

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MINUTES
Saturday, June 18, 2016
Omni Amelia Island/Amelia Island, Florida**

The 264th meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and location shown above. Patrick T. O'Connor, President, presided.

Special Recognition

President Pat O'Connor recognized the members of the judiciary, the Past Presidents of the State Bar, and other special guests in attendance.

Welcome New Officers and Board Members

President Pat O'Connor recognized the new Officers and Board of Governors members.

Roll Call

Secretary Darrell L. Sutton circulated the roll for signature. The list of those in attendance is attached as Exhibit A.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Pat O'Connor referred the Board of Governors members to the Future Meetings Schedule.

Approval of President's Appointments to the State Disciplinary Boards

The Board of Governors approved the following presidential appointments to the State Disciplinary Board by unanimous voice vote:

Investigative Panel:

District 8: Kimberly Anne Reid, Cordele (2019)
District 9: Dana Michelle Woodall Pagan, Lawrenceville (2019)
District 10: Amanda Nichole Heath, Augusta (2019)
At-Large: Daniel S. Reinhardt, Atlanta (2019)

Formal Advisory Opinion Board:

Georgia Association Criminal Defense Lawyers: Holly Wilkinson Veal, McDonough (2018)
Georgia District Attorneys Association: Donald R. Donovan, Dallas (2018)
Emory University: Melissa D. Carter, Atlanta (2018)
Georgia State University: Nicole Gail Iannarone, Atlanta (2018)
Investigative Panel: Julayaun Maria Waters, Savannah (2017)
Review Panel: Brad Marsh, Atlanta (2017)
At-Large: Letitia A. McDonald, Atlanta (2018)
Mary A. Prebula, Atlanta (2018)
Jeffrey Hobart Schneider, Atlanta (2018)

Approval of 2016-2017 Standing and Special Committees, Program Committees and Boards

The Board of Governors approved the proposed 2016-2017 Standing and Special Committees, Program Committees and Boards by unanimous voice vote.

Report of the President

President Pat O'Connor addressed the Board of Governors with his 2016-2017 Proposed Program of Activities (Exhibit B).

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kenneth B. Hodges reported on the Bar's finances and investments. The Board of Governors received copies of the combined Operations and Bar Center Consolidated Revenues and Expenditures Report as of April 30, 2015; Income Statement YTD for the Ten Months Ended April 30, 2015; Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Summary for the Ten Months Ended April 30, 2015; State Bar Balance Sheet for April 30, 2015; and the Summary of Selected Payment Information for May-April 2013-2015.

2016-2017 State Bar Budgets

Treasurer Ken Hodges presented the consolidated 2016-2017 Proposed State Bar Budget (Exhibit C) that was approved by the Board of Governors by unanimous voice vote and reflects the following:

1. Dues maintained at \$248 for active members and \$124 for inactive members, which reflects no dues increase from the previous Bar year; and
2. Section dues to be reflected on the dues statement ranging from \$10-\$35; and
3. Continuation of assessments required by Bar Rules regarding the Clients' Security Fund (\$100 @ \$25/year) and Bar Center Facility (\$200 @ \$50/year); and
4. Continuation of a \$100 opt-out contribution for the Legislative and Public Education Fund; and
5. A suggested \$300 opt-in provision for individual contributions and a \$100 opt-in provision for young lawyers' contributions for the Georgia Legal Services Program.

Financial Resolutions

As required by Article V, Section 8 of the Bylaws, the Board of Governors approved the following resolutions by unanimous voice vote:

- 1) Authorization for President to Secure Blanket Bonds for Officers and Staff
As required by Article V, Section 8 of the Bylaws, to authorize the President to secure a blanket fidelity bond to cover all officers, employees and other persons handling State Bar funds.
- 2) Designation of Depositories for General Operations of State Bar of Georgia
Pursuant to Article V, Section 6 of the Bylaws, that the State Bar of Georgia and related entities open appropriate accounts with such banks in Georgia, but excluding any bank that does not participate in the IOLTA Program, and other such depositories as may be recommended by the Finance Committee and designated by the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia; and that the persons whose titles are listed below are authorized to sign an agreement to be provided by such banks and customary signature cards; and that the said banks are hereby authorized to pay or otherwise honor any check drafts or other orders issued from time to time for debit to said accounts when signed by two of the following: the Treasurer, the Secretary, the President, the Immediate Past President, the President Elect, the Executive Director, the Office Manager and the General Counsel, provided either the President, the Secretary or the Treasurer shall sign all checks or vouchers and that said accounts can be reconciled from time to time by said persons or their designees. The authority herein given is to remain irrevocable so far as said banks are concerned until they are notified in writing of such revocation of authority and in writing, acknowledge receipt thereof.

- 3) Employment of Independent Auditing Firm to Audit Financial Records of State Bar for FY 2016
That Mauldin & Jenkins be designated as the independent auditing firm to audit the financial records of the State Bar of Georgia for the fiscal year 2015-2016.

Executive Director Election

The Board of Governors elected Jeff Davis as Executive Director for the 2016-2017 Bar year by unanimous voice vote.

Executive Committee Election

The Executive Committee election was held with the following results, and the Board of Governors accepted the slate of candidates by unanimous voice vote:

Nominations:

Candidate: Phyllis J. Holmen
Nominator: Dennis C. O'Brien
Seconded: Patricia Gorham

Results:

Elected by majority ballot vote for a two-year term

Candidate: Donna S. Hix
Nominator: Tina Shadix Roddenbery
Seconded: Joshua C. Bell

Candidate: Dawn M. Jones
Nominator: Seth D. Kirschenbaum
Seconded: Harold B. (Scott) Watts

Elected by majority ballot vote for a two-year term

Candidate: Frank B. Strickland
Nominator: Shondeana Genean Morris
Seconded: Hon. Lawton E. Stephens

Candidate: Nicki Noel Vaughan
Nominator: John G. Haubenreich
Seconded: Susan Warren Cox

Elected by majority ballot vote for a two-year term

Georgia Legal Services Appointments

The Board of Governors approved the reappointments of Patrick Flinn, Patricia Gorham, and Russell Bonds, and the appointments of Marquetta Bryan and Keith Hill, to the Georgia Legal Services Board of Trustees, for two-year terms, by unanimous voice vote.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism Appointment

The Board of Governors approved the appointment of Monica Willis Parker to the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, for a three-year term, by unanimous voice vote.

Elections Schedule 2016-2017

President Pat O'Connor referred the Board of Governors to the 2016-2017 Elections Schedule.

YLD Report

YLD President Jennifer Campbell Mock presented an overview of her proposed program of activities for the 2016-2017 Bar year. She reported that the YLD's community service efforts will focus on children and children's services. She announced that the beneficiary of this year's Annual Signature Fundraiser will be Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. (Georgia CASA). She stated that she will

encourage members of the Board of Governors to attend at least one YLD event at which she would like them to share with the young lawyers their experiences as leaders in their profession. She expressed that it is truly an honor to serve as the YLD President, and she looks forward to getting to know those Board of Governors members she has not yet had an opportunity to meet.

2016-17 Legislation Update

Jon Pannell reported on the legislative process for the 2016-17 Bar year. He referred the Board of Governors to the *Board Members Handbook* that has a section describing the Bar's legislative program and sets forth restrictions on establishing a legislative policy under Standing Board Policy 100. He introduced Christine Butcher, the Bar's new Director of Governmental Affairs effective July 1.

Military Legal Assistance Program (MLAP) Update

Eric Ballinger provided a report on the activities of the Military Legal Assistance Program.

Georgia Bar Foundation

Len Horton provided an update on the activities of the Georgia Bar Foundation and IOLTA.

Strategic Plan Update

President Pat O'Connor reported that he will continue to update the Board of Governors on the implementation of the Strategic Plan priorities. Since some of the priorities have been met, he announced that the Executive Committee will discuss reorganizing the priorities at its September meeting.

Executive Committee Minutes

The Board of Governors received copies of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held on April 15, 2016.

Office of the General Counsel

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Office of the General Counsel for Bar Year 2015-2016.

Insurance Committee

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Insurance Committee.

Consumer Assistance Program

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Consumer Assistance Program.

Fee Arbitration Program

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Fee Arbitration Program.

Law-Related Education Program

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Law-Related Education Program.

Law Practice Management Program

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Law Practice Management Program.

Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession Committee.

Transition into Law Practice Program

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Transition into Law Practice Program.

Unlicensed Practice of Law

The Board of Governors received a written report on the Formal Investigations undertaken by the Unlicensed Practice of Law Program.

Committee on Professionalism

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Committee on Professionalism.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

The Board of Governors received a written report on the annual activities of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism.

Media Report

The Board of Governors received a copy of the 2015-16 Media Report.

Sections' Annual Reports

The Board of Governors received written reports on the activities of the following State Bar Sections: Aviation, Child Protection & Advocacy, Eminent Domain, Environmental Law, Family Law, Fiduciary Law, General Practice & Trial, Health Law, Intellectual Property Law, International Law, and Local Government Law.

Old Business

Pat O'Connor reported that the Board of Governors received a letter from Immediate Past President Bob Kauffman on what action the Bar will take concerning the constitutional amendment and enabling legislation reconstituting the Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC). He stated that he is appointing a Task Force to formulate the Bar's position on the legislation so as to provide the Bar with a cohesive and consistent voice. The initial list of members on the Task Force include Harold E. Franklin, Jr., Buck Rogers, Scott D. Delius, Hon. Horace Jerome Johnson, Jr., M. Pete Robinson, Dawn M. Jones, Eric A. Ballinger, and Dennis C. O'Brien.

While generally agreeing with the position taken by the Executive Committee, several Board of Governors members expressed concern about a lack of communication between the Executive Committee and the Board of Governors regarding the JQC issue, and disappointment that the Board of Governors was not allowed to have further input into how the JQC issue would be addressed. President Pat O'Connor stated that the Executive Committee will continue to improve communications with and have weigh-in by the Board of Governors. He hopes to have the Board's support in this effort.

New Business

There was no new business.

Remarks, Questions/Answers, Comments/Suggestions

The President opened up the meeting for questions and comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Darrell L. Sutton, Secretary

Approved:



Patrick T. O'Connor, President