

1954

## Academy of Polygraph (Lie-Detector) Examiners, An

Fred E. Inbau

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/jclc>

 Part of the [Criminal Law Commons](#), [Criminology Commons](#), and the [Criminology and Criminal Justice Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Fred E. Inbau, Academy of Polygraph (Lie-Detector) Examiners, An, 45 J. Crim. L. Criminology & Police Sci. 359 (1954-1955)

This Criminology is brought to you for free and open access by Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology by an authorized editor of Northwestern University School of Law Scholarly Commons.

## AN ACADEMY OF POLYGRAPH ("LIE-DETECTOR") EXAMINERS

A newly formed organization of polygraph examiners held its first meeting in Washington, D. C., on September 24th and 25th, 1954. It is known as *The American Academy of Polygraph Examiners*. The purpose and aims of the Academy, as well as details regarding such matters as membership qualifications, are revealed in its constitution which is here reproduced in its entirety.

### THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS

#### *Preamble*

The polygraph lie-detector technique for the detection of deception has been definitely established as a valuable investigative aid. It assists in the exoneration of the innocent as well as in the apprehension of the guilty. As with any diagnostic device or technique, however, the accuracy and validity of polygraph test results depend to a very great degree upon the competency and integrity of the examiner himself.

For the purpose of advancing the polygraph technique, and with the further objective of safeguarding the public interests which are necessarily involved in the use of the technique, there is hereby constituted *The American Academy of Polygraph Examiners*. The specific purposes and aims of the Academy are:

1. To provide an opportunity and a forum for the exchange of information and data regarding case experiences, studies, and research;
2. To encourage and promote research of scientific quality and practical value; and
3. To formulate and publicize standards with respect to instrumentation, technique, examiner qualifications, and ethical practices.

#### *Article 1—Membership*

*Section 1: Qualifications.* The requirements for membership in the Academy are as follows:

- (1) Competency and integrity as a polygraph examiner; or an active interest in conducting research relating to the polygraph technique;
- (2) A sincere interest in promoting the purposes and aims of the Academy;
- (3) A college degree or the equivalent in educational background.

*Section 2: Membership Applications.* Applications for membership shall be made on a printed form prescribed by the Board of Directors. Each application must be endorsed by two members of the Academy.

*Section 3: Election to Membership.* Admission to membership shall be upon recommendation of the membership committee and a three-fourths vote of the Board of Directors in attendance at any duly constituted meeting of the Board.

No action shall be taken, however, upon any application for membership until a notice of the pending application shall have been mailed by the Secretary-Treasurer to all members of the Academy at least one month in advance of the Board meeting.

The notice shall contain the applicant's name, address, and position, together with whatever additional information the Secretary-Treasurer considers appropriate under the particular circumstance. The notice shall also solicit from the members any information they may have which bears upon the applicant's qualifications or lack of qualifications for membership in the Academy.

*Section 4: Duration of Membership.* Membership in the Academy shall be only for the period of time between the member's election and the conclusion of the next annual meeting of the Academy, except that the membership of the Board of Directors shall extend to the full period of their terms of office as Directors.

At the conclusion of the annual meeting of the Academy the then Board of Directors shall review the membership list and continue as members for a one-year period, those members who, in the discretion of three-fourths of the Board of Directors in attendance, are worthy of membership renewals. Any member whose membership has not been thus continued shall no longer be a member of the Academy. Acceptance of membership in the Academy is upon condition that the Board of Directors may exercise its discretion in the matter of membership renewals and a decision of the Board is final and not appealable to the full membership.

*Section 5: Requirements for Membership Renewals.* Among the various factors which may be considered by the Board of Directors in the exercise of its discretion in determining membership renewals, important consideration shall be given to the matter of attendance at annual meetings and a member's willingness and efforts to share his knowledge and experience with all other members of the Academy. All members, including those unable to attend the annual meeting, shall be expected to contribute for presentation at the annual meeting, written papers regarding their case experiences, studies, or research.

#### *Article 2—Officers and Board of Directors*

*Section 1: Officers.* The officers of the Academy shall be a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer.

*Section 2: Board of Directors.* The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer, and four members elected at large. All past Presidents shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors. A majority of the Board members shall constitute a quorum.

*Section 3: Terms of Office.* The President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer shall hold office until the conclusion of the next annual meeting of the Academy. Of the four other members of the Board of Directors, one shall hold office for one year, one for two years, one for three years, and one for four years. Thereafter, each elected Director shall hold office for a three-year period.

*Section 4: Nominating Committee.* Immediately prior to the formal opening of the annual meeting of the Academy, the Board of Directors shall meet in executive session to appoint a nominating committee consisting of three members, at least two of whom shall not be holders of any elective office. At the first business session of the Academy's annual meeting, the President shall identify the nominating com-

mittee, designate one committee member as chairman, and invite the membership to offer to the chairman their suggestions regarding the nominations.

The Nominating Committee shall report its nominations to the membership in attendance at the opening of the second day's session of the annual meeting, at which time any member or members shall be privileged to make any other nominations. The elections shall take place immediately thereafter.

A majority of the members voting shall be necessary for election.

#### *Article 3—Meetings*

*Section 1:* The annual meeting of the Academy shall be held during the month of August, or at such other time as may be fixed by the Board of Directors. The place of meeting shall be selected by the Board of Directors. Notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be mailed to all members not less than sixty days prior to the selected date.

*Section 2:* The program of the annual meeting shall be devoted primarily to the furtherance of the aims, purposes, and objectives of the Academy as stated in the Preamble of this Constitution.

*Section 3:* The Board of Directors shall meet immediately before and immediately after the annual meeting at a specific time and place designated by the President. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Board of Directors upon written consent as to time and place by a majority of the members of the Board.

#### *Article 4—Government*

*Section 1: Board of Directors.* In addition to the powers of the Board of Directors already prescribed, the Board is vested with the government and general management of the Academy.

*Section 2: President.* The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Academy and it shall be his responsibility to supervise and coordinate the activities of the Academy and to preside at its meetings and at the meetings of the Board of Directors.

*Section 3: Vice-President.* In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall be and act as the chief executive officer. He shall also serve as Chairman of the Membership Committee.

*Section 4: Secretary-Treasurer.* The Secretary-Treasurer shall be the keeper of the records and minutes of the organization. He shall keep and maintain currently the roll of members, the Constitution and all other documents of value. He shall also be the custodian and sole depositor of the funds of the organization, shall disburse such funds by check only upon procuring prior approval from the Board of Directors, and shall do so only with the counter-signature of either the President or Vice-President. He shall render at the Annual Meeting a complete summary of all income, disbursements, and balances. He shall also render a similar accounting at any other time requested by the Board of Directors.

In the absence of the Secretary-Treasurer, the chief executive officer shall appoint an acting Secretary-Treasurer.

*Section 5: Membership Committee.* The Membership Committee shall consist of the Vice-President as Chairman and two other members of the Academy appointed by the Board of Directors to serve for one year periods.

*Article 5—Finance*

*Section 1: Fees and Dues.* The initial fee shall be \$10.00 and the annual dues shall be \$10.00.

*Article 6—Amendments*

The Constitution may be amended at the annual meeting of the Academy by two-thirds of the members voting, provided, however, that no amendment shall be made unless a copy of the proposed amendment shall have been sent to every member of the Academy at least sixty days prior to the annual meeting.

Amendments may be proposed and shall be submitted either on order of the Board of Directors or on petition signed by any five members of the Academy.

The officers and other charter members of the Academy are:

Richard O. Arther, New York, New York (*Secretary-Treasurer*)

Daniel J. Condon, M.D., Phoenix, Arizona

Walter Gehr, Chicago, Illinois

George Harman, San Francisco, California

Richard L. Holcomb, Iowa City, Iowa

Fred E. Inbau, Chicago, Illinois (*President*)

Douglas M. Kelley, M.D., Berkeley, California

Harry T. Mahoney, Washington, D. C.

Charles A. McInerney, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

John E. Reid, Chicago, Illinois (*Vice-President*)

The address of the Academy is 357 East Chicago Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois, and its official publication will be the Journal of Criminal Law, Criminology, and Police Science.

It is the desire of the founders of the Academy to enroll as members all of the qualified polygraph examiners and interested researchers in this country who subscribe to the aims and purposes outlined in the Academy's constitution.