

## ***Bylaws of the Collegium of Pecuniary Damages Experts***

### **Section 1: MISSION**

**[1a]** The Collegium of Pecuniary Damages Experts (CPDE) is a limited membership organization dedicated to collegial discourse that strives to advance knowledge and understanding relevant to providing expert assessment and testimony on pecuniary damages in litigation, and helpful sharing and networking among colleagues.

### **Section 2: MEMBERSHIP**

**[2a]** Membership in CPDE is limited to natural persons with knowledge and experience as an expert providing assessment and testimony on pecuniary damages in litigation, and/or with applicable preparatory background and a desire to learn how to work successfully in this professional field.

**[2b]** Membership in CPDE is limited to persons that secure the support of a current CPDE Member to act as sponsor, request membership in writing to the CPDE Membership Committee through the sponsor, and receive an affirmative 2/3 vote from the CPDE Membership Committee.

**[2c]** Membership in CPDE is limited to those persons that demonstrate collegiality, active participation, and positive sharing of knowledge and experience throughout their interactions with fellow professionals. Members take up a duty of collegiality. For the purposes of revocation of Member status, that duty extends solely to professional interactions which are intramural to CPDE. Members are encouraged to attend and actively participate in each Annual Conference, as well as be responsive to communications from fellow Members.

**[2d]** Membership in CPDE may be revoked if a Member does not adhere to the standard of conduct expressed in CPDE's Mission and membership requirements. Revocation of CPDE membership requires an affirmative 2/3 vote of both the CPDE Membership Committee and CPDE's Members.

**[2e]** Membership in CPDE is contingent upon the timely payment received by the CPDE Treasurer of Member's annual dues of \$175. CPDE shall use the calendar year as its fiscal year. The term of membership runs from January 1 of each year through December 31 of that calendar year. Annual dues are due in the Treasurer's possession before January 1. Annual dues are considered not timely paid if unpaid by the later of the start of the Annual Conference or February 15. The Annual Business Meeting, typically, is on the second day of the Annual Conference. The amount of and/or the due date for future annual dues payments may be changed by a majority vote of Members at an Annual Business Meeting. The Members may approve retroactive due date changes to accommodate a *Force Majeure*. Membership is lost automatically if dues are not paid in a timely manner. If membership is lost through the non-payment of dues, then the former Member must reapply for membership and cannot merely regain membership by paying past and current dues.

[2f] CPDE Members may attend all CPDE Conferences, vote on CPDE business, and may be elected or appointed as a CPDE officer, director, or committee member. Conferences, especially conferences of other professional associations that have CPDE joint sponsorship, might require a payment of a registration fee.

[2g] Founding Members of CPDE are current Members as of July 1, 2008.

[2h] Charter Members of CPDE are those that became Members prior to the 2009 Annual Business Meeting.

[2i] The number of CPDE Members shall not exceed 50.

[ 2j] In addition the classes of Members mentioned in sections [2a] through [2i], there shall be a class of Members known as Emeritus Member. CPDE Members by majority vote may grant Emeritus Member status to a worthy Member in good standing. Near or after a nominee's material retirement from the practice of forensic economics the Membership Committee may nominate that Member for Emeritus Member status. The CPDE Member whose Member status is as Emeritus Member shall be deemed to have paid dues and shall be deemed to have paid conference registration fees. Emeritus Members only shall be counted as voting Members when actually voting; and shall not count towards the maximum number of Members specified in subsection [2i]. Emeritus Members may not be elected to, but may accept appointment to, CPDE offices and/or positions on the Board of Directors.

### **Section 3: BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

[3a] The CPDE Board of Directors shall consist of a Vice President (to become the next President), President, Past President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Members shall elect the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer as officers of CPDE and as members of the Board of Directors. The Board may appoint other Officers who shall serve as ex officio non-voting members of the Board of Directors. The term of the Vice President, President, and Past President is one year in each position, and serving consecutive terms in these offices is not allowed. The term of the Secretary and the term of the Treasurer each is three years and each may serve consecutive terms. Upon good cause shown, any officeholder's term of office may be terminated by a 2/3 vote of CPDE Members. The nomination and election of Officers to positions open due to an end of term of office shall take place during the Annual Business Meeting.

[3b] The Board shall conduct CPDE business as needed between Annual Business Meetings.

[3c] The President shall serve as the presiding officer of all Meetings of the Board and of the Members. The Vice President shall serve in lieu of the President when the President is absent. The Secretary shall record minutes of all Meetings of the Board and of the Members and manage all necessary communications for the organization. The Treasurer shall set up and manage a bank account for CPDE and oversee and manage all organization financial requirements.

[3d] All officers and all directors of CPDE must be Members of CPDE. Loss of CPDE membership automatically creates a vacancy in the office held by that officer or director. To fill a vacancy in either an elected, a voting *ex officio*, a non-voting *ex officio*, or an appointed office or director seat the President, with a second, shall place before the CPDE Board the nomination of a CPDE Member to fill the vacancy. The Board shall fill such vacancies either by accepting the President's nominee or by amending the President's nomination. No person is qualified to fill a vacancy in the voting *ex officio* Past President seat unless that person is one of the Past Presidents of CPDE.

[3e] The Members may authorize CPDE to publish one or more publications. If the Members authorize one or more publications, then the Board shall appoint one or more Editors. Each appointed Editor shall serve as an Officer at the pleasure of, and under the direction of, the Board.

[3f] All officers and directors shall be indemnified for actions taken that were reasonably believed to be within their scope of authority.

#### **Section 4: COMMITTEES**

[4a] CPDE shall have the following standing committees:

[i] Membership Committee; and [ii] Conference Committee. As the need arises, the Board may create and may appoint willing members to ad hoc committees.

[4b] The Membership Committee shall be chaired by the Past President and shall include the President and Vice President. If desired, up to two additional (non-Board) Members may be added to this committee by unanimous vote of all prescribed committee members. The CPDE Membership Committee shall notify (by email) the entire CPDE Membership of a person's desire to join CPDE. The CPDE Members shall have 10 working days in which to make any comment. Comments are to be made in private to members of the Membership Committee and are not to be placed on the list serve. Comments will be investigated by the Membership Committee and will weigh in their acceptance decision. The Membership Committee's decision to accept or to reject the applicant shall be made within 20 working days of the notification to the entire CPDE Membership of the application.

[4c] The Chair of the Conference Committee shall be appointed by the Board. The Chair may add additional Members to the Conference Committee with the prior approval of the Board. The Conference Committee shall facilitate the organization and implementation of all plans, contracts, and arrangements for all CPDE Conferences and Meetings.

#### **Section 5: MEETINGS**

[5a] CPDE shall have an Annual Conference and Annual Business Meeting at a time and place determined by vote of the Members. In the absence of a vote of the members, the Annual Business Meeting shall be at 10:00 AM on the last Thursday in March at the offices of the Nevada Secretary of State.

**[5b]** The Annual Business Meeting is open only to current CPDE Members. The Annual Conference is open to current Members of CPDE and speakers or guests invited by the Conference Committee. The Annual Conference and Annual Business Meeting will be organized and moderated in a manner consistent with collegial discourse. Conference participation is intended to enhance knowledge and understanding rather than to emphasize lines of difference. When disagreements occur, participants are expected to disagree collegially by focusing their discussion on differences in perspective and approach, rather than demeaning any person, type of training, or methodology. CPDE Members attending should attend prepared to actively participate. The Annual Conference and Annual Business Meeting will take place over a period of two days at a site and time to be determined by Members during the preceding Annual Business Meeting, Members may delegate that decision to the Conference Committee and the Board does not revoke per [5c] any portion of the Conference Committee's decisions. A record of topics and presenters will be kept, memorialized, and possibly distributed in a form to be agreed upon by the Members.

**[5c]** Conference sessions will be organized and moderated by chairpersons appointed by the Conference Committee. In addition to the Annual Conference, the Conference Committee is encouraged to seek out professional educational opportunities for CPDE Members that are offered by other professional associations, and the committee may authorize CPDE joint sponsorship of those educational opportunities when the goals and practices are consistent with CPDE's goals and practices. The Conference Committee shall report to the Board and to the entire CPDE membership all such jointly sponsored educational opportunities well prior to the occurrence of the event; but the Board may revoke the committee's authorization of CPDE's joint sponsorship prior to the occurrence of the event.

**[5d]** The agenda of the Annual Business Meeting shall include, but not be limited to:

- [i]** reports from each officer of CPDE;
- [ii]** elections;
- [iii]** annual review and possible amendment of these Bylaws;
- [iv]** selection of date and place of next Annual Conference and Annual Business Meeting;
- [v]** membership revocations if needed; and
- [vi]** new business.

**[5e]** All Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order. Proxy voting is not allowed. Every decision of every CPDE body requires a majority affirmative vote of the body's members who are attending, unless these Bylaws or Robert's Rules of Order require a greater vote. Decisions by the Board of Directors require a majority vote of all voting Board Members. An amendment to these Bylaws requires a 2/3 affirmative vote of Members present at the Annual Business Meeting. The quorum of every CPDE body is a majority of that body, except for the Annual Business Meeting of the CPDE Members, which shall use a quorum of 25% of the Members. Any CPDE body may conduct a meeting by voice telephony or by video telephony or in-person. A CPDE body may meet other than in-person and may conduct a vote other than in-person or by surface mail ballot, but when [A] meeting other than in-person or when [B] voting other than in-person or by surface mail ballot, then that meeting and that voting must at all times maintain unanimous consent for the conducting of that meeting or that vote.

**Section 6: DISSOLUTION**

**[6a]** The CPDE shall continue as an organization of members until such time as the then current Members vote during an Annual Business Meeting that CPDE ought to dissolve.

**[6b]** Any Member may make a motion of dissolution by delivering 30 days written notice to the Board of Directors.

**[6c]** A unanimous Board of Directors may make a motion of dissolution upon less than 30 days notice to the Members; otherwise, the Board must provide the Members with at least 30 days written notice of the Board's intent to make a dissolution motion at the Annual Business Meeting.

Initial approval 07/01/2008

Amended 04/02/2009

Amended March 12, 2011

Amended March 17, 2012

Amended March 23, 2013

Amended April 14, 2018 (raise [2e] dues to \$125 from original \$100)

Typo corrected April 27, 2019 (missing bracket on [2d])

Amended September 24, 2021 (raise [2e] dues to \$175 from \$125)

Amended March 13, 2026 ([5b] revise second and seventh sentences)