

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING MINUTES
Friday, January 13, 2017
State Bar Building/Atlanta, GA**

The 266th 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.

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.

Amendment to Technology Section Bylaws

Following a report by Bill NeSmith, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved proposed amendments to the Technology Section Bylaws (Exhibit B).

Minutes of the 265th Meeting of the Board of Governors

The minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on October 21, 2016, at the Lodge at Callaway in Pine Mountain, Georgia, were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Part XVI Institute for Continuing Legal Education

Following a report by Bill NeSmith, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved proposed rules Part XVI Institute for Continuing Legal Education, as revised (Exhibit C), establishing ICLE as a program of the State Bar of Georgia.

JQC Nominations/Process

Following a report by President Pat O'Connor, the Board of Governors, with Paige Reese Whitaker abstaining, approved the list of JQC nominees (Exhibit D) by unanimous voice vote. The list will be submitted to the Speaker of the House and the Lieutenant Governor.

Nomination of State Bar Officers

The Board of Governors received the following nominations for State Bar officers for the 2017-2018 Bar year, and there being no others, declared the nominations closed:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominator</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
Secretary	Kathleen M. Womack	Dawn M. Jones
	Damon E. Elmore (Seconding)	
	John Bell Manley	Michael B. Terry
	Hon. Dax Eric Lopez (Seconding)	
Treasurer	Amy V. Howell	Darrell L. Sutton
	Carl R. Varnedoe (Seconding)	

President-elect John F. Kennedy
Sherry Boston (Seconding)

Kenneth B. Hodges, III

Nomination of ABA Delegates

The Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, nominated the following attorneys for two-year terms to the Georgia ABA Delegate Posts indicated. These positions are open to Georgia lawyers who are members of the ABA. Anyone else interested in running for any of the three posts can do so by filing a petition or contacting Paula Frederick and they will be added to the statewide ballot.

<u>Post</u>	<u>Delegate</u>
2	(currently held by S. Lester Tate)
4	(currently held by Donna Barwick)
6	To be held by the Immediate Past President as of July 2017

Member Benefits Committee

Following a report by chair John Kennedy and a presentation by Bob Aicher with ZeekBeek, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, authorized the Member Benefits Committee to continue working with ZeekBeek to develop an enhanced members' directory of State Bar of Georgia members, and for the Member Benefits Committee to bring back to the Board of Governors a specific proposal for action.

Legislation

Following a report by Jon Pannell, the Board of Governors took the following action on proposed legislation.

<u>Legislative Proposal</u>	<u>Germane to Scope & Purposes of the Bar</u>	<u>Support on Merits (2/3 Majority Required)</u>
Family Law Section 1) Antenuptial Agreements	Passed by unanimous voice vote	Passed by unanimous voice vote
Judicial Council's Technology Committee 1) Funding Support for E-filing Portal	Passed by unanimous voice vote	Passed by unanimous voice vote
Real Property Law Section 1) Savings Statute	Passed by unanimous voice vote	Passed by unanimous voice vote
Comm. to Promote Inclusion in the Profession 1) Funding Request for Legal Representation for Victims of Domestic Violence	Passed by unanimous voice vote	Passed by unanimous voice vote

Legislative Update

Rusty Sewell and Christine Butcher provided an update on the upcoming 2017 legislative session.

Resolution Honoring Out-going Chief Justice Thompson

The presentation will take place at the Spring Board of Governors meeting.

Marshall Tuttle Award to Greg Studdard

Eric Ballinger presented the Military Legal Assistance Program's 2016 Marshall Tuttle Award to Greg Studdard for his outstanding legal service to military personnel and veterans in Georgia.

President's Report

President Pat O'Connor reported that this has been the year of the "curve ball" with regard to unexpected issues (ICLE and Bar Exam grading onus). While no one could have foreseen the major issues at ICLE that resulted in it becoming part of the State Bar, bringing ICLE into the Bar will be a win-win situation for ICLE and Georgia's lawyers. The move should also bring about economies of scale that could help reduce the cost of seminars to Bar members. He thanked Immediate Past President Bob Kauffman, chair of ICLE, for all of his work on behalf of ICLE; Paula Frederick and Bill NeSmith for doing such a great job in working with all of the outside counsel involved in the transition; and Laurence (Larry) Pless who advised the State Bar on the transition. He also thanked the ICLE Task Force, led by Past President Hal Daniel and members Past President Robin Clark, Joe Dent, Damon Elmore and Nancy Whaley, who laid the groundwork for the merger.

President O'Connor further reported that he participated in Chief Justice Harris Hines' investiture. It was an important symbolic gesture for the new Chief Justice to ask the Bar President to be a part of it and he appreciates the excellent relationship the State Bar has with the Court.

President O'Connor announced that Board members would be receiving a report from the Disciplinary Rules & Procedures Committee and for them to keep in mind that the first priority in the Strategic Plan is to make the disciplinary process better, more efficient, and expedient.

President O'Connor reported that he and the officers have been diligently working with legislative leaders on the redraft of the JQC legislation. He said that until we know what the final legislation looks like, he plans to keep the JQC Task Force in place. If the Bar retains future appointments, he will ask that the Task Force become a Standing Committee. He announced that Ed Tolley has been appointed as the new chair of JQC by the Governor.

Finally, President O'Connor reported that the *Who Needs Lawyers?* PSAs have been very well received around the state and asked for a round of applause for the Communications Committee and Sarah Coole for their efforts.

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 October 31, 2016; Income Statement YTD for the Four Months Ended October 31, 2016; Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Summary for the Four Months Ended October 31, 2016; State Bar Balance Sheet for October 31, 2016; Summary of Selected Dues and Voluntary Contributions at November 30, 2016; Investment Performance Comparison 2015-2016; and Cornerstones of Freedom and Legislative Fund Activity Reports as of October 31, 2016.

Aging Lawyer Task Force

Secretary Darrell Sutton, Task Force co-chair, reported on the activities of the Aging Lawyers Task Force. The Task Force is assessing the various issues affecting the aging lawyer population in Georgia and available resources to develop strategic recommendations for solving those issues. It has identified immediate, short and long term recommendations. Immediate recommendations include developing a Senior Lawyers Division, an alternative membership classification for cognitively impaired lawyers, and lowering the age and practice requirement for Emeritus membership status. Other recommendations

include an education platform on succession planning, opportunities for personal fulfillment for senior lawyers, such as pro bono work and access to justice issues, and YLD attorneys partnering with older lawyers in a law firm succession program.

YLD Report

YLD President Jennifer Campbell Mock reported on the activities of the YLD. The 2017 Leadership Academy has been selected and its first meeting will take place on January 20, 2017. The annual YLD Legislative Day will be held on February 9, 2017. The Spring YLD Meeting will take place in Asheville the weekend of March 9-12, 2017. The annual Legal Food Frenzy will kick-off March 1st at the State Capitol.

She also announced that the 11th Annual Signature Fundraiser will take place on February 25, 2017, benefitting CASA, Inc. Audrey Bergeson, co-chair of the Annual Signature Fundraiser Committee, provided more information about the event and encouraged Board members to make a sponsorship pledge on the forms provided. She referred the Board of Governors members to the written report in the Board book for further details about the Fundraiser.

National Association of Women Judges Report

Cynthia Clanton reported that the 39th Annual Conference of the National Association of Women Judges will be meeting in Atlanta on October 11-15, 2017.

Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Committee

Chair John Haubenreich and Paula Frederick reported on proposed changes to the disciplinary rules. Paula Frederick also summarized the current disciplinary process. She encouraged the Board of Governors members to call her if they would like more information on the proposed changes or to address their constituency with same. The proposed disciplinary rules changes will be an action item at the Spring Board of Governors meeting.

SOLACE Committee

Co-chair Karlise Grier reported on the activities of the SOLACE Committee. SOLACE assists those in the legal community who have experienced some significant, potentially life-changing event in their lives. Participation is voluntary and the committee does not solicit monetary contributions, instead accepting in-kind assistance or donations. She announced that SOLACE Committee members are available to speak at local bar meetings.

Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession

Dawn Jones reported on the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession's Commitment to Equality Awards. The awards are presented to individuals, corporations, or legal organizations that promote diversity in the legal profession and who provide opportunities for members of underrepresented groups. This year's ceremony will take place on May 4, 2017, at Georgia State University's School of Law.

Access to Justice Committee Pro Bono PSAs

Mike Monahan presented pro bono PSAs created as a statewide campaign to educate Bar members about, and encourage them to participate in, pro bono work. Matthew Porter with Porterwrite provided his services pro bono in creating the videos.

Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP) Committee

Committee chair Jeff Kuester reported on the services of the LAP and the Georgia Lawyers Helping Lawyers peer program that will be launching a volunteer database in the near future. He introduced Todd Stanton, who will serve as the LAP peer volunteer contact. He encouraged the Board members to offer

their support as a peer and encouraged them to contact him, Todd Stanton, or Lynn Garson for more information.

Strategic Plan Updates

Jeff Davis provided an update on the Strategic Plan's priorities.

Attorney Conflict Registry

Jeff Davis reported that Presiding Justice Harold Melton and Judge David Emerson have made arrangements to convene a meeting on Friday, January 13, 2017, at 3:00 pm at the State Bar Building to begin discussions of a vision for a centralized, state-wide conflict registry. Anyone interested in volunteering is welcome to attend the meeting.

Executive Committee Minutes

The Board of Governors received copies of the minutes of the September 9-10 and November 17, 2016 Executive Committee meetings.

Office of the General Counsel

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Office of the General Counsel.

Satellite Office Usage Reports

The Board of Governors received written Usage Reports for the Coastal Georgia (Savannah) and South Georgia (Tifton) satellite offices.

Military Legal Assistance Program (MLAP)

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

Consumer Assistance Program

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

Law Related Education (LRE) Program

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

Communications Update and Media Report

The Board of Governors received a written Communications Update and Media Report.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

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

Old Business

Seth Kirschenbaum reported on the BASICS 40th Anniversary Gala at the Druid Hills Golf Club on March 4, 2017. He encouraged the Board members to buy tickets or to become a sponsor of the event.

President Pat O'Connor reported that the Military and Veterans Law Section's World War I Commemorative Voyage in Belgium and France on October 2-13, 2017, is still open for registration and more information about it can be found in the Board book.

New Business

There was no new business.

Questions/Answers, Comments/Suggestions

The President opened the meeting for questions and comments.

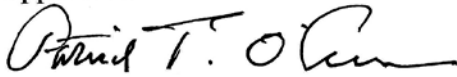
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Darrell L. Sutton, Secretary

Approved:



Patrick T. O'Connor, President