**BY-LAWS OF THE**

**WALTER F. GEORGE SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**ARTICLE I-Name and Purpose**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Walter F. George School of Law

Alumni Association (“Alumni Association”). The titles of Mercer Law School and Law School are interchangeable and have the same meaning as the full name Walter F. George School of Law.

Section 2. The purpose of this Alumni Association shall be: (i) to assist the Mercer University National Alumni Association in the fulfillment of its stated purposes as set forth under its Constitution and By-Laws; (ii) to unite alumni, former students and friends of the Walter F. George School of Law for the purposes of renewing friendships, creating goodwill, enhancing fellowship and camaraderie in cooperation with the Office of Alumni Services in its efforts of keeping in contact with alumni and former students, and disseminating information to them about the Law School and Mercer University (“University”); (iii) to assist the Office of University Advancement in annual fund raising; (iv) to support and uphold the traditions and policies of the Law School, the University and fellow alumni; (v) to foster and perpetuate alumni enthusiasm for the Law School, the University and fellow alumni; and (vi) to provide input to the Dean as appropriate.

Section 3. In the event these By-Laws or a part thereof is found to be in conflict with or inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Mercer University National Alumni Association, the latter shall control.

**ARTICLE II-Membership**

Section 1. All former students of Mercer University who have been regularly enrolled in a recognized course of study at the Walter F. George School of Law and who departed there from in good standing shall be members of the Alumni Association and shall be entitled to vote.

Section 2. Honorary membership may be extended to:

1. Recipients of honorary degrees from the University regardless of the campus;
2. Current and former members of the Law School faculty;
3. The President and other officers of the University;
4. Present and past members of the Board of Trustees of the University; and
5. Any person distinguished for service to the Law School or the University or to the welfare of mankind, as recognized by the Law School of the University, or both.

Honorary membership into the Alumni Association is granted upon approval of the Law School Alumni Board of Directors (the “Board”) and the National Board of Directors of the Mercer University Alumni Association. Honorary members are not eligible to vote.

**ARTICLE III – Officers**

Section 1. The officers of the Alumni Association shall be a President, President-Elect, Past President and Secretary (the “Officers”). Other officer positions may be created and authorized upon the discretion of the Board, including, but not limited to, one or more Second Vice Presidents.

Section 2. All terms of office shall be for ***two*** years, though consecutive terms are not prohibited. In the event consecutive terms are desired, election for a consecutive term must be as prescribed in Section 3 below.

Section 3. All officers serve a maximum of two years in a given officer position. In the event that the annual meeting of the Alumni Association described in Article VII (the “Alumni Association Annual Meeting”) cannot be held to elect a new slate of officers, then the incumbent Board, as an exception, may vote to approve a new slate who will be voted on by the Alumni Association at the earliest possible time – or – the Board by majority vote, extend the present Board until the Alumni Association Annual Meeting can be held.

Section 4. All Officers must be elected by the membership of the Alumni Association by way of a majority vote of all members in good standing present and voting at the Alumni Association Annual Meeting. Nominations will be made by the Board, but nominations may also be made from the floor.

The election shall be by rising vote or show of hands. In the event that more than two persons are nominated for an office, and no person receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the names of the two persons receiving the largest number of votes shall be resubmitted to the group, it being the intent hereof that no person shall be declared elected without receiving a majority vote of those voting at the Alumni Association Annual Meeting.

Section 5. The President shall be the presiding officer of the Board and shall chair the Board. The President shall be an ex officio member of all committees.

Section 6. The President-Elect shall preside over the Board in the absence of the President. The President-Elect shall succeed the President upon the expiration of the President’s term of office provided the President-Elect receives a majority of votes at the Alumni Association Annual Meeting. If the President, during the term of office, is unable to complete the term, the President-Elect will assume the office of the Presidency; such assumption will not affect the President-Elect’s opportunity to serve the full term as President after completing the unexpired term of the former President.

Section 7. The Secretary shall assist the Alumni Director in gathering information concerning Board activities and news of individual members for Alumni publications. In the event neither the President nor the Vice-President are available to preside, the Secretary shall preside in their absence. The Secretary shall succeed the President-elect upon the expiration of the President-elect’s term of office provided the Secretary receives a majority of votes at the Alumni Association Annual Meeting.

Section 8. The Alumni Director, an employee of the law school, shall be the ex officio Treasurer. The Alumni Director shall be the keeper of the Board’s permanent records, including Board and Alumni Association meeting minutes, shall maintain Board funds, if any, in coordination with the University Accounting Department, and shall be responsible for the payment of all Board expenses. The Alumni Association has no authority to commit University monies, establish accounts, or contract services on behalf of the Alumni Association. These duties are performed solely by the Alumni Director.

Section 9. All vacancies in elected offices shall be filled by the Board until the next Alumni Association Annual Meeting. Resignations, if any, shall be made to and accepted by the Board President who shall announce to the Board any Board member status change.

**ARTICLE IV – Board of Directors**

Section 1. The governing body of the Alumni Association shall be the Board consisting of:

1. The elected Officers of the Board: and
2. A minimum of twelveand a maximum of twenty-fourmembers-at-large nominated and elected by the Board serving in three groups of up to eight members each for three-year staggered terms. Members can serve two consecutive three-year terms and be extended beyond such time upon approval by the Board.

Any vacancy shall be filled by the Officers selecting a successor member-at-large to serve the balance of any unexpired term.

Section 2. The Board shall endeavor to meet not less than two times a year.

Section 3. Board meetings shall be presided over by the President. In the absence of the President, the President-Elect may preside as directed by the President. In order for the Board to conduct authorized Alumni Association business there must be a quorum of Board members present. A minimum quorum is reached when there is a majority of Board members present including the President or the President’s appointed representative.

Section 4. If any member of the Board should have more than one unexcused absence per year and/or three consecutive absences from a meeting of the Board,the Board will infer from this that the member because of these absences is unable to fulfill the duties required as a member of the Board, and membership on the Board will be automatically terminated. A letter will be sent to the terminated Board member by the Board President thanking the Board member for past service on the Board. The President shall notify the Board members if termination of service on the Board is enacted. The President may excuse any absence.

Section 5. Selection for service on the Board is indeed an honor, but it is an honor that carries with it certain responsibilities.

1. The Board meets not less thantwo times a year. Members are expected to attend the meetings, and if travel is not feasible, may participate through the use of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other or through any technology allowable under law. Such participation in a meeting shall be equivalent to presence in person at the meeting.
2. The Board participates in planning and conducting activities for the Alumni Association. Board members are expected to attend these activities if possible.
3. The Board is responsible for promoting the Alumni Association specifically and Mercer University in general. Board members are expected to promote Mercer in their communities and in the workplace by recommending the University to prospective students and by helping with the placement of Law graduates when possible.
4. The Board has an inherent responsibility in helping to raise funds for the Law School. By virtue of this responsibility, each Board member is expected to support the Law School at a level which is comfortable for him or her and to encourage other alumni and friends of the Law School to support the Law School.

**ARTICLE V – Committees**

Section 1. There shall be three standing committees of the Board, the Executive Committee, the Awards and Nominating Committee, and the Alumni Dinner Committee. The President shall appoint all committee chairs. Committee chairs must be members of the Board.

Section 2. The Officers shall serve as members of the Executive Committee. Except for the power to amend the By-Laws, the Executive Committee shall have all of the powers and authority of the Board in the intervals between meetings of the Board, subject to the direction and control of the Board.

Section 3. The Awards and Nominating Committee shall be responsible for identifying nominees for Board membership and the recipients of the annual awards described in Article VI. The Awards and Nominating Committee shall present any such nominees for consideration by the full Board.

Section 4. The Annual Meeting and Alumni Dinner Committee shall be responsible for assisting the Alumni Director and other employees of the Law School with the planning of the Alumni Association Annual Meeting and/or Alumni Dinner, including by identifying and securing sponsorships for the Alumni Dinner.

Section 5. The Executive Committee and/or the Board may from time to time recommend the establishment of a special, temporary or *ad hoc* committee as necessary to facilitate the business of the Board. The duties of any such committee shall be outlined at the time of appointment. The committee shall be dissolved when its final report has been made to the Board.

**ARTICLE VI – Awards**

Section 1. Achievements and services rendered to the law school by alumni and friends of the Law School should be duly recognized by the Alumni Association. The Alumni Association may present three awards annually. These are the Outstanding Alumnus Award, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Young Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award.

1. The Outstanding Alumnus Award is given to an alumnus/alumna of the Walter F. George School of Law who has served the profession of law in an outstanding manner, and in so doing, has brought honor to his/her person and the Walter F. George School of Law. This award is presented for service to humanity and dedication which have fostered the ideals of the law School.
2. The Meritorious Service Award is presented to an alumnus/alumna or friend of the Walter F. George School of Law who has demonstrated his/her support of the Alumni Association and the Law School through his/her contribution of time and gifts.
3. The Young Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes a young alumnus/alumna of the School of Law who has provided valuable service and selfless commitment to enhance the experience of our law students ***.***It is a general requirement that the award recipients be present for the presentation of the award during the Alumni Association’s Alumni Dinner – or other event at which the Board determines to present such award - in order to receive these prestigious honors.

**ARTICLE VII – Meetings of the Association**

Section 1. There shall be an annual meeting of the Alumni Association each year. Written notice shall be provided to all Law School alumni designating the time, place and any special purposes for the meeting. Such notice shall be given at least thirty days in advance of the Alumni Association Annual Meeting.

Section 2. A quorum shall consist of those members who are in attendance for any properly scheduled meetings of the Alumni Association.

Section 3. Business shall be conducted by a majority vote of those present and voting, unless otherwise specified herein.

Section 4. Robert’s Rules of Order, newly revised (and as amended) shall govern all meetings of the Alumni Association.

Section 5. Special meetings of the Alumni Association may be called by the Board, provided that written notice of such meetings is provided to all Alumni Association members designating the time, place and purpose of the meeting. Such notice shall be given at least 30 days in advance of any special meeting of the Alumni Association.

Section 6. The Alumni Association’s fiscal year shall coincide with the fiscal year of the Corporation of Mercer University.

**ARTICLE VIII – Amendments**

Section 1. The power to alter, amend, or repeal the By-laws shall be vested in the Board. Such action may be taken at a regular or special meeting for which written notice of the purpose shall be given. The By-laws may contain any provisions for the regulation and management of the affairs of the Alumni Association not inconsistent with law or the Constitution of the National Alumni Association.

**ARTICLE IX – Adoption of these By-Laws**

Section 1. These By-Laws shall become effective upon the approval of the Board, their ratification by a two-thirds vote of those persons present and voting at the Alumni Association Annual Meeting during which the same is presented, and the approval of the Mercer University Alumni National Board of Directors, and such adoption shall render all previous constitutions and by-laws null and void.

Section 2. A copy of these By-Laws shall be filed in the Mercer University Office of Alumni Services and University Special Events.

Amended on

Submitted for approval by Tanya Jeffords, President of the Mercer Law Alumni Association

Approved by the Mercer Law Alumni Association at its annual meeting on

Adopted by the Alumni Association during its annual meeting on