ADOPTED


PROPOSAL: Amends §31.7 of the Bylaws to eliminate the Standing Committee on Environmental Law.

Amend §31.7 to delete the paragraph headed Environmental Law.

§31.7 Designation, Jurisdiction, and Special Tenures of Standing Committee.

The designation, jurisdiction, and special tenures of standing committees are as follows:

Environmental Law. The Standing Committee on Environmental Law, which consists of not more than 11 members, shall facilitate liaison among the several committees, sections and agencies of the Association concerned with environmental matters, and shall undertake special projects in the field of environmental law.
REPORT

During the 2010 Midyear Meeting, the Board of Governors’ Program, Evaluation and Planning Committee (“Program Committee”), requested that the Committee on Scope and Correlation of Work (“Scope”), review the program and activities of the Standing Committee on Environmental Law (“Standing Committee”), per its action recommending that the Standing Committee be defunded and reorganized into an appropriate existing entity such as the Section of Environment, Energy and Resources (“SEER”). At Scope’s May 2010, meeting, Scope agreed that the Standing Committee should sunset at the conclusion of the FY2011 Annual Meeting and the work of the Standing Committee be subsumed into SEER.

At the 2011 Midyear Meeting, Scope held an open hearing on the discontinuance of the Standing Committee. All entity chairs and staff liaisons were invited to attend. By the close of the open hearing, Scope agreed to proceed with its recommendation to sunset the Standing Committee at the conclusion of the 2011 Annual meeting, with the work of the Standing Committee being subsumed into SEER.

Scope has conducted a structural and substantive review of the Standing Committee. Scope has also consulted with the leadership of SEER who will welcome the Standing Committee’s members and liaisons from other ABA entities to become involved in SEER to continue working on activities of the Standing Committee. SEER has an established organizational structure performing similar to current functions of the Standing Committee and can continue coordinating the ABA Award for Distinguished Achievement in Environmental Law & Policy, and CLE meetings through its existing organization.

Scope has concluded, based upon discussion with appropriate committees of the Board of Governors, that the Standing Committee on Environmental Law should sunset at the conclusion of the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Scope will work with both entities to ensure this merger is a success.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey J. Snell, Chair
Committee on Scope and Correlation of Work
August 2011