Judicial & Ethics Committee

AUA Staff Liaison          Nancy Waid
Chair                     Jennifer Anger, MD (2023-2025)
Terms of Office           Chair: 2 years (non-renewable)
                          Section Representatives: 3 years (renewable once)

Committee Makeup

The Committee shall consist of at least one member from each of the Association’s Sections. All Section appointments to the Committee shall be staggered terms of three years each (renewable once), from among the Section’s Active or Senior Members. Of those members, the President shall appoint a Chair to serve a two-year term. (AUA Bylaws Article V, Section 1.4.1 May 2023).

Scope and Responsibilities

The scope of the Committee’s disciplinary jurisdiction is limited to review of complaints regarding matters that have been fully and finally adjudicated or otherwise decided by a court, agency, or other authority, except that complaints involving the following types of matters may be reviewed and/or administratively investigated by the Committee: questions of membership and standing in the association; conflicts of interest; allegations of inappropriate expert testimony; alleged infringement of AUA intellectual property; plagiarism; and breach of confidentiality.

The Committee is responsible for: developing and recommending to the Board policies and procedures that the Committee deems appropriate for the consideration and adjudication of disciplinary matters; consulting, monitoring, mediating, advising, and making recommendations about questions pertaining to AUA and its members, ethics of medical practice, education and research, and member discipline; regularly reviewing and recommending changes to the AUA’s conflict of interest policies and the AUA Code of Ethics for consideration and approval by the Board of Directors; publishing occasional advisories to the membership on legal and ethical issues of concern; and considering potential disciplinary matters and recommending to the Board of Directors imposition of discipline under Article IX of the Bylaws. (AUA Bylaws Article V Section 1.4.2 May 2023)

Committee Meetings

The committee meets by videoconference as required by the level of cases received (usually fall and spring). An in-person meeting may occur at Annual Meeting pending sufficient agenda items. The J&E Executive Committee meets periodically via videoconference.

Time Commitment

Chair: 4-6 hours per month
Exec. Com. 20 hours a year
Member: 10 hours per year
Qualifications/ Responsibilities

Chair: The Chair and all its members should have integrity, honesty, and fairness. The Chair information pertinent to the Committee's area of and leads the discussion among committee members during meetings. The Chair works closely with AUA General Counsel in reviewing complaints from and/or about AUA members, and legal matters involving the Association and/or its members within the jurisdiction provided in the AUA Bylaws. The Chair ensures that due process is followed per AUA's disciplinary procedures relating to appeals, sanctions, rebukes and expulsions, and communicates such to the membership. The Chair also reviews AUA policies and Bylaws language pertinent to current issues and discussion items brought before the committee. The committee is charged with communicating issues, concerns and policies with the members of the AUA. The Chair will report to the Board of Directors as needed and as requested. The Chair is selected from the Executive Committee or a senior member with a minimum of two years of J&E Committee service.

Executive Committee:
The J&E Executive committee is comprised of the J&E Chair, AUA Legal Counsel, AUA Committees and Society Affairs Staff Liaison, two members of the J&E Committee (preferably one junior and one senior member). Members of the Executive Committee are selected at the discretion of the Chair and are renewed on an annual basis. Executive Committee members hold periodic telephone conferences to review all materials, provide summaries and develop options to the full Committee for discussion. It is not empowered to make decisions independent of the J&E but serves to expedite materials for ratification or rejection by the full committee.

Members: Members typically serve concurrently on their AUA Section ethics committees, and should have additional experience in participating on their hospital/institution’s medical ethics committee or review board, and/or a similar entity within their state. Willingness to attend meetings and conference calls; general awareness of the types of ethical, legal and risk management issues Association members faces. Must be willing to review relevant materials involving activities of other AUA members (such as Expert Witness Testimony) and render judgements about those activities. Members are responsible for bringing to the Committee any Section issues or requests pertaining to the Committee’s area of responsibility. Likewise, members are responsible for reporting back to the Section the Report to the Sections prepared for them by the Chair. All deliberations are confidential and members are responsible for that confidentiality in all venues and at all times. Members must be willing to demonstrate the courage of their convictions.

Recent Accomplishment 2022-2023
Principles, Policies and Procedures for Managing Conflicts of Interest was updated in October 2022. This includes modifications to the relationships definitions to comply with ACCME regulations required for AUA to be an accredited provider of continuing education.