

## Application for Membership

### Mission Statement

The mission of the International Ombudsman Association is to support and advance the global Organizational Ombudsman profession and ensure that practitioners work to the highest professional standards by:

- Setting standards of practice, regulatory platform and code of ethics for the Organizational Ombudsman profession;
- Assisting in the establishment of Organizational Ombudsman offices;
- Providing excellent professional development resources, research and information;
- Increasing awareness and understanding of Organizational Ombudsman value among key stakeholders and the general public;
- Creating strategic alliances or direct communications with other key organizations and professionals involved in dispute resolution, governance, ethics and risk mitigation.

### Membership

The IOA Bylaws set membership criteria by which the Association determines an individual's membership category. Classification of membership must adhere to these requirements and the membership year is January 1 to December 31. An IOA member's official job title and job description, with his/her respective organization, will be a benchmark by which member status is determined. Membership is individual and non-transferable.

### Membership Categories

The IOA Bylaws have established the following classifications of members:

**Member:** A practicing organizational ombudsman who:

1. adheres to the Standards of practice and Code of Ethics
2. in instances where the Ombudsman has other job functions for the organization, fulfillment of those duties must not compromise the independence, neutrality, confidentiality or informality of the ombudsman role; and
3. has no job function which would make him or her an agent of the organization for the purposes of notice.

A member is entitled to vote on all matters that are presented to the Association, provided that he/she is current in his/her dues and other obligations to the Association.

**Associate Member:** A practicing organizational ombudsman who:

1. has some other job function which limits the independence, neutrality, confidentiality or informality of the ombudsman role; and,
2. has no job function which would make him or her an agent of the organization for the purposes of notice; and,
3. supports the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, but may be limited in the ability to adhere to them.

An associate member is entitled to vote on all matters presented to the Association with the exception of Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, provided that they are current in their dues and other obligations to the Association.

**Affiliate Member:** An affiliate member is a person or entity who or which support the Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics of the Association but do not qualify as Members or Associate Members, including individuals employed in control functions, such as legal, faculty governance, compliance, audit, human resources or administration, and other persons or entities as determined by the Board of Directors.

An affiliate member is not eligible to vote. An affiliate member must be current in his/her dues and other obligations to the Association. With the approval of the Board, an affiliate member may participate in and/or chair a committee and/or task force.

**Retiree Member:** A retired member (IOA, TOA, UCOA) is a person who has retired from the practice of ombudsmanship with a minimum of two years of service. A retired member is not eligible to vote. A retired member must be current in his/her dues and other obligations to the association.

**2010 Membership Application**

The current Membership Year is January to December.  
Membership is per individual and is non-transferable.

**IOA Membership is individual and non-transferable.** New members shall pay full dues upon joining the association. The dues for the second year of membership will be proportionately pro-rated for members joining after July 1st as follows: 50% credit for members joining during July or August, 33% for members joining during September or October. Members joining during the months of November or December shall be considered paid in full for the following calendar year's membership. Credits may only be applied to the following year's membership. The effective date of membership is the date the application is approved, not the date received.

	<b>Benefits of Membership</b>	<b>Renewing Member \$170</b>	<b>Renewing Associate \$145</b>	<b>Renewing Affiliate \$135</b>	<b>Renewing Retiree \$45</b>
1	Networking with colleagues	X	X	X	X
2	IOA Code of Ethics	X	X	X	X
3	IOA Standards of Practice	X	X	X	X
4	Updates from the Uniform Reporting Categories Task Force	X	X	X	X
5	Updates from the Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee	X	X	X	X
6	Guidance For Best Practices And Commentary On The American Bar Association Standards For The Establishment And Operation Of Ombudsman Offices.	X	X	X	X
	<b>Discounts</b>				
7	Discounted Fees for Training Courses	X	X	X	X
8	Discounted Fees for the Annual Conference	X	X	X	X
9	Discounted Fees for purchasing Resource Materials	X	X	X	X
10	Discounted Fees for purchasing Advertising in the newsletter, the Newsletter, on the website, www.ombudsassociation.org and in the annual conference program book.	X	X	X	X
	<b>Communication</b>				
11	IOA Newsletter	X	X	X	X
12	IOA Training Registration Brochures	X	X	X	X
13	IOA Informational Emails	X	X	X	X
	<b>Web Site</b>				
14	Access to Member's Only Section	X	X	X	X
15	Access to Member's Listserv	X	X	X	X
16	Access to Membership Directory	X	X	X	X
17	Access to Employment Opportunities	X	X	X	X
18	<b>Voting</b> provided that he/she is current in his/her dues and other obligations to the association.	A member is entitled to vote on all matters that are presented to the association.	An associate member is entitled to vote on all matters presented to the Association with the exception of Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics.	An affiliate member is not eligible to vote.	A retired member is not eligible to vote.
19	<b>Committee Participation</b> Members of the Board along with committee members identify the changing needs and priorities of the Association and our professional community.	Members and Associate Members are invited to serve the association by active participation on the variety of committees and task forces that accomplish the work of the association.	Members and Associate Members are invited to serve the association by active participation on the variety of committees and task forces that accomplish the work of the association.	With the approval of the Board, an affiliate member may participate in and/or chair a committee and/or task force.	With the approval of the Board, a retired member may participate in and/or chair a committee and/or task force.
20	<b>Mentoring Program:</b> The International Ombudsman Association (IOA) makes the transition to ombudsing a positive and rewarding experience by connecting a novice Ombudsman with an experienced Ombudsman. This personal relationship provides the new Ombudsman an opportunity to have an "ombudsman friend," to get advice, and to discuss the Ombudsman profession.	Member must meet the following criteria: (a) a practicing ombuds and (b) practiced for less than one year, and (c) be an IOA member in good standing.			