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“APPROVED”

by Resolution No.1/3-L of the General Meeting of the
Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia of
February 11, 2012

President of the Chamber of Advocates of
the Republic of Armenia /signature/ R.Sahakyan

Official Seal of the Chamber of Advocates of
the Republic of Armenia

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C H A R T E R
OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES OF
THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
(NEW EDITION)

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
YEREVAN CITY
2012

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1.1 The Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as Chamber of Advocates) is a professional, independent, self-governing non-commercial organization of advocates founded on the basis of RA Law “About Advocacy” Armenia (hereinafter referred to Law). The Chamber of Advocates acts based on the International Treaties of the Republic of Armenia, Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, Legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the present Charter.

1.2 Principles of activity of the Chamber of Advocates are as follows: independence, legality, publicity, equality of members, self-government and collective nature of management.

1.3 Name of the Chamber of Advocates:

In Armenian fully: Հայաստանի Հանրապետության փաստաբանների պալատ

In Armenian briefly: ՀՀ փաստաբանների պալատ

In Russian fully: Палата адвокатов Республики Армения

In Russian briefly: Палата адвокатов РА

In English fully: **Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia**

In English briefly: **Chamber of Advocates of RA**

1.4 The Chamber of Advocates has an emblem and a round seal with its name (in Armenian, Russian and English languages).

1.5 Location of the Chamber of Advocates: 3 Zakiyan Str., Yerevan city, postal code: 0010.

II. AIMS AND TASKS OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

2.1 The main aims and tasks of Chamber of Advocates are as follows:

- 1) to defend rights and legal interests of its members in mutual relationships with public and local self-governing authorities and organizations, as well as in courts;
- 2) to organize licensing processes of advocates;
- 3) to organize professional training of advocate-students and retraining of advocates;
- 4) to carry out control over observation of the Law, the present Charter and requirements of an Advocate behavior regulation by its members;
- 5) to take measures aimed at raise of reputation of advocacy;
- 6) in cases provided by the Law to provide everyone with exercise of a right to obtain accessible and efficient free legal assistance;
- 7) to promote increase of public legal consciousness and legal culture;

2.2 Chamber of Advocates purposes also the following aims and tasks:

- 1) to assist in formation and development of the Republic of Armenia as a legal and democratic state;
- 2) to promote defense of human rights and freedoms in the Republic of Armenia;
- 3) to assist in judicial and legal reforms carried out in the Republic of Armenia;
- 4) to assist in development of advocatory institute, raise of reputation of the role of advocate, improvement of professional knowledge of advocates;

- 5) to assist in development of laws and other legal acts of the Republic of Armenia;
- 6) to promote conduction of comparative analysis of projects of RA laws and expertise;
- 7) to assist in bringing legislation of the Republic of Armenia to conformity with international treaties on human rights and freedoms;
- 8) to promote complete integration of the Republic of Armenia to European structures, harmonization of RA Legislation with European standards, introduction of European legal standards and traditions;
- 9) to assist in establishment of relations and cooperation between Unions of Armenian Lawyers functioning in Diaspora, to promote establishment of relations and cooperation between Armenian advocates, law offices and lawyers of the Republic of Armenia and Diaspora;
- 10) to assist in establishment of relationships between lawyers and legal organizations of foreign countries;
- 11) to promote organization of international meetings, conferences and seminars of lawyers and implementation of programs of experience exchange of advocates;
- 12) to assist in development of jurisprudence, conduction of scientific researches in legal sphere, to promote publication and spreading of legal scientific papers, as well as legal literature;
- 13) to promote spreading of legal knowledge in comprehensive schools and educational institutions of the Republic of Armenia;
- 14) to promote increase of legal consciousness level among population through propagation of laws and legal knowledge;
- 15) to assist in non-professional communication between advocates and lawyers, to organize non-official club meetings, different cultural and entertaining measurements of lawyers.

III. TYPES OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT DIRECTLY BY THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

3.1 Chamber of Advocates may carry out business activity only in case when it serves for execution of purposes provided by the present Charter and corresponds to such purposes.

3.2 Chamber of Advocates may personally carry out business activity provided by the present Charter or with this purpose it may establish economic companies or be their participant.

3.3 Chamber of Advocates may personally carry out only the following types of business activity:

- 1) to organize and hold seminars, scientific conferences, round table discussions and other similar measurements;
- 2) to carry out expert (research) services of laws and other legal acts;
- 3) to develop projects of laws and other legal acts;
- 4) to render consulting and advertising services;
- 5) to carry out maintenance of “Advocatory cash desk-CARPA”;

- 6) non-official publication, replication or official republication of laws and normative legal acts;
- 7) wholesale and retail, as well as publication of legal professional books, magazines, newspapers and other periodicals;
- 8) handing over the property for lease;
- 9) organization of students' practical training.

IV. COMPETENCE AND RIGHTS OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

4.1 Chamber of Advocates is considered to be established from the state registration moment by the order stipulated by Law.

4.2 From the moment of acquiring status of legal entity Chamber of Advocates has all rights provided for legal entity by legislation of the Republic of Armenia and bears corresponding liabilities.

4.3 Changes in address of the Chamber of Advocates within the territory of the same location don't require amendment of the Charter. State registration authority is informed about such amendment within the time set by the present Charter.

4.4 Chamber of Advocates is entitled:

- 1) to spread information regarding its activity;
- 2) to organize and hold meetings;
- 3) to present and defend rights and legal interests of its members before other organizations, courts, government and local self-governing authorities by the provided order;
- 4) to cooperate with non-commercial organizations, including international and foreign non-governmental and commercial organizations, as well as to establish unions or become a member to such founded unions for the purpose to carry out systematized activity and to present and protect common interests by keeping its independence and status of legal entity;
- 5) to establish separated subdivisions, i.e. branches and representations, as well as other institutions by the order stipulated by the Charter;
- 6) to found commercial organizations or become a member to such organizations;
- 7) to use rights provided by Legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the present Charter.

4.5 Chamber of Advocates is free to carry out activity not prohibited by the law, which doesn't break rights and freedoms of others.

V. OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

5.1 Chamber of Advocates is entitled:

- 1) on the advocate's request to give him an opportunity to get acquainted with the Charter of Chamber of Advocates within the reasonable time but not later than within 3 calendar days. The mentioned documents are given to the advocate free of charge;

- 2) to keep office work and accounting by the order stipulated by Legislation of the Republic of Armenia;
- 3) to keep list of advocates;
- 4) to publish reports about its activity and property usage at least once a year;
- 5) within one-month period after taking decision on establishment and liquidation of separated subdivision or institution to apply to the state registration authority to register and to strike them off registration by the provided order;
- 6) in case of changes of address of an official entitled to present the Chamber of Advocates without Power of Attorney and/or address of the Chamber of Advocates to send passport data of such official and/or information regarding new address of the Chamber of Advocates to the state registration authority within 14 calendar days.

5.2 Other obligations may be provided for the Chamber of Advocates by Legislation of the Republic of Armenia. Chamber of Advocates can't bear liabilities not stipulated by the law.

5.3 Chamber of Advocates can't found or become a member to political and religious organizations, as well as to participate in creation and activity of their structures.

5.4 Chamber of Advocates doesn't bear responsibility for commitments of advocates, and advocates don't bear responsibility for commitments of the Chamber of Advocates.

5.5 Chamber of Advocates bears responsibility for its commitments with the whole property belonging to it by the property right.

VI. AUTHORITIES OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

- 6.1 Chamber of Advocates carries out its activity through its authorities.
- 6.2 Authorities of Chamber of Advocates are as follows:
 - 1) General meeting of the Chamber of Advocates;
 - 2) Board of the Chamber of Advocates;
 - 3) Qualification commission of the Chamber of Advocates.

VII. GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

7.1 General meeting of the Chamber of Advocates is the higher authority of the Chamber of Advocates with the following exclusive powers:

- 1) approval of the Charter of the Chamber of Advocates, making amendments and/or additions to it or approval of new charter;
- 2) approval of Advocate behavior regulation, making amendments and/or additions to it or approval of new Advocate behavior regulation;
- 3) election and recalling of the President of the Chamber of Advocates, Board members and persons provided by article 39.5 of the Law (hereinafter referred to as case preparing authority);

7.2 Besides issues reserved to exclusive competence of the General meeting of the Chamber of Advocates the latter is entitled also to solve any issue regarding activity of the Chamber of Advocates.

7.3 Any advocate who didn't suspend the license is entitled to participate in the General meeting of the Chamber of Advocates.

7.4 General meeting of the Chamber of Advocates takes decisions through

1) convening a general meeting (joint meeting of members of the Chamber of Advocates); or

2) without convening a general meeting (hereinafter referred to as absentee meeting).

7.5 General meeting of the Chamber of Advocates may be regular or extraordinary.

7.6 General meeting of the Chamber of Advocates is convened not less than once two years by joint meeting of members of the Chamber of Advocates or by absentee meeting provided by the present Charter.

7.7 Regular or extraordinary meetings of the General meeting of the Chamber of Advocates are convened by decision of the President of the Chamber of Advocates or Board of the Chamber of Advocates with an approved agenda as well as by the order and persons provided by the present Charter.

7.8 Advocates receive notification about the general meeting agenda, its commencement date, hour (in case of absent voting – its duration), as well as place (location) of convening by E-mail mentioned in the list of advocates not later than a) 30 days before the meeting if elections are included in the agenda; or b) 14 before the meeting, on other issues. Notification mentioned in the present clause is published in website of the Chamber, as well as put on the notice board of the Chamber location.

7.9 An extraordinary general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates (by convening or by absentee order) may be called also on demand of one-fourth of total number of members of the Chamber of Advocates, which is submitted to the President of the Chamber. Issues of agenda and substantiation of necessity of their discussion are mentioned in the demand on convening an extraordinary general meeting. Having received the demand on convening extraordinary general meeting the President of the Chamber is entitled to call an extraordinary general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates (to make decision about convening) within 14 calendar days with the agenda mentioned in the demand. In case if the Chairman fails to call an extraordinary general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates, it may be called by the advocates filed such demand with the same agenda.

7.10 In case of convening extraordinary general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates provided by clause 7.7 of the present Charter, persons convening meeting send a copy of the demand addressed to the President of the Chamber and notification in the form of one document to all members of the Chamber of Advocates by the order provided by clause 7.9 of the Charter within the time mentioned in clause 7.8 of the Charter where agenda, place, date and hour of convening an extraordinary general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates should be mentioned. In case if an extraordinary general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates didn't take place by default of quorum based on this demand, issues of agenda are discussed and decisions regarding them are made at the General meeting of the Chamber of Advocates immediately following an extraordinary general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates.

7.11 General meeting of the Chamber of Advocates is competent if it was called by the order stipulated by the present Charter and more than one third of members entitled to voting is present at the general meeting being convened in the form of joint meeting of the members of the Chamber of Advocates, or more than one third of

members entitled to voting participate in General meeting of the Chamber of Advocates being held by absentee order.

7.12 Decisions of general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates are made by simple majority of votes of members participated in voting by open vote, except for cases provided by the Law and the present Charter. Decisions of the general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates enter into force from proclamation moment by the order provided by clause 7.13 and/or 7.14 of the present Charter, unless otherwise specified by the Law.

7.13 Voting results are announced by Chairman of the Returning board or by other member by the decision of Returning board. The President of Chamber of Advocates announces decisions of the general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates not provided under the present clause.

7.14 Decisions of the general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates are published in official website of the Chamber of Advocates.

7.15 Minutes of general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates are kept in the Chamber of Advocates without time-limit.

7.16 The interested advocate may contest the decision of the general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates by judicial order within one month after coming of such decision into force.

7.17 The higher authority of the Chamber of Advocates can't transfer own right to make decision regarding issues of its exclusive competence to another authority.

VIII. RETURNING BOARD OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

8.1 With a purpose to register the President of Chamber of Advocates, members of Chamber of Advocates and candidates of the case preparing authorities (hereinafter referred to as candidates), to organize elections of inner legal acts of Chamber of Advocates by general meeting and to summarize results of voting (elections), the Board of the Chamber of Advocates forms Returning board of the Chamber of Advocates (hereinafter referred to as Returning board) by the order stipulated by the present Charter consisted of nine members assigned for the term of three years.

8.2 The Returning board is a commission that organizes (conducts) acceptance of inner legal acts of the Chamber of Advocates and elections of candidates by the General meeting and carries out control over legality of such procedures, which is not an authority of the Chamber of Advocates.

8.3 The Board of the Chamber of Advocates consisted of advocates having non-suspended licenses appoint members of Returning board with representation of the Chamber President.

8.4 The Returning board is formed 20 days before termination of powers of the acting Returning board. In case of premature termination of powers of a member of the Returning board, the President of the Chamber of Advocates undertakes a process of new member assignment within twenty-five days from the termination moment of the former member powers. Powers of new member are terminated at expiration of powers of an acting staff.

8.5 President of the Chamber of Advocates, members of authorities of the Chamber, persons entrusted by the present Charter and candidates can't be members of the Returning board.

8.6 The Returning board acts based on the principles of legality, equality, collective nature and publicity.

8.7 The Returning board:

- 1) establishes forms, samples of ballots, minutes and other election documents, order for their filling and keeping;
- 2) establishes exemplary forms of the documents required for registration of candidates;
- 3) confirms accreditation order of observers and accredits them;
- 4) organizes publication of biographic data of candidates;
- 5) confirms sample of ballot boxes (sizes);
- 6) carries out control over execution of requirements of the present Charter on the election territory;
- 7) organizes and summarizes voting results;
- 8) draws up minutes of the voting results;
- 9) carries out other powers provided by the present Charter.

8.8 The Returning board carries out its powers free from the President and authorities of the Chamber of Advocates.

8.9 Sitting of the Returning board may be regular or extraordinary.

8.10 Participation of a member of Returning board at the sitting of the Returning board is obligatory.

8.11 The President of the Chamber of Advocates convenes regular sitting of the Returning board by the agenda confirmed by the latter.

8.12 Members of the Returning board receive notifications about agenda of the sitting of the Returning board, commencement, date and time of its works by E-mail at least 3 days before convening a meeting.

8.13 An extraordinary sitting of the Returning board may be called on request of two members of the Returning board, which is submitted to the Chairman of the Returning board. Issues of agenda and substantiation of their discussion necessity are mentioned in the request about convening sitting of the Returning board. Having received a request on convening sitting of the Returning board provided by the present clause, the Chairman of the Returning board undertakes to convene a meeting within 7 calendar days with the agenda mentioned in the request. In case if the Chairman of the Returning board fails to convene a meeting of the Returning board, it may be convened by members of the Returning board filed such request with the same agenda.

8.14 In case of convening an extraordinary sitting of the Returning board provided by clause 8.13 of the present Charter, persons convening a sitting send the copy of the request addressed to the Chairman of the Returning board and notification in the form of one document to all members of the Returning board by the order provided by clause 8.13 of the present Charter not later than 3 days before the day of convening a sitting of the Returning board, where agenda of the extraordinary sitting of Returning board, place, date and hour of convening a sitting must be obligatory mentioned. In case if the sitting didn't taken place by default of the quorum of the Returning board, issues of the agenda of the request are included, discussed and a decision regarding them is made at the immediately following meeting of the Returning board.

8.15 The Returning board is competent if a sitting was convened by the order stipulated by the present Charter and more than half of members of the Returning board are present at the sitting of the Returning board.

8.16 Decisions of the Returning board are made by simple majority of votes of members of the Returning board participated in the voting by open voting.

8.17 Decisions of the Returning board enter into force from the moment of their making.

8.18 Decisions of the Returning board on summarizing results of the elections are published in official website of the Chamber of Advocates and are put on the notice board of the Chamber location.

8.19 Legal acts of the Returning board adopted within the frames of its competence are subject to obligatory execution by authorities, members of the Chamber of Advocates, as well as persons provided by the present Charter.

8.20 Copies and extracts from the decisions and minutes of the Returning board are sealed and signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Returning board.

8.21 Minutes of the meetings of the Returning board are kept in the Chamber of Advocates at least five years.

8.22 Financing of costs required for organization and holding of elections, as well as activity of the Returning board is made at the expense of budget of the Chamber of Advocates. These costs are provided in the annual budget of Chamber of Advocates.

Powers of members of the Returning board and order for their termination

8.23 Members of the Returning board are entitled:

- 1) to get acquainted with issues presented for discussion of the Returning board and documents beforehand;
- 2) to speak at sittings of the Returning board;
- 3) to submit proposals and to demand to through them;
- 4) to ask questions to the members of the meeting and to receive answers to them.

8.24 Members of the Returning board undertake:

- 1) to participate in voting;
- 2) to carry out instructions given by the Chairman of the Returning board within the frames of his competence;
- 3) to pass retraining courses provided by the Board of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 4) to participate in works of the Returning board, including sittings and to meet their powers.

8.25 At carrying out powers a member of the Returning board is given compensation against the carried out works from the budget of the Chamber of Advocates at the rate set by the Board of the Chamber of Advocates.

8.26 Powers of the member of the Returning board are terminated beforehand, if:

- 1) he /she didn't appear to the sittings for three times a year without any good reason;
- 2) arrest was chosen towards the latter as a measure of restriction or arrest or imprisonment was applied as a punishment;

3) an application about rejection of the title of the Returning board was filed to the Board of the Chamber of Advocates;

4) he was drafted for military service;

5) his/her advocacy license was suspended or terminated;

6) he/she was involved as a candidate for the President of the Chamber of Advocates, member of the Board or the case preparing person.

8.27 In cases provided by subclauses 2, 4 and 5 of clause 8.26 of the present Charter powers of a member of the Returning board are considered to be terminated from the moment of making decision of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates, and in cases mentioned in subclause 3 or 6 of the same clause - correspondingly from the moment of filing an application about rejection or from the date following registration as a candidate.

Chairman and Secretary of the Returning board

8.28 The Returning board elects Chairman and Secretary of the Returning board from its staff.

8.29 The right of nomination for the Chairman and Secretary of the Returning board belongs to members of the Returning board.

8.30 Chairman and Secretary of the Returning board are elected by open voting.

8.31 If one candidate was nominated for the Chairman of the Returning board and one candidate - for the Secretary of the Returning board, they are considered to be elected if obtain more than half of votes of the members of the voting. If more than one candidate was nominated for the Chairman or Secretary of the Returning board, the candidates received many votes are considered to be elected. In case of equality between the votes sortition is conducted between the candidates received many votes.

8.32 Chairman of the Returning board organizes and controls over organization and conduction of the voting, if required, assists members of the Returning board, i.e. substitutes for them in case of their absence, as well as carries out other powers provided by the present Charter.

8.33 On instruction of the Chairman of the Returning board, the Secretary of the Returning board makes records in the register, assists members of the Returning board, i.e. substitutes for them in case of their absence, as well as carries out other powers provided by the present Charter.

8.34 Chairman and Secretary of the Returning board may be changed by the decision of two-third of members of Returning board if powers reserved to them are carried out by violation of the requirements of the present Charter.

8.35 In case of absence of the Chairman and Secretary of the Returning board, their powers are carried out by another member of the Returning board on instruction of the Chairman of the Returning board.

IX. OBSERVATION MISSION

9.1 The following institutions are entitled to carry out observation mission at acceptance of inner legal acts of the Chamber of Advocates by the General meeting and at the elections:

- 1) international organizations;
- 2) representatives of diplomatic or consular organizations accredited in the Republic of Armenia;
- 3) non-governmental or other non-commercial organizations of the Republic of Armenia and foreign countries, charter problems of which include issues on defense of democracy and human rights and which don't assist candidates;
- 4) non-governmental organizations mentioned in the list approved by the Board of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 5) representatives of mass media.

9.2 The following authorities are entitled to send invitation to organizations and persons mentioned in the present chapter to carry out observation mission:

- 1) Board of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 2) President of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 3) Chairman of the Returning board.

9.3 Persons mentioned in clause 9.1 of the present Charter carry out their mission after being accredited in the Returning board.

9.4 Application for making amendments (additions) in the list of the accredited observers are presented to the Returning board after the date of calling elections but at least 10 days before the voting day.

9.5 The Returning board rejects application about accreditation of observers if charter problems of the organization provided by the present Charter or their activity didn't meet the requirements of clause 9.1 of the present Charter or the applicant didn't agree to obey the rule of observers provided by the present Charter.

9.6 The Returning board hands the certificates granted to the observers over the organizations not later than within three days after receiving the application.

9.7 In case if the observer assists any candidate the Returning board is entitled to deprive the corresponding organization or subject of the right on carrying out observation mission.

9.8 Powers of observers are terminated on the eighth day after the official announcement of the results of elections.

9.9 Order for observers' accreditation, list of documents and information required for observers' accreditation, forms of certificates of observers and order for their filling are determined by the Returning board.

9.10 The observer is entitled:

- 1) to be present at sittings of the Returning board and in the voting room during voting;
- 2) to follow procedures of printing, transportation, keeping of ballots, and calculation procedures of ballots;
- 3) to get acquainted with ballots unimpeded in presence of the Chairman, Secretary or any of the members of the Returning board on instruction of the Commission Chairman, to get familiarized with election documents being under possession of the commission, decisions of the Returning board, minutes of sittings, to receive their copies or to make extracts from them;
- 4) to move in the voting room free for observation of ballot boxes.

9.11 The observer is not entitled to interfere into works of the Returning board.

9.12 On the voting day the observer follows works of the Returning board and may present his observations and suggestions to the Chairman of the Returning board.

9.13 Any limitation of observer's any rights provided by the present charter is not allowed. No one (including the Returning board) is entitled to expel the observer from the voting room or to isolate the latter from participating in works of the commission.

9.14 The observer undertakes to follow requirements of the present Charter.

X. AUTHORIZED PERSON

10.1 With a purpose to protect the rights in relationships with the Returning board the candidates may have authorized persons.

10.2 An authorized person may be only an advocate whose license is not suspended.

10.3 Within five days' period after registration of candidates the Returning board gives certificates of at least three authorized persons by mentioning the candidate's name, surname, father's name. The candidate hands the certificates over the authorized persons.

10.4 An authorized person is entitled:

1) to participate in sittings of the Returning board with advisory right, to be present in the voting room;

2) to get acquainted with samples of ballots unimpeded, election documents being under possession of the Returning board in presence of the Chairman of the Returning board, decisions, minutes of sittings of Returning boards, to receive their copies or to make extracts from them;

3) to appeal decisions, actions or inactivity of the Returning boards by the order set by Legislation of the Republic of Armenia;

4) to follow procedures of printing, transportation, keeping of ballots, and calculation procedures of ballots;

5) without interfering into works of a member of the Returning board physically be present alongside the members of commission carrying out registration of voters, providing ballots, as well as alongside the member controlling over the ballot boxes and to follow their works;

6) to follow works of the Returning board on the voting day and to present observations and suggestions regarding them to the Chairman of the Returning board;

7) at summarizing voting results to get acquainted with the voted ballots and the made notes unimpeded in the presence of Chairman of the Returning board, to be present at calculation of ballots and summarization of the voting results;

8) to carry out other powers reserved to him/her by the present Charter.

10.5 Any limitation of any rights of the authorized person's provided by the present charter is not allowed. No one (including the Returning board) is entitled to expel the authorized person from the voting room or to isolate the latter from participating in works of the commission.

10.6 The authorized person undertakes to keep requirements of the present charter.

XI. GENERAL PROVISIONS ON ACCEPTANCE OF INNER LEGAL ACTS BY THE GENERAL MEETING AND HOLDING ELECTIONS

11.1 Voting by issues on acceptance of the Charter of the Chamber of Advocates or behavior regulation (their amendments and additions) is carried out secretly through ballots

11.2 Elections of the President of the Chamber of Advocates, members of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates and the case preparing persons are carried out secretly through ballots.

11.3 President of the Chamber of Advocates, members of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates and the case preparing persons are elected openly.

11.4 Confidentiality of voting is not only a right for the electing advocate but also a liability.

11.5 Control over free will of the voter is prohibited. Candidates or other persons may spread propaganda only by the order provided by the present Charter.

11.6 Spreading of propaganda, holding of elections and summarization of results by violation of the order provided by the present Charter brings to invalidity of the decision regarding voting results of the General meeting of the Chamber of Advocates if they influenced or might influence on the final results.

XII. ORDER FOR NOMINATION AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES

12.1 Any advocate is entitled to nominate for the candidate. Any advocate may nominate only for one candidate. The candidate may be proposed for also through self-nomination. Nomination of candidates (self-nomination) begins twenty-seven days before the day of convening a general meeting and is terminated twenty-two days before the day of convening a general meeting.

12.2 A member of the Chamber of Advocates having about ten years' working experience in the field of advocacy may be nominated for the President of the Chamber of Advocates.

12.3 A member of the Chamber of Advocates may be elected in one authority of the Chamber of Advocates;

12.4 In case of self-nomination an advocate files an application about self-nomination to the Returning board, and in case of nominating for candidate by another advocate or advocates - an application about nomination.

12.5 Application about self-nomination or nomination includes:

- 1) candidate's name, surname, father's name;
- 2) candidate's residence;
- 3) candidate's working place and title (occupation);
- 4) candidate's license number;
- 5) in case of self-nomination signature of the candidate, and in other case -

signature (signatures) of nominated person (persons).

12.6 In case of revealing mistakes, erasures, scratches, misprints the Returning board undertakes to attract presenter's attention to them with a purpose to correct them. The Returning board is not entitled not to accept the submitted documents only for the reason that they contain such mistakes, erasures, scratches or misprints.

12.7 Written consent of the candidate must also be enclosed to the application about candidate nomination.

12.8 Candidate for the President of the Chamber of Advocates is considered to be registered on the day of filing corresponding application, except for cases when

- a written consent of the candidate is not enclosed to the application filed by another advocate (advocates);
- professional working experience of the advocate is less than ten years.

12.9 Chairman of the Returning board or corresponding member provides the candidate for the President of the Chamber of Advocates with written certificate about the candidate registration, except for cases when there are bases for rejection mentioned in clause 12.8 of the present Charter. In case of rejection, on the same day, Chairman of the Returning board or a member provides with a written document about rejection with corresponding substantiations.

12.10 Candidate of a member of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates or the case preparing person are considered to be registered, with exception when a written consent of the candidate is not enclosed to the application filed by an advocate (advocates).

12.11 On the same day the Chairman of the Returning board or corresponding member provides a member of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates or the case preparing person with written certificate about the candidate's registration, except for cases when there are bases for rejection mentioned in clause 12.10 of the present Charter. In case of rejection, on the same day, Chairman of the Returning board or a member provides with a written document about rejection with corresponding substantiations.

12.12 Registration of a candidate is considered invalid by the decision of Returning board, if

- he/she filed an application about rejection; or
- it was found out that he/she didn't give consent for candidature;
- he/she is the President of the Chamber of Advocates but was registered as a candidate for the Board member or the case preparing person and vice versa, and declined that status within two working days after receiving warning of the Chairman of the Returning board; or
- he/she was registered as a candidate for being elected as a President of the Chamber, Board member and the case preparing person or both of them, and didn't chose any of them within two working days after receiving warning of the Chairman of the Returning board (in this case the Returning board strikes the candidate off the registration from all positions).

XIII. PROPAGANDA

13.1 Candidates are entitled to spread propaganda by means not prohibited by the present Charter.

13.2 Propaganda begins from the day following expiration of time for candidates' registration and is completed one hour before voting till 18:00. It is prohibited to put propaganda materials in the voting room.

13.3 Propaganda on the voting day is prohibited.

13.4 The following persons can't participate in propaganda:

- 1) members of the Returning board;
- 2) public and local self-governing authorities, as well as their employees;
- 3) members of RA Constitutional Court, Police of RA and National Security Service of RA, authorities, employees (servants) of Office of Public Prosecutor, military men;
- 4) charitable and religious organizations;
- 5) foreigners and foreign organizations.

13.5 Propaganda may be spread through mass media in the form of public propaganda measurements (meetings, public discussions, disputes, meetings for publication of printed materials, through spreading printed, recorded and video recorded materials).

13.6 Chamber of Advocates provides the candidates with free usage of official site of the Chamber of Advocates on equal conditions.

13.7 It is prohibited:

- 1) to use the position held in the Chamber of Advocates at voting;
- 2) to conduct charitable measurements for advocates at propaganda;
- 3) to give (promise) a title, money, foodstuffs, securities, property or render (promise) services to advocates at propaganda stage free of charge or on privileged conditions;
- 4) to make writing or oral influence on advocates on the election territory and adjacent territories on the day of voting and the day proceeding it; to allot lists, as well as to spread propaganda regarding the issue put for discussion of the general meeting.

13.8 Candidates undertake to keep order stipulated for organization of pre-election propaganda. Control over keeping the propaganda order is carried out by the Returning board.

13.9 In case of violation of propaganda order by candidates each advocate is entitled to apply to the Returning board to prevent it or to apply warning towards the candidate violated the order.

XIV. VOTING

14.1 Voting is held on the territory determined by the President of the Chamber of Advocates (by the Board in case if the general meeting is convened by the Board of the Chamber of Advocates).

14.2 Commencement and completion time of voting is set by the President of the Chamber of Advocates (by the Board in case if the meeting is convened by the Board of the Chamber of Advocates).

14.3 Voting is held in the room equipped for this purpose.

14.4 Voting room must be spacious and meet the following requirements:

- 1) to give opportunity to provide with simultaneous regular work of members of the Returning board and persons entitled to be present at voting during the whole period of voting;
- 2) to give opportunity to the authorized persons and observers to keep an eye on ballot boxes, polling-booth (on condition that voting confidentiality is not violated), the area laid between the polling-booth to ballot box.
- 3) equipment of the voting room must be completed on the day preceding the voting till 24:00.

4) a polling-booth is made in such a way as to give opportunity to the voter to fill the ballot secretly from persons being in the voting room, which will have enough illumination, and a pen must be put there.

14.5 In case of holding different voting at the same time ballots are made in such a way as to be differed from each other.

14.6 Ballots are made of opaque paper.

14.7 Candidates' name, surname, father's name in alphabetical order are mentioned on the ballots.

14.8 A voter of secret voting, i.e. a member of the Chamber of Advocates (hereinafter referred to as voter) approaches to the corresponding table and presents his identity card or advocacy license. A member of the Returning board checks the voter's data after which the voter signs in front of his name and a ballot (ballots) is (are) given to the latter.

14.9 After receiving a ballot (ballots) the voter approaches to the polling-booth, makes his/her choice and drops the folded up ballot into the ballot box. In case of voting on different issues the voter separates the ballot in the polling-booth according to groups and drops it in the folded up condition into the ballot box separated for such group. Immediately after election the voter leaves the voting place.

14.10 It is prohibited to use pen of another color at voting besides the pens determined by the Returning board. Staff of the Chamber of Advocates provides with sufficient quantity pens in the polling-booths. It is prohibited to tick the ballot by the sign differing from the sign stipulated by the Returning board. A ballot will be considered invalid if not meeting the mentioned requirement.

14.11 Voters are not allowed to declare the names of voted candidates in the polling-booth or exhort to vote or not to vote for any candidate. It is also prohibited to take the ballots out of the election area.

14.12 If one candidate is nominated for the President of the Chamber of Advocates, at voting "for" the candidate of the President of the Chamber of Advocates a voter writes "for" in the corresponding square and at voting against he writes "against" in the corresponding square. A ballot will be considered invalid if not meeting the mentioned requirement.

14.13 If two or more candidates are nominated for the President of the Chamber of Advocates, at voting "for" the preferred candidate of the President of the Chamber of Advocates a voter writes "for" in the corresponding square. At election of the President of the Chamber of Advocates a voter ticks off in favour of one candidate. A ballot will be considered invalid if not meeting the mentioned requirement.

14.14 A voter ticks off in favour of the preferable candidates at secret voting by rating order, which mustn't exceed:

a) number of candidates - 12 (twelfth) at election of members of Board of the Chamber of Advocates; and

b) number of candidates - 20 (twenty) at election of candidates for the case preparing persons. A ballot will be considered invalid if not meeting the mentioned requirement.

14.15 If an issue of passing the Charter of Chamber of Advocates or Behavior regulations is put on voting, the voter ticks off in appropriate square "I vote for" at voting for the issue and ticks off in appropriate square "I vote against" at voting against. If case of breaking the demand, pointed in this clause the ballot will be considered as invalid.

14.16 A ballot printing is performed by Returning board.

14.17 Members of the Returning board and the persons entitled to be present in the voting room on the day of voting should have a visible badge on their clothes, giving the right to be present there.

14.18 At presence of persons having the right to attend voting the chairman of the Returning board checks the ballot box, closes and seals up the ballot box, distributes the electoral rolls in alphabetical order and distributes the ballots to members of Returning board registering the voters and giving the ballots.

14.19 Chairman of the Returning board declares the beginning of voting on the day and time of voting and permits the entrance of voters to the voting room.

14.20 Besides the members of the Returning board and the voters, authorized persons of the candidates and observers may also be present in the voting room. During the voting the candidate may stay in the voting room only for attending the voting.

14.21 No more voters determined by the chairman of the Returning board may be present in the voting room. The Chairman of the Returning board has the right to allow the voters to voting room one by one for provision of the regular duration of the voting.

14.22 The Returning board undertakes to determine additional opportunities to make available the voting for the voters having difficulties to take part in voting, having provided an opportunity of free expression of the voter's will and secrecy of voting.

14.23 The voter attends voting personally. The voting through authorized persons is restricted.

14.24 The voter is entitled to invite another person (not a member of the Returning board or an authorized person) to polling-booth after informing the chairman of the Returning board who don't have an opportunity to fill in the ballot on his own. A person is entitled to assist only one voter not having an opportunity to fill in the ballot on his own. Except for the mentioned case, the presence of another person in polling-booth is restricted.

14.25 If the voter thinks that the ballot was filled incorrectly or was damaged, he may turn to the chairman of the Returning board for receiving a new ballot. A new ballot is provided to the voter by instruction of the Returning board and a mark is made opposite the name and surname of the voter in the electoral roll. The incorrectly filled ballot is immediately obliterated.

XV. SUMMARIZING THE BALLOT RESULTS

15.1 Chairman of the Returning board preliminarily declares about the end of voting and restricts entering of the voters to voting room. The Returning board gives an opportunity to voters in the voting room to finish voting and then the chairman of the Returning board closes the ballot box.

15.2 After an end of secret voting members of the Returning board summarize the ballot results.

15.3 Summarizing the secret ballot results is performed in separate room and during that time only the members, observers and authorized persons (one authorized person for each candidate) may be present in the room. The present persons are

entitled to record or video record the mentioned process. The other attendants aren't entitled to touch the ballot boxes or ballots except for the members of the Returning board.

15.4 After an end of voting members of the Returning board count and return unused ballots to the chairman of the Returning board.

15.5 The Board makes up minutes (No.1) during summarizing the ballot results, before opening the ballot box, in which the following information is included:

- 1) number of unused ballots, having cut off the corners of ballot, making them useless;
- 2) general number of attendants of the meeting (number in list);
- 3) number of ballot receivers by the list.

15.6 After making up the minutes No.1 chairman of the Returning board opens an appropriate ballot box, takes a ballot from the ballot box, declares the result of ballot and hands over the members of the Returning board for classification.

15.7 After ballot classification they are counted and the results are recorded. The votes given in candidate's favor are recorded before the name and surname of each candidate and in case of voting for another issue, the votes given for that issue are recorded.

15.8 The number of ballots, acknowledged as invalid and not corresponding to standard pattern is recorded separately.

15.9 The following information is recorded in the minutes (No.2):

- 1) general number of ballots available in the ballot box;
- 2) number of invalid ballots;
- 3) number of ballots not corresponding to standard pattern;
- 4) names, surnames of the candidates and the received votes, and in case of voting, the votes received in favor of the given issue.

15.10 Minutes No.2 is made up at election of the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates, members of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates, case preparing persons as well as summarizing the ballot results. In any case after recording the Minutes No.2 it's pointed "Ch" (chairman of the Chamber of Advocates), "B" (Board of the Chamber of Advocates), "C" (case preparing persons) and "O" (other issues, regarding the Charter, Behavior regulations) correspondingly.

15.11 The classified ballots are packed separately.

15.12 The ballots of standard pattern are considered invalid, if

- 1) More than one candidate was ticked off at election of the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates and more candidates of fixed number were ticked off at voting by rating procedure;
- 2) Nothing was ticked off on ballot;
- 3) Contain marks identifying the voter;
- 4) Contain marks essentially differing from the established form;
- 5) In other cases, mentioned in this Charter.

15.13 The Returning board solves an issue of invalidity of ballots arising suspicion or not corresponding to standard pattern.

15.14 A casting of lots is performed by the Board, pursuant to this Charter, in case of equality of votes of the candidates from members of the Chamber of Advocates and the case preparing persons by rating procedure who occupy the last line of the elected number of candidates, during the election of the members of Board of the

Chamber of Advocates - the 12th passable place, b) at election of the case preparing persons - the 20th passable place.

15.15 Members of the Board sign the minutes and immediately submit a copy to the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates.

15.16 If a member of the Board refuses to sign the minutes, it is recorded in the minutes.

15.17 If a member of the Returning board has a special opinion regarding the data of the Minutes, he presents a written opinion, attached to the Minutes and makes a mark at his signature about it.

15.18 The sitting of the Returning board can't be interrupted after the end of voting till making the minutes of the ballot results.

15.19 The minutes is made up in four copies, the first copy is hung on the wall of the Chamber of Advocates in visible place, the second copy is kept in the pouch of the voting documents and the other two copies are handed over the archive of the Chamber of Advocates.

15.20 The signature of the chairman of the Returning board should be put on the pouches. The other members and the authorized persons of the Returning board are also entitled to sign on the pouches or seal the pouches by own seal.

15.21 During the sitting of the Returning board all the pouches should be closed. The chairman of the Returning board bears responsibility for closing pouches in stipulated procedure.

15.22 By the demand of a person, having the right to be present in the Returning board an extract of the Minutes of ballot results is given to them, certified by the signatures of chairman and the secretary of the Board and the seal of the Returning board.

15.23 After an end of the voting the chairman and secretary of the Returning board hand the pouches, two copies of the minutes of the ballot results and the seals of the Returning board over the archive of the Chamber of Advocates.

15.24 In case of appointing the second stage for voting, the voting is held in procedure, stipulated by the Charter of the Chamber.

***Summarizing the candidates election and passing internal legal act
of the Chamber of Advocates***

15.25 The Returning board in procedure and terms, stipulated by this Charter summarizes the results of the voting and makes one of the following decisions:

- 1) regarding election of the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 2) regarding passing to the second stage of election of the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 3) regarding election of the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates considered failed and regarding no election of the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 4) regarding election of the members of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 5) regarding election of the case preparing persons;
- 6) regarding making a decision of an internal legal act of the Chamber of Advocates or another issue;

7) regarding acknowledgement of an internal legal act of the Chamber of Advocates or voting as failed.

15.26 Results of voting may be considered invalid by the court decision if the size of incorrect data or essential violations occurred during the preparation or holding of elections influenced on or may influence on the results of voting.

15.27 In case of acknowledgement of the results of voting as invalid, a new voting is held in procedure stipulated by law after ten and not later than thirty days after taking effect of court act.

15.28 The elections are considered held if one third of all voting advocates took part in it.

15.29 The project of the Charter or behavior regulations of the Chamber of Advocates is considered passed, if more than a half of the members of voting voted for.

15.30 A candidate received more than a half of the votes of the voters (receivers of ballots) is considered as a chairman of the Chamber of Advocates.

15.31 If two or more candidates of the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates voted and no one received necessary amount of votes, the second stage of voting is held to which two candidates, received maximum votes may take part. In case of equal votes attendance of the second candidate taken part in the second stage is determined by casting of lots.

15.32 The candidate, received the maximum votes is considered as elected in the second stage and in case of equality of votes the casting of lots is held.

15.33 If only one candidate is voted for, he is considered as elected, if he received more than a half of the votes.

15.34 If no chairman of the Chamber of Advocates is elected, a new election is held during a month after voting.

15.35 The first twelve candidates, collected maximum votes are elected as members of the board of the Chamber of Advocates.

15.36 The first twenty candidates, collected the maximum votes are elected as the case preparing persons.

The procedure of holding the casting of lots

15.37 In cases, mentioned in this Charter, the casting of lots is performed by the Returning board to which the candidates received equal votes may be present (or their authorized persons) and the observers.

15.38 In proportion to number of candidates, received equal votes, identical lists of casting of lots are prepared. The secretary of the Board fills “voted” on a list and “not voted” on another list (except for the case, if several persons are considered as voted). The lists are folded up four times so that the mark isn’t seen and it’s put in the box of the casting of lots.

15.39 The candidates or the authorized persons take the folded sheets by alphabetical order, loudly read the word on the sheet and hand over the chairman of the Returning board.

15.40 The candidate who taken out the sheet with the mark “voted” as a result of casting of lots is considered elected.

15.41 Minutes is drawn up regarding the results of casting of lots.

XVI. BOARD OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

16.1 The Board of the Chamber of Advocates is an executive and disciplinary proceedings body of the Chamber of Advocates.

16.2 The Board of the Chamber of Advocates has twenty members and the chairman of the board.

16.3 Members of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates (except for the chairman of the board) are elected by rating procedure at the general meeting with the terms of four years holding office, except for the cases, stipulated by clause 16.4 of this Charter.

16.4 In case of premature termination of powers of the board members of the Chamber of Advocates, an advocate who received the maximum “for” votes, however not elected by the data of the last election of the members of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates is involved instead of the member for the rest period of the stipulated terms for the previous member in following procedure: the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates offers in writing to involve an advocate who received the maximum “for” votes, however not elected by the data of the last election of the members of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates as a member of the Board and if he doesn't submit his consent during the five days after submitting an offer, the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates offers again the next advocate who received the maximum “for” votes, however not elected by the data of the last election of the members of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates. If an advocate who received the maximum “for” votes, however not elected by the data of the last election of the members of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates gives his written consent, he is considered as a member of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates from the next day that is recorded by the decision of the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates.

16.5 The Board of the Chamber of Advocates as an executive body:

- 1) develops the Charter under new edition, makes additions and amendments in Charter and submits for approval to general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 2) develops the Advocate behavior regulations under new edition and makes additions and amendments in Advocate behavior regulations;
- 3) organizes the Returning board and terminates powers of the members;
- 4) organizes the Qualification commission and terminates powers of the members;
- 5) appoints the head of the Public defenders' office and terminates his powers;
- 6) presents offers to competent state authorities regarding the amendments, additions of the laws and other legal acts, passing of acts as well as gives opinion to developing authorities of the project;
- 7) pursuant to law, a decision is made regarding giving an advocacy license to advocate pretenders;
- 8) a decision is made, pursuant to law for suspension or restoration of an advocacy license;
- 9) a decision is made, pursuant to law for considering an advocacy license as invalid;
- 10) with an offer of the head of Public defenders' office submits an estimate for the expenses of Public defenders' office (budget application) to the government of the Republic of Armenia for including in project of the state budget;
- 11) approves the strategic plan (programs) of the advocates chamber;

12) approves an annual budget of the Chamber of Advocates by articles with presence of the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates;

13) listens at the end of each fiscal year and approves estimates for performing the fiscal and strategic programs of the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates;

14) the Board of the Chamber of Advocates may demand to submit extraordinary reports regarding separate issues for presenting to the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates;

15) controls over the financial-economic activity of the Chamber of Advocates;

16) elects an auditor of the Chamber of Advocates;

17) founds business entities and takes part in them, as well as organizes separate subdivisions and establishments as well as makes decisions regarding approval of the Charters;

18) founds, reorganizes and liquidates structural subdivisions and makes decisions of establishing their regulations;

19) develops and approves the procedure of summarizing the ballot results of general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates;

20) approves internal disciplinary working regulations of the Chamber of Advocates;

21) determines the membership fees of advocates and entrance fees of the pretenders as well as procedure of payment;

22) determines the entrance and annual fees of legal assistants and other payments as well as procedure of payment;

23) determines the sizes of necessary payments for advocates retraining as well as procedure of payment;

24) approves the procedure of advocates retraining;

25) approves internal legal acts, providing the regular activity of advocates school;

26) approves the markers of advocates retraining and pretenders' educational programs;

27) controls over the made decisions, procedures and other internal legal acts;

28) awards title of "Honorable member of the Chamber of Advocates" to advocate or other person;

29) approves the staff list of the administration of Chamber of Advocates;

30) determines the procedure of legal acts publication passed by the authorities of the Chamber of Advocates;

31) performs other authorities, stipulated by the law, Advocate behavior regulations and this Charter.

16.6 Member of the Board of Chamber of Advocates votes at the sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates and personally performs his powers.

16.7 The Board of the Chamber of Advocates makes decisions by convening the Board of Chamber of Advocates in form of mutual gathering of the members of the Chamber of Advocates.

16.8 The sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates may be regular or extraordinary.

16.9 The regular sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates are convened by the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates, approved by regulations, but not less than four times a year.

16.10 The extraordinary sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates are convened by initiative of one third of the members of the Board of Chamber of Advocates or thirty members of Chamber of Advocates in stipulated procedure, pursuant to clauses 16.12 and 16.13 of this Charter.

16.11 The members of the Board of Chamber of Advocates receive written notification regarding the agenda, place, day and time of convening the sitting of the Board of Chamber of Advocates in hand or by mail (ordered mail or e-mail) not later than 3 days before holding the sitting.

16.12 The demand of convening the extraordinary sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates is presented to the chairman of the Chamber of Advocates. The clauses of agenda and grounding of necessity for discussion are mentioned in demand of convening the extraordinary sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates. The chairman of the Chamber of Advocates, having received the demand of convening the extraordinary sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates, undertakes to convene an extraordinary sitting of the Board of Chamber of Advocates during 7 calendar days with agenda, mentioned in demand. If an extraordinary sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates isn't convened within the mentioned period an extraordinary sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates may be convened by the members and advocates of the Board of Chamber of Advocates with the same agenda.

16.13 In case of convening an extraordinary sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates, stipulated by clause 16.10 of his Charter, the persons convening the sitting in procedure, stipulated by clause 16.11 of this Charter send a copy of the demand, directed to chairman of the Chamber of Advocates and a notification as one document, to all members of the Board of Chamber of Advocates, not later than 3 days before holding the sitting where the agenda of extraordinary sitting of the Board of Chamber of Advocates, the place, day and time of holding the sitting. In case of non-holding the sitting with absence of quorum in extraordinary sitting of the Board of Chamber of Advocates by demand, stipulated by this clause, the issues by the agenda of demand are included, discussed and a decision is immediately made in extraordinary sitting of the Board of Chamber of Advocates.

16.14 The sitting of the Board of Chamber of Advocates is competent if it was convened in procedure, stipulated by this Charter and at least a half of the members of the Board of Chamber of Advocates are present at the sitting.

16.15 The Board of Chamber of Advocates can't digress from agenda. The Board of Chamber of Advocates may postpone discussion of a concrete issue, included in agenda with a purpose of receiving additional information, connected with discussion of an issue or clarification of remarks made by the members of the Board of Chamber of Advocates.

16.16 The chairman of the Board of Chamber of Advocates is entitled to involve the members of the staff of the Chamber of Advocates or other specialists.

16.17 Decisions of sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates are made by simple majority of the votes of the members present at the sitting by open voting, except for the cases, stipulated by this Charter.

16.18 Before each voting the chairman of the Board of Chamber of Advocates repeats an issue put to the vote, calculates and loudly declares the number of the votes for, then the number of the votes against and abstain in the same procedure.

16.19 If an issue, regarding property and other interests of any member of the Board of Chamber of Advocates or a person, interrelated with him (parent, spouse,

children, brother, sister, parents-in-law, cousins, nephews), the given member of the Board doesn't take part in voting.

16.20 Results of voting are expressed in the Minutes of the sitting of the Board of Chamber of Advocates. Minutes of the sitting is drawn up during 10 days period after the end of sitting. Sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates are recorded in simple written form. Recording of the sittings of the Board of Chamber of Advocates is organized by the chairman of the sitting of the Board of Chamber of Advocates.

16.21 It's recorded in the minutes:

- 1) the date, time and place of convening the sitting;
- 2) the names of the persons, attended to the sitting, having pointed their positions (including the number of the members of the Board);
- 3) agenda of the sitting;
- 4) issues put on voting and the results of voting regarding those issues;
- 5) decision made at the sitting (conclusive part).

16.22 The minutes of the sitting of the Board of Chamber of Advocates is signed by the chairman and secretary of the Board of Chamber of Advocates who bear responsibility for trustworthiness of information available in the Minutes. The secretary of the Board of Chamber of Advocates is appointed by the chairman of the Board of Chamber from the staff of the Chamber of Advocates.

16.23 Extracts from the minutes of sitting of the Board of Chamber of Advocates are drawn up by the Board of Chamber of Advocates in established procedure. The decisions of the Board of Chamber of Advocates may be drawn up in the form, established by Advocate behavior regulations (and in cases, stipulated by the law, this Charter or Advocate behavior regulations should be drawn up) in form of a separate act (decision). Decision of the Board of Chamber of Advocates made in the form of a separate act is signed by the chairman of the Board.

16.24 The procedure of keeping, registration and publication of the decisions of the Board of Chamber of Advocates is stipulated in order, approved by the Board of Chamber of Advocates.

16.25 The Board of Chamber of Advocates can't transfer the right of making a decision regarding the issues of his competence to another authority, except for general meeting of Chamber of Advocates.

16.26 The Board of Chamber of Advocates as an authority, performing disciplinary proceedings, solves an issue of advocate's bringing to account and appointing a disciplinary punishment.

16.27 With a purpose of disciplinary proceedings examination, the particularities, connected with convening the sitting of the Board of Chamber of Advocates are stipulated by the Law and Advocate behavior regulations.

16.28 In case of absence of the chairman of the Board of Chamber of Advocates, his duties are performed by deputy chairman of Chamber of Advocates with instruction of the chairman of the Board of Chamber of Advocates.

16.29 Member of the Board of Chamber of Advocates is entitled:

- 1) to submit offers with a purpose to improve the works of Chamber of Advocates;
- 2) to get acquainted with all the documents of Chamber of Advocates;
- 3) to get comprehensive information regarding the activity of Chamber of Advocates;
- 4) to leave freely membership of Board of Chamber of Advocates.

16.30 Members of the Board of Chamber of Advocates perform their duties with no remuneration.

***Cases of termination of authorities of the chairman and secretary
of the Board of Chamber of Advocates***

16.31 The authorities of the chairman of Board of Chamber of Advocates are terminated at the moment of termination of authorities of the President of Chamber of Advocates.

16.32 In case of termination of the authorities of the chairman of Board of Chamber of Advocates, a new chairman of Board of Chamber of Advocates assumes office, otherwise acting official of the chairman of Board of Chamber of Advocates assumes it.

16.33 The authorities of the members of Board of Chamber of Advocates are terminated after election of the next staff of the Board.

16.34 The authorities of member of Board of Chamber of Advocates are terminated prematurely:

- 1) on the base of written application, submitted to Board of Chamber of Advocates – on the following day of submitting an application;
- 2) in case of non-execution of his obligations, i.e. absence at seven sittings of Board of Chamber of Advocates during 1 calendar year with unreasonable excuse.

16.35 The authorities of member of Board of Chamber of Advocates are prematurely terminated with a decision of Board of Chamber of Advocates.

XVII. PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

17.1 President of the Chamber of Advocates is a higher official of executive body of the Chamber of Advocates.

17.2 President of the Chamber of Advocates is elected by closed secret voting from the staff of advocates with at least ten years experience in advocacy, with a period of four years, but no more than twice uninterruptedly.

17.3 President of the Chamber of Advocates:

- 1) presents the Chamber of Advocates;
- 2) acts without power of attorney and gives powers of attorney;
- 3) concludes contracts in established procedure, including employment contracts;
- 4) opens settlement and non-settlement accounts of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 5) makes decisions regarding the issues, connected with regular activity of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 6) appoints and releases the employees of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 7) determines the framework of duties for the employees of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 8) includes advocates to the advocates list and removes advocates from the advocates list;
- 9) institutes disciplinary proceedings to an advocate;

- 10) terminates the license of died advocate;
- 11) issues certificates to advocates and legal assistants;
- 12) performs control over activity of Public defenders' office;
- 13) draws up and submits to the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Armenia financial requests for reimbursement of free legal assistance through the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia;
- 14) organizes execution of decisions of the Board of Chamber of Advocates;
- 15) disposes property of the Chamber of Advocates, including the funds in procedure, stipulated by the Charter;
- 16) develops strategic program (programs) of the Chamber of Advocates and submits to the Board of Chamber of Advocates;
- 17) draws up an annual budget of Chamber of Advocates and submits to the Board of Chamber of Advocates for approval;
- 18) submits annual financial and strategic programs reports to the Board of Chamber of Advocates at the end of each fiscal year;
- 19) submits offers to the Board of Chamber of Advocates to found economic companies or take part in them as well as to found affiliates or structural subdivisions, establishments;
- 20) submits offers to found, reorganize and liquidate centers and other structural subdivisions;
- 21) manages the educational, scientific, economic, financial, international and other activity of Chamber of Advocates;
- 22) gives orders, decrees, directions obligatory for execution within the frames of his competence and controls over execution as well as passes individual or internal legal acts;
- 23) applies means of encouragement to advocates and members of staff of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 24) applies means of disciplinary responsibility to members of staff of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 25) develops internal legal acts, providing regular activity of the Chamber of Advocates and submits to the Board of Chamber of Advocates for approval;
- 26) submits the staff list of the Chamber of Advocates to the Board of Chamber of Advocates;
- 27) carries out other powers, established by law, this Charter and not referred to competence of other authorities of the Chamber of Advocates.

17.4 President of the Chamber of Advocates may encourage a member of the Chamber of Advocates for long-time work, exceptional professional abilities, an outstanding contribution or endowment to advocate institute:

- 1) by expression of gratitude;
- 2) by awarding with diplomas;
- 3) by awarding with monetary remuneration but not more than thirty-fold of minimum salary;
- 4) by awarding with a valuable present, however the value can't exceed fifty-fold of minimum salary;
- 5) by awarding with a medal or order, stipulated by the Board of Chamber of Advocates.

17.5 President of the Chamber of Advocates may appoint deputies for execution of his powers from the staff of advocates.

17.6 President of the Chamber of Advocates may delegate his responsibility to his deputy during his absence.

XVIII. QUALIFICATION COMMISSION

18.1 The Qualification commission of the Chamber of Advocates is organized with a purpose of organization of qualification examinations and summarizing the results.

18.2 The Qualification commission of the Chamber of Advocates is organized by the Board of the Chamber of Advocates with the period of two years by the staff of eight members and following proportion of representation:

- 1) A Chairman of the Chamber of Advocates who is a chairman of Qualification commission of the Chamber of Advocates;
- 2) Four advocates, elected from the Board of Chamber in procedure, stipulated by the Charter;
- 3) One representative from the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia with representation of the Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia;
- 4) One scientist lawyer from National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia with representation of the head of the institution;
- 5) One judge from the Court of Cassation of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as the Court of Cassation) with representation of the chairman of the Court of Cassation.

18.3 Sittings of the Qualification commission of the Chamber of Advocates are convened by the chairman of the Qualification commission.

18.4 Four members of the Qualification commission of the Chamber of Advocates are elected by the Board of the Chamber of Advocates from the staff of the advocates with representation of the President of the Chamber of Advocates.

18.5 If an advocate-candidate of the Qualification commission, presented by the President of the Chamber of Advocates isn't elected, a new candidate is nominated within 5 days period and if that candidate isn't elected again, the candidatures are presented by the members of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates. In the last case, mentioned in this clause the candidate is considered elected, if two third of the present members of the Board of the Chamber of Advocates voted for that candidate.

18.6 The Board of Chamber of Advocates regulate authorities of the Qualification commission of the Chamber of Advocates, procedure of convening the sittings and other issues, not regulated by this Charter in order of qualification examinations acceptance and passing.

XIX. THE CASE PREPARING PERSONS

19.1 The twenty case preparing persons, elected by close secret voting with four years period in rating procedure by general meeting of the Chamber of Advocates prepare disciplinary proceedings for discussion by the Board of Chamber of Advocates. In case of premature termination of powers of the case preparing persons the next preparing person is considered as appointed in procedure, stipulated for appointment of the members of Board of Chamber of Advocates.

19.2 Distribution of cases of disciplinary proceedings among the case preparing persons is performed in procedure, stipulated by the decision of the Board of Chamber of Advocates.

19.3 The case preparing person undertakes to collect evidences for disclosure of circumstances having importance for provision of legality of disciplinary proceedings and fair solution of the case.

19.4 The particularities, connected with the powers of the case preparing person are determined by Advocate behavior regulations.

XX. THE MEMBER OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

20.1 A pretender (student) who received a certificate from the Qualification commission and graduated the Advocate school may submit an application to President of Chamber of Advocates with a request to become a member of Chamber of Advocates and receive an advocacy license. A pretender must attach a copy of certificate, issued by the Qualification commission, to his application. An application mentioned in this clause must contain the following information:

- 1) name, surname and father's name;
- 2) contact information: phone number and e-mail;
- 3) advocate activity in case of execution of entrepreneurship activity – the name of commercial organization, location, size of participation or data of certificate of private entrepreneur;
- 4) in case of working for another advocate or advocate office – the name and location of employer.

20.2 The certificate, issued by the Qualification commission is valid from the moment of issue and till the following qualification examinations for receiving an advocacy license.

20.3 The Board of Chamber of Advocates discusses the pretender's application within a month and makes a decision regarding complying with a request to become a member of Chamber of Advocates, issuance of advocacy license or rejecting a request.

20.4 The Board of Chamber of Advocates may reject the pretender's application in case of not keeping the requirements stipulated by article 33 of the Law.

20.5 A person who became a member of Chamber of Advocates receives an advocacy license signed by President and sealed by Chamber of Advocates within five days period.

20.6 The License is issued without time-limits or age limitation.

20.7 An advocate makes an oath, stipulated by law before the Board of Chamber of Advocates at receipt of an advocacy license for the first time.

20.8 An oath is made individually by each advocate by reading the text of oath. The advocate signs at the text of oath.

20.9 An advocate of another state who was accredited by the Board of Chamber of Advocates isn't considered as a member of Chamber of Advocates.

20.10 A legal assistant isn't considered as a member of Chamber of Advocates.

20.11 The member of Chamber of Advocates submits an application to President of Chamber of Advocates with a request to be included in the advocates list.

20.12 The member of Chamber of Advocates must point the following information in an application of involving in the advocates list:

- 1) name, surname and father's name;
- 2) contact information: phone number and e-mail;
- 3) specialization.

20.13 During the fourteen days period the President of Chamber of Advocates includes the member of Chamber of Advocates in advocates list.

20.14 At least once a year the President of Chamber of Advocates (but not later than March 15) publishes the advocates list at the site www.azdarar.am.

20.15 The President of Chamber of Advocates removes an advocate from advocates list in cases, stipulated by law.

The Rights and Obligations of the member of Chamber of Advocates

20.16 The member of Chamber is entitled:

- 1) to take part in general meetings of Chamber of Advocates with the voting right;
- 2) to be present at the works of bodies of Chamber of Advocates, to get acquainted with documents of recording the work of the bodies of Chamber of Advocates, to receive copies of made decisions;
- 3) to claim the decisions of the bodies of Chamber of Advocates to superior authorities as well as to the court in cases and procedure, stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia;
- 4) to be elected in elective positions of the bodies of Chamber of Advocates, if he meets the requirements, stipulated by law for holding the given position;
- 5) to enjoy other rights, stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia, this Charter and Advocate behavior regulations.

20.17 An advocate may terminate his membership at any moment, having submitted an application to President of the Chamber of Advocates.

20.18 The member of the Chamber of Advocates undertakes:

- 1) to keep requirements of law, this Charter and Advocate behavior regulations;
- 2) to fulfill requirements of legal acts passed by the President of Chamber of Advocates and members of Chamber of Advocates within their competence;
- 3) to pass retraining in procedure and terms, stipulated by the Board of Chamber of Advocates;
- 4) to pay entrance and membership fees, retraining charges at the rate and time, stipulated by the Board of Chamber of Advocates;
- 5) to perform other actions, stipulated by this Charter.

XXI. AFFILIATES, ESTABLISHMENTS AND STRUCTURAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

21.1 The Chamber of Advocates is entitled to found affiliates, pursuant to laws and other legal acts: branches and representative offices, establishments, clubs, commissions and other authorities. Foundation of affiliates and establishments in foreign states is performed, pursuant to the laws and other legal acts of those states, unless otherwise specified by international treaties of the Republic of Armenia.

21.2 The name of affiliate or establishment of Chamber of Advocates should contain the name of Chamber of Advocates.

21.3 The heads of affiliates and establishments of Chamber of Advocates are appointed by the president of Chamber of Advocates and act on the base of power of attorney.

21.4 The Public defender's office is a structural subdivision in the staff of Chamber of Advocates.

21.5 The Board of Chamber of Advocates passes regulations of Public defender's office and the makes additions, amendments in it.

21.6 The Board of Chamber of Advocates appoints the head of Public defender's office with four year period with representation of President of Chamber of Advocates from the staff of members with at least ten years experience.

21.7 The authorities of head of Public defender's office, regulations of Public defender's office are stipulated by law and as well as employment contract, concluded with him.

21.8 The authorities of the head of Public defender's office may be prematurely terminated by the Board of Chamber of Advocates with representation of President of Chamber of Advocates by at least two third of general number of votes of the members of the Board, if:

- 1) he died;
- 2) his advocacy license was terminated or suspended;
- 3) he didn't appear in workplace for more than two months due to temporary disablement;
- 4) he didn't appear in workplace for more than two days with no reasonable excuse or didn't appear in workplace during three working days during a month;
- 5) he didn't organize duly the work of Public defenders and didn't eliminate the defects or violations during a month after receiving a written warning by the President of Chamber of Advocates;
- 6) in other cases, stipulated by the Labor Code of the Republic of Armenia.

XXII. CONTROL AND REVISION OF ACTIVITY OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

22.1 An audit of financial activity (regular audit) of Chamber of Advocates should be performed at least once in two years by the decision of Board of Chamber of Advocates.

22.2 An audit of Chamber of Advocates can't be performed uninterruptedly by the same person (auditor) or the same organization.

22.3 An extraordinary auditory revision may be also performed by the decision of Board of Chamber of Advocates.

XXIII. PROPERTY OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES, THE PROCEDURE OF POSSESSION AND MANAGEMENT

23.1 The Chamber of Advocates has separate property as its ownership and bears responsibility for his obligations by that property.

23.2 The Chamber of Advocates in procedure, stipulated by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia and this Charter at its discretion possesses, manages and uses the property that belongs to it with purposes stipulated by this Charter and pursuant to those purposes.

23.3 The President of Chamber of Advocates possesses the property of the Chamber of Advocates in procedure, stipulated by this Charter and the Board of Chamber of Advocates.

23.4 In case of sale or purchase of the property of Chamber of Advocates or making another transaction, if the property value exceeds the thousand-fold of the minimum salary, the President of Chamber of Advocates should preliminarily receive an agreement of the Board of Chamber of Advocates.

23.5 The President of Chamber of Advocates may use the funds of Chamber of Advocates only pursuant to budget, approved by the Board of Chamber of Advocates. If necessary the President of Chamber of Advocates may turn to the Board of Chamber of Advocates for making amendments or additions in budget.

23.6 The sources of formation the property of Chamber of Advocates are as follows:

- 1) fees, received from advocates, legal assistants and foreign accredited advocates;
- 2) monetary contributions from the state budget;
- 3) funds received from entrepreneurship activity of business entities founded by the Chamber of Advocates or with its participation;
- 4) funds received from grants;
- 5) donations and grants from natural and legal persons, including donations and grants of foreign citizens, legal persons, international organizations;
- 6) contributions, received from activity, directed to their collection;
- 7) funds, received from organization and passing practical training of the students of higher educational institutions;
- 8) other funds, not prohibited by the legislation of the Republic of Armenia.

23.7 Funds received from contributions may be spent only with purpose declared beforehand.

XXIV. REORGANIZATION AND LIQUIDATION OF THE CHAMBER OF ADVOCATES

24.1 Reorganization and liquidation of Chamber of Advocates is performed in cases and procedure, stipulated by law.

XXV. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

25.1 The general meeting is held on February 11, 2012 in procedure of holding the meeting, approved by this Charter and general meeting. In case of controversies between the Charter and Procedure of holding the meeting in part of holding the mentioned meeting, the priority is given to Procedure of holding the meeting.

25.2 The temporary Returning board, formed by the Board of Chamber of Advocates with a purpose of holding the meeting on February 11, 2012, operates with one month period.

25.3 The Charter of Chamber of Advocates, registered on March 21, 2006 as well as all the amendments and additions made in it become null and void at the moment of this Charter's taking effect.

Stitched on 38 sheets.
(signature)

Official Seal of the Chamber of Advocates of the Republic of Armenia

Official Seal of the Central Authority of State Register of Legal Entities of the Republic of Armenia
