§ 6 General Meeting

(1) The General Assembly determines the Association's policy and regulates matters of the Association that it assumes responsibility for.

(2) The ordinary General Assembly convenes every two years. It may take place in person or as a virtual event. The Federal Executive Board shall decide at its discretion and inform the members in the invitation. Even in the case of a virtual General Assembly, participation shall be limited to members. The Federal Executive Board may impose a registration requirement with a reasonable deadline for the virtual General Assembly. A virtual General Assembly to decide on the dissolution of the Association is not permitted. An extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened if decided by the Federal Executive Board or if requested in writing by one-tenth of the Association's members.

(3) The General Assembly is convened and chaired by the President or, in her absence, by a deputy, with one month's notice in writing, stating the agenda. Announcement in the djb members' newsletter or the journal of the German Women Lawyers' Association (djbZ) shall be sufficient.

(4) The General Assembly has exclusive authority for:

- Granting discharge to the Federal Executive Board,
- Electing the Presidium,
- Electing the chairpersons of the Commissions,
- Electing two assessors to the Federal Executive Board as representatives of the members in training,
- Electing two auditors,
- Amending the Constitution,
- Determining the membership fee,
- Deciding on appeals against expulsion decisions,
- Dissolving the Association.

(5) The General Assembly has a quorum regardless of the number of participants and passes resolutions by a simple majority of the votes cast.

(6) Amendments to the Constitution may only be adopted after one month's prior written notice and with a three-quarters majority of the votes cast.

(7) Minutes shall be kept of the resolutions.

§ 7 Presidium

(1) The Presidium consists of the President, two Vice-Presidents, and the Treasurer. The Managing Director and the past President shall be advisory members of the Presidium, the latter for the term following her presidency.

(2) The Presidium is elected for a term of two years. The term of office of the Presidium members ends with the acceptance of the election by their successors elected by the General Assembly. Eligible for election is any person who has been a member for at least two years. Each member of the Presidium may be re-elected for the same office twice in succession. In the case of the Treasurer, multiple re-elections are permitted.

(3) Elections are held in writing and by secret ballot. The President shall be elected in a separate election. An absolute majority of the votes cast is required for her election. The Treasurer may be elected by a show of hands unless an objection is raised.

§ 8 Management

(1) The Presidium conducts the Association's current affairs and makes all decisions that cannot be postponed. It decides on applications for reduction or waiver of membership fees.

(2) The Presidium passes resolutions by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the President's vote shall be decisive.

(3) The Presidium shall adopt rules of procedure for the duration of its term.

§ 9 Representation

The association is represented by the president or one of the vice-presidents.

§ 10 Federal Executive Board

(1) The Federal Executive Board consists of the Presidium (§ 7), the chairpersons of the Commissions (§ 4), the Executive Board of the Regional Groups' Council (§ 12), and up to two assessors (§ 6 para. 4). If a Commission chairperson is unable to attend, a member appointed by her from her Commission shall serve as an ad hoc member (with full rights) for a specific meeting or decision. For the assessors, § 7 para. 2 applies accordingly. The election procedure for the assessors is the same as for the chairpersons of the Standing Commissions.

(2) The Federal Executive Board is responsible for all matters not assigned to the General Assembly or other statutory bodies by this Constitution. It may delegate further tasks to the Presidium.

(3) The Federal Executive Board shall meet at least once a year. Otherwise, it shall make decisions in writing by a simple majority. The Presidium shall set a reasonable deadline for written votes. Votes submitted after the deadline shall not be considered. A meeting of the Federal Executive Board must be convened if requested by one-third of its members.

On fundamental, socially controversial issues, the Federal Executive Board must obtain an early opinion from the General Assembly. If urgency requires, this may be done via a member survey or an extraordinary General Assembly with a limited agenda.

(4) The Federal Executive Board shall adopt rules of procedure for its term of office.

(5) The Federal Executive Board shall appoint a Managing Director, who shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Association under the authority of the Presidium.

§ 11 Office

(1) The Association shall maintain an office. The office shall be headed by a Managing Director. The Federal Executive Board shall decide on the staffing and premises of the office.

(2) The Managing Director shall be an advisory member of the Federal Executive Board and the Presidium.

(3) A "Training and Career" task force shall be established within the office. The chairperson shall be appointed by the Federal Executive Board upon recommendation by the President.

§ 12 Regional Groups' Council

(1) The Regional Groups' Council represents the regional groups at the federal level. It consists of one representative from each regional group.

(2) The Regional Groups' Council has the following tasks:

- Ensuring the exchange of information,
- Providing suggestions and recommendations for the Association's work,
- Developing a recommendation regarding the amount and allocation procedure for funds to the sub-divisions (§ 3).

The Council has the right to request reports from the Presidium and the Commission chairpersons.

(3) The Regional Groups' Council shall meet at least every two years. It shall adopt rules of procedure and elect an Executive Board consisting of three members. Their term of office ends with the acceptance of the election by their successors elected by the Regional Groups' Council. These members shall represent the regional groups in the Federal Executive Board.

(4) The Executive Board of the Regional Groups' Council shall convene and chair its meetings.

§ 13 Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the Association or the discontinuation of tax-privileged purposes, the assets of the Association shall pass to the "Stiftung Archiv der deutschen Frauenbewegung" (Foundation Archive of the German Women's Movement), which shall use them directly and exclusively for tax-privileged purposes.