

Deutscher Juristinnenbund e.V.

Vereinigung der Juristinnen,
Volkswirtinnen und Betriebswirtinnen

Geschäftsstelle / Office:

Kronenstr. 73 • D-10117 Berlin

Telefon: +49 30 4432700

geschaeftsstelle@djb.de • <https://www.djb.de>

CONSTITUTION

of the German Women Lawyers' Association

in the version of September 17, 2000, last amended on October 9, 2021

§ 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

1. the promotion of science through the further development of law, among other things in the field of equal rights and equality of women in society, profession and family as well as the legal safeguarding of the life situation of children and the elderly,
2. the promotion of equal rights for women and men.

(2) The purpose of the statutes is realized in particular through the organization of scientific and legal policy events and seminars, participation in legal policy campaigns and other publicity measures, the free preparation of legal opinions and statements to the legislative bodies and governments of the Federation and the Länder and the Federal Constitutional Court, the publication of work results and the awarding of scholarships, grants and promotional prizes, in particular in the field of scientific training and further education as well as research.

(3) The Association shall work together internationally with similar organizations and promote international relationships.

(4) The Association shall be independent and not aligned with any political party or religious faith.

(5) The purposes of the Association shall be exclusively non-profit within the meaning of the section "tax-privileged purposes" in the General Fiscal Code (*Abgabenordnung*). The activities of the Association shall not be primarily for its own economic benefit. The Association's monies may only be spent on purposes authorized by the Constitution. The members shall not be entitled to any shares of profit nor any other financial benefits from Association monies. No person shall benefit from expenditures which do not conform to the Association's purposes or benefit from compensation which is disproportionately high.

(6) The principal office of the Association shall be in Dortmund. The business year shall be 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) Application for admission must be made in writing.
- (3) Honorary membership is possible.
- (4) Membership ends by
 - Written notice of resignation with quarterly notice to the end of a calendar year.
 - Exclusion for good cause, in particular for non-payment of three consecutive annual dues. The member may appeal against the exclusion decision to the general meeting within one month of receipt.

§ 3 Sub-divisions

- (1) The German Women Lawyers' Association shall include regional groups and state organizations. The regional groups in a *Land* (state) shall together make up the state organization for that Land. Where a Land only has one regional group, this regional group shall be the state organization. It shall be possible to establish regional groups outside of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- (2) The consent of the national board must be obtained prior to the establishment of a regional group. Each regional group shall draft its own rules of procedure and elect its own board. This Constitution shall apply in all other respects *mutatis mutandis*. Every regional group shall be entitled to send a delegate to represent it at the regional groups' council (§ 12).
- (3) Within the regional groups sub-groups may be established to deal with legal and local issues. Sub-groups which are established to deal with legal issues may encompass the area of several regional groups. The consent of the boards of the regional groups involved is required before a sub-group [encompassing the area of several regional groups] may be established. The boards of the regional groups shall be entitled to dissolve a sub-group if its membership falls below eight.
- (4) Every state organization shall draft its own rules of procedure, which regulate how its state board will be constituted.

Comments on projects connected with state politics shall require the prior approval of the committee.

- (5) The Federal Executive Board shall determine biennially the advance payment for financing the current activities of the regional associations, the regional groups and the subgroups. The use of the funds shall be accounted for annually; unused funds shall be repaid.

§ 4 Commissions

- (1) The German Women Lawyers Association develops its substantive positions in commissions, whereby the permanent commissions work continuously on substantive priorities of the

German Women Lawyers Association and the other (non-permanent) commissions usually work on concrete issues at short notice.

(2) Standing Commissions shall be established for:

- Labor, equality and business law,
- Civil, family and inheritance law, law of other life partnerships,
- Criminal law,
- Social security law, family burden sharing,
- Constitutional law, public law, equality,
- European and international law.

The Chairpersons of the Standing Commissions shall be elected for a term of two years by the General Assembly in individual ballots, which may be counted simultaneously, and by simple majority, and shall be members of the Federal Executive Committee. Their term of office ends with the acceptance of the election by their successors elected by the General Assembly. Their term of office shall not exceed eight years. They are responsible in the Federal Executive Committee for the area of law for which they were elected. In the event of a vacancy, a provisional decision by the Federal Executive Board on the chairmanship of the commission is permissible.

The other members of the Standing Commissions shall be appointed by the Federal Executive Board on the recommendation of the Commission Chairpersons. Care shall be taken to ensure balanced participation of the various age and professional groups.

The term of office of the members of the Standing Commissions shall end with the term of office of the Commission Chairpersons.

(3) (Temporary) Commissions shall be appointed by the Federal Executive Committee with a specific work assignment for a previously defined period of time. The work of the (temporary) Commissions shall end automatically upon completion of the task or expiration of the period for which they were appointed; an extension by resolution of the Federal Executive Committee is possible.

(4) The Federal Executive Committee shall adopt a guideline regulating the number and selection of commission members, the principles of the work and the reimbursement of expenses for the work of the commissions.

(5) Statements of the commissions to the public require the consent of the Federal Executive Committee, in case of urgency of the Presidium.

(6) All commissions shall report to the General Assembly in writing on their work. In the case of fundamental, socially controversial issues, the commissions shall apply to the Federal Executive Committee for the participation of the 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 shall determine the policy of the Association and regulate the affairs of the Association which it addresses.

(2) The ordinary general meeting convenes every two years. The general meeting can take place in presence or as a virtual event. The Federal Executive Committee decides on this at its discretion and informs the members of this in the invitation. Even in the case of a virtual general meeting, participation shall be restricted to members. The Federal Executive Committee may stipulate a registration requirement with a reasonable deadline for the virtual general meeting. A virtual general meeting on the dissolution of the association is inadmissible. An extraordinary general meeting shall be held if the Federal Executive Committee so decides or if one tenth of the Association's members apply to it in writing.

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

(4) The General Meeting shall be exclusively responsible for.

- the discharge of the Federal Executive Board,
- the election of the Presidium,
- the election of the chairpersons of the commissions,
- the election of up to two assessors to the Federal Executive Board, one of whom shall be the representative of the members in training, and the determination of the scope of duties of the other assessor,
- the election of two cash auditors,
- amendments to the statutes,
- the determination of membership dues,
- appeals against exclusion decisions,
- the dissolution of the Association.

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

(6) Amendments to the Articles of Association may only be adopted after one month's 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 are members of the Presidium in an advisory capacity, the latter for the election period following her term of office.

(2) The Presidium shall be elected for two years. The office of the members of the Presidium ends with the acceptance of the election by the successors elected by the General Assembly. Anyone who has been a member for at least two years is eligible for election. Each member of the Presidium may be re-elected for his post twice in a row. In the case of the Treasurer, multiple re-election is possible.

(3) Elections shall be held in writing and by secret ballot. The President shall be elected in a separate ballot. An absolute majority of the votes cast is required for her election. The Treasurer may be elected by show of hands, provided that no one objects.

§ 8 Management

(1) The Presidium shall conduct the day-to-day business of the Association and make all decisions that cannot be delayed. It decides on applications for reduction and waiver of membership fees.

(2) The Presidium shall pass resolutions by simple majority. In the event of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.

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

§ 9 Representation

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

§ 10 National Board

(1) The Federal Executive Committee consists of the Presidium (§ 7), the Chairpersons of the Commissions (§ 4), the Executive Committee of the Regional Group Advisory Council (§ 12), and up to two assessors (§ 6 para. 4). In the event that a Commission Chairwoman is prevented from attending, a member appointed by her from her Commission shall become an ad hoc member (with all rights) of the Federal Executive Committee for an appointment to be made or a specific decision to be taken. For the assessors § 7 para. 2 applies accordingly. The election procedure for the assessors shall be the same as for the chairpersons of the Standing Commissions.

(2) The Federal Executive Committee is responsible for all matters that are not the responsibility of the General Assembly or other statutory bodies according to these Statutes. It may delegate further tasks to the Presidium.

(3) The Federal Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year; otherwise it shall decide by written procedure with a simple majority. For the written procedure, the Presidium shall provide a reasonable period of time for comments. Comments made after the deadline shall not be taken into account. A meeting of the Federal Executive Committee must be convened at the request of one third of its members.

In the case of fundamental, socially controversial issues, the Federal Executive Committee must seek the opinion of the General Assembly at an early stage. If the matter is urgent, this

can be done by means of a survey of members or by means of an extraordinary meeting of members with a limited number of questions.

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

(5) The Federal Executive Committee shall appoint a managing director. The latter 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 Committee shall decide on the staffing and premises of the office.

(2) The managing director shall be a member of the Federal Executive Committee and the Presidium in an advisory capacity.

(3) A "Training and Career" task force shall be set up at the office. The chairperson shall be appointed by the Federal Executive Committee on the recommendation of the President.

§ 12 Regional Groups' Council

(1) The Regional Group Advisory Board is the representation of the Regional Groups at the federal level. It is composed of one representative from each of the regional groups.

(2) The Regional Group Advisory Board has the task of.

- to ensure the exchange of information,
- to make suggestions and recommendations for the work of the Association,
- to develop a recommendation for the amount of allocations to subdivisions (§ 3) and the procedure to be followed in this respect.

It has the right to request reports from the Presidium as well as the Commission Chairmen.

(3) The Regional Group Advisory Council shall meet at least every two years. It shall adopt its own rules of procedure and shall elect an executive committee of three persons from among its members. Their office ends with the acceptance of the election by their successors elected by the Regional Group Advisory Council. The latter shall represent the Regional Groups in the Federal Executive Committee.

(4) The Executive Board of the Regional Group Advisory 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.