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## Constitution for the Division on People of Color and Crime

American Society of Criminology. Division on People of Color and Crime

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CONSTITUTION FOR THE DIVISION ON PEOPLE OF COLOR AND CRIME  
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

I. Name of Organization:

The name of the organization shall be the Division on People of Color and Crime of the American Society of Criminology, hereafter referred to as the Division.

The Division will be a constituent unit of the American Society of Criminology and will function in accordance with the Constitution, by-laws and policies of the Society.

II. Purposes and Objectives:

- A. To bring together members of all races interested in the advancement of different perspectives regarding the issue of people of color and crime.
- B. To facilitate and encourage research and theory development about people of color and crime.
- C. To encourage and stimulate the development of multicultural curriculum development for courses on diversity.
- D. To encourage sensitivity to the issues pertaining to people of color and crime.
- E. To serve as a support network for junior faculty and students.
- F. To develop caucuses within the Division to promote the views of each particular racial group.
- G. To serve as a resource network for and encourage interaction among academic, research, practitioner and policy-making sectors in order to further the understanding of problems faced by different racial groups throughout the entire criminal justice arena.
- H. To organize conference panels, workshops, and roundtables related to issues on people of color and crime.
- I. To raise awareness of issues regarding racial diversity among members of ASC, to bring these issues to the attention of the ASC Executive Board and/or appropriate ASC Committees, and encourage representation of diverse racial groups access to opportunities within the ASC.

### III. Membership

Membership in this Division will be open to all American Society of Criminology members in good standing. Members in good standing who have paid Division dues will be considered eligible for voting at Divisional meetings, for election of Divisional officers and eligible to hold office.

### IV. Officers and Executive Board:

#### A. Officers:

##### 1. Chairperson:

- a. The Chairperson will provide executive direction for the Division and will preside over Division meetings.
- b. The Chairperson will serve as a liaison with the American Society of Criminology to ensure inclusion of issues regarding people of color and crime with the Society.
- c. The Chairperson will be selected by Division members and will serve for two years.
- d. The Chairperson or the Chairperson's designee shall bring issues regarding people of color and crime, and recommendations for their resolution, as decided by the Division, to the attention of the ASC Executive Board and/or appropriate ASC committee for their consideration.

##### 2. Vice-Chairperson:

- a. The Vice-Chairperson will preside over Division meetings in the absence of the Chairperson and shall be empowered to conduct all necessary business of the Division of the office if Chairperson is vacant or if the Chairperson is disabled.
- b. The Vice-Chairperson will assist in seeing that all committees carry out their functions and report activities to Division.
- c. The Vice-Chairperson will be elected by Division members and will serve for two years.

3. Secretary:

- a. The Secretary will keep the records and minutes of the Division.
- b. The Secretary will maintain contact with the Treasurer of the American Society of Criminology who will maintain a separate account in The American Society of Criminology Treasury for the Division. The Secretary will make sure the Division is informed of the Division's balance, debts, credits, etc., and financial issues that may arise.
- c. The Secretary will record minutes of each meeting of the Division and will forward a copy to each of the other two officers and the Executive Board.
- d. The Secretary will serve as Chairperson of the Membership Committee.

4. Newsletter Editor:

- a. The Newsletter Editor will be responsible for the creation, publication, and dissemination of the Division Newsletter.
- b. The Newsletter Editor will be elected by the Executive Board and will serve for three years.
- c. The Newsletter Editor may be reappointed.
- d. The Newsletter Editor will be a voting member of the Executive Board.

B. Executive Board:

There will be an Executive Board comprised of the Section's current officers, immediate past Chairperson, and three executive counselors nominated and elected by members of the Division. This Board will form policies for the Division, provide advice and decide the budget for the Division, and select committee members by majority vote.

Executive Counselors will serve a one-year term and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms in this office. A person must wait for a period of at least one full term before running again for the same office.

At least one Executive counselor shall be selected from among members who are untenured or otherwise in the early stages of their careers.

V. Committees:

A. Program Committee:

The Program Committee will consist of a senior Executive Counselor as Chair and two other members of the Division in good standing. The Program Committee Chair will report to the Division Executive Board. The Division Chairperson will serve as a liaison to the Program Committee of the American Society of Criminology. Program highlights will be published in the Division Newsletter as well as the Criminologist.

B. Membership Committee:

The Membership Committee will consist of the Division Secretary as Chair and two other members of the Division in good standing. This Committee will solicit new members and update the membership list as needed. New members will be listed in the Division Newsletter and the Criminologist.

C. Research Committee:

The Research Committee will consist of the Division Vice Chair as Committee Chair and at least two other members of the Division in good standing. This committee will address new approaches to advance knowledge on people of color and crime as well as disseminate information regarding research opportunities.

D. Outreach Committee:

The Outreach Committee will consist of the junior Executive Counselor as Chair and two other members of the Division in good standing. This committee is responsible for bringing visibility and exposure to the Division on People of Color and Crime by displays, book exhibits, receptions, media announcements, etc.

E. Fundraising Committee:

The Fundraising Committee will consist of the Division Newsletter Editor as Chair and at least two other members of the Division in good standing. This committee is responsible for raising funds for the Division.

F. Awards Committee:

A senior Executive Counselor will serve as Chair of the Awards Committee along with two other members of the Division in good standing. The Chair will attempt to appoint people who represent a cross section of the Division membership, including age, experience, field or expertise, race, ethnicity, and geography.

Nominations for Awards will be called in the Division Newsletter and the Criminologists during the American Society of Criminology's general call for award nominations. All nominations should either be accompanied by vitae of the nominees, or the nominees contacted and asked to send them to the Chair of the Awards Committee.

The Division on People of Color and Crime will present two awards during Division meeting to members of the Division who have outstanding contributions in the following : 1) the advancement of knowledge about race-based scholarship; and 2) service contributions to professionals organizations, academic institutions, and/or the criminal justice system.

G. Nominations and Elections Committee:

Nominations and Election Committee will be made up of up immediate past Chairperson of the Division as Chair and four other members of the Division in good standing. This committee will offer a call for nominations and may on its own initiative consider possible nominees. Nominees must be members of the Division in good standing. The terms of office for each incoming officer will begin with the close of the Annual Meeting, following her/his election. Elected officers may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms in the same office.

The following procedure will be utilized for elections.

1. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall obtain suggestions for candidates, and it may on its own initiative consider possible nominees.
2. All candidates shall be contacted by the committee to determine their willingness to serve if elected and requested to provide such materials as the committee requires for the electoral process.
3. The committee shall present to the Executive Board a slate of candidates consisting of two (2) and only two (2) nominees for each office.

4. The slate provided by the Committee shall require approval by the Executive Board.
5. Upon receiving approval from the Executive Board, a printed ballot shall be mailed to all Division members qualified to vote. The ballot shall include the names of the candidates and a space for write-in candidates.
6. Included with the ballots shall be a candidate statement
7. Division members shall return ballots by deadline in enclosed "Secret Ballot" envelopes during the American Society of Criminology annual election.
8. Mailing of ballots shall be coordinated with the Executive Secretary of the American Society of Criminology along with the Division Nominations and Elections Committee. The Nominations and Elections Committee Chair will report the results to the Division.
9. The official certification of results shall be by the Executive Board of the Division.

VI. Dues:

Initial annual dues will be ten dollars (\$10.00) and (\$5.00) for members who are students. Dues will be due at the time annual dues to the American Society of Criminology are paid.

VII. Amending the Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Amendments may be proposed by any member of the Division, but the written support of a fifth of the Division membership in good standing is required for a further action.
2. A qualified proposal for amendment determined as qualified by the Executive Board will be approved when it receives a two-thirds vote by mail ballot submitted to members in good standing. The results will be reported to the Chair of the Division and the Executive.
3. Approved amendments shall take effect two months after the next annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology Executive Board.

VIII. Business Meetings:

A. Rules of Order:

Robert's Rules of Order will be used in conducting meetings.

B. Quorum:

In conducting business, a quorum will consist of one-fifth of the Division's members in good standing. In voting, decisions will be on the basis of a simple majority.