

Proposed [Department Bylaws Amendment](#): Changes to Article IX to allow limited attendance by law students at meetings of the Legal Advocacy Committee

To: City Attorneys' Department Members

From: Officers of the City Attorneys' Department

Re: Proposed Department Bylaws Amendment: Changes to Article IX to allow limited attendance by law students at meetings of the Legal Advocacy Committee

In compliance with Article XV of the Department Bylaws, the Department Officers and Executive Committee submit a proposed Bylaws amendment and this statement in support therefore.

This April, the Legal Advocacy Committee (LAC) voted in favor of opening their meetings to law students, subject to certain reasonable parameters. In June, the LAC approved an amendment to the Legal Advocacy Program Guidelines to allow for this limited law student participation at their meetings. Law student attendance at meetings of the LAC is not presently provided for in the Department Bylaws. The Department Officers support this effort, the intent of which is to increase the interest of law students in the practice of municipal law. This change would allow law students who are interns or mentees of LAC members to accompany them to LAC meetings to learn about some of the complex legal issues city attorneys are litigating in the appellate courts.

Accordingly, the Officers are recommending amending Article XI, Section 3 of the Department Bylaws to allow law students to attend meetings of the LAC, at the discretion of the LAC chairperson and subject to reasonable conditions. These conditions include that prior to attending a meeting of the LAC, a law student must first sign a confidentiality agreement, and a law student must accompany a sponsoring LAC member to attend a meeting.

The current Officers strongly endorse this change and intend to continue with additional efforts to explore other opportunities to encourage interest among law students in the work of city attorneys.

If voted on and approved at the annual conference, this change would be effective immediately.

Proposed Amendment to [City Attorneys Department Bylaws](#);
Revise Article IX, Section 3, to Allow Limited Attendance by Law
Students at Meetings of the Legal Advocacy Committee
(Article IX, Section 3, shown, additions in red italics)

ARTICLE IX - STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 3 – Legal Advocacy Committee

The department shall administer Cal Cities’ legal advocacy program in accordance with the policy adopted by the Cal Cities board of directors. A copy of the most recently adopted policy shall be attached to these bylaws as exhibit A. In addition to those duties set forth in the policy, committee members shall regularly solicit input from and report the committee's actions back to their respective local city attorneys associations, if any.

Law students may attend meetings of the Legal Advocacy Committee (LAC), at the discretion of the LAC chairperson. Prior to attending a meeting of the LAC, a law student must first sign and submit to the LAC chairperson a confidentiality agreement that is acceptable to the LAC chairperson. A law student may only attend a meeting of the LAC if they are accompanying a sponsoring LAC member. Any limits on the number of law student participants in LAC meetings will be at the discretion of the LAC chairperson.