

THE AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHARTER

(Adopted by resolution of the Council on December 7, 2006, and effective on May 17, 2007.
Last amended on January 18, 2024.)

I. Purpose

The Membership Committee reviews and recommends to the Council or Executive Committee confidential proposals for election to membership in the Institute, resignations and terminations, requests for waiver of dues, reclassification of members, and changes to the cap on the number of elected members.

II. Membership

The Membership Committee should not have fewer than nine members and may not have more than thirteen members, one of whom is the President. After receiving recommendations from the President, the Executive Committee appoints the remaining members of the Membership Committee, including its Chair and, if desired, a Vice Chair. All members of the Membership Committee must be members of the Council.

III. Meetings

The Membership Committee meets as often as it determines is appropriate, but not less than twice each year.

IV. Authority and Responsibilities

The Membership Committee's authority and responsibilities are as follows:

A. Review confidential proposals for membership and recommend candidates to the Council or Executive Committee in accord with qualifications and eligibility requirements established by the Council. In doing so, the Membership Committee should consider the desired characteristics of new members in light of the purposes and needs of the Institute. When appropriate, the Membership Committee should consult confidentially with members of the Institute to evaluate proposals, if possible, through Regional Advisory Groups.

B. Determine short-term and long-term focus for recruitment by reviewing periodically the balance in the bench, bar, and academy, the types of practice areas and areas of expertise, as well as geographic representation and diversity, and then make recommendations to the Council or Executive Committee as to the specific membership needs of the Institute.

C. Create plans, including goals and timetables, for recruiting candidates in target groups, which may include recommendations that the President appoint ad hoc committees to fulfill specific goals.

D. Periodically review the membership proposal form and instructions and revise them as necessary or appropriate.

E. Encourage all Institute members to identify qualified candidates, with an emphasis on increasing the membership's reflection of the diversity of lawyers, judges, and law academics in the United States, including with regard to age, gender, race, ethnicity, expertise, geographic location, and type of practice or other professional work.

F. Review and act upon, or defer for further investigation and later action, all proposed terminations for nonpayment of dues and all resignations, and report the same to the Council or Executive Committee. In accord with criteria established by the Membership Committee, reinstate any person whose membership was ended under this section.

G. Initiate and refer to the Council or Executive Committee, accompanied by a recommendation and statement of reasons, any proposed termination of membership for good cause (other than dues delinquency) in accord with criteria established by the Council or Executive Committee.

H. Periodically review staff reports on waivers of dues in accord with criteria established by the Membership Committee. The staff should ordinarily consult with the Chair of the Committee before communicating decisions on dues-waiver requests to members.

I. Transfer members to life membership status.

J. Periodically review the current cap on the number of elected members and make recommendations to the Council or Executive Committee with respect to whether the cap should be changed.

V. Regional Advisory Groups

A. Regional Advisory Groups may be formed by the Executive Committee to confidentially (1) identify candidates for membership, (2) develop their membership proposals for consideration by the Membership Committee, and (3) review and investigate candidates proposed for membership within a region as requested by the Membership Committee.

B. The composition and responsibilities of Regional Advisory Groups are set out in the Regional Advisory Groups Description.

C. When possible, a member of the Membership Committee should serve as a liaison to each Regional Advisory Group.