

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MINUTES
November 2, 2013
Jekyll Island Club/Jekyll Island, GA**

The 249th meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and location shown above. Charles L. Ruffin, President, presided.

Special Recognition

President Ruffin recognized the Past Presidents of the State Bar, members of the judiciary, and other special guests in attendance.

Roll Call

Secretary Rita A. Sheffey circulated the attached roll (Exhibit A) for signature.

Special Resolution

President Ruffin presented a resolution (Exhibit B) to former Chief Justice and now Presiding Justice Carol Hunstein for her numerous contributions to the rule of law, to the justice system and the people of Georgia, and to the State Bar of Georgia.

Special Recognition

Cliff Brashier was recognized for attending his 175th consecutive meeting of the Board of Governors.

Consent Agenda

President Ruffin presented the Consent Agenda. Following a request to remove item number 4) on the consent agenda, and there being no objections to any of the other items remaining on it, a motion was made and seconded to approve the remaining items:

- 1) Board of Governors Minutes
The minutes of the June 21, 2013, and the June 22, 2013, Board of Governors Minutes, as presented.
- 2) Executive Committee Minutes (information)
The minutes of the May 23, 2013, June 26, 2013, and July 2, 2013 Executive Committee Minutes, as presented.
- 3) Future Meetings Schedule (information)
The Future Meeting Schedule, as presented.
- 4) Judicial Qualifications Commission
The appointment of Graham A. Thorpe for a four-year term (2013-2017).
- 5) Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency
The reappointment of Robin Frazer Clark and R. Javoyne Hicks White for three-year terms (2014-2016).

The Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved the Consent Agenda with the exception of the following matter that was removed from it for separate discussion:

Judicial Qualifications Commission

Following a discussion on the appointment of Graham A. Thorpe to the Judicial Qualifications Commission, the Board of Governors, by majority hand vote, approved a motion to table the issue.

Civil Legal Services Task Force

Randy Evans, Secretary Sheffey, and Paula Frederick, on behalf of the Civil Legal Services Task Force that is charged with helping garner more funds for civil indigent legal services programs, presented proposed revisions to Bar Rule 1.15 (Parts I, II and III), and a newly created Part XV consisting of rules for the Georgia Bar Foundation designed to establish IOLTA rate comparability. The Board of Governors, by majority hand vote, approved a motion to table the issue so as to allow further review of the proposed revisions.

Randy Evans and Secretary Sheffey reported that the Task Force is also looking at raising pro hac vice fees for the Superior Courts and implementing fees at all levels of the courts in Georgia. It is considering a fee of \$75 for each application for pro hac vice admission, and a \$200 annual registration fee regardless of the number of pro hac vice admissions, with net fees over expenses paid to the Georgia Bar Foundation to support civil legal services. The Task Force plans to present a proposal for consideration at the Midyear Meeting, but asked the Board to approve the concept in principle. The Board of Governors, by majority voice vote, approved in principle the concept of using pro hac vice fees to help support civil legal services funding.

Randy Evans and Secretary Sheffey asked the Board members to let the Task Force know of any other ideas they might have to help increase funding for civil indigent defense.

Legislation

Following a report by Dan Snipes, the Board of Governors took the following action on proposed legislation:

<u>Legislative Proposal</u>	<u>Germane to Purposes Of the Bar</u>	<u>Support on Merits 2/3 Majority</u>
Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession		
1) Funding Request for Victims of Domestic Violence (\$2.5 million)	Passed by unanimous voice vote	Passed by 2/3 rd 's voice vote
2) Georgia Resource Center Funding (\$800,000) for 2014 Fiscal Year	Passed by unanimous voice vote	Passed by 2/3 rd 's voice vote

Dan Snipes announced that the Advisory Committee on Legislation will next meet at the State Bar Building on December 5, 2013, and there is still time to get legislative proposals on the agenda.

Citizens' Advisory Council

Past President Lester Tate reported on the Citizens' Advisory Council, a voluntary coalition of non-lawyer community business leaders from around the state whose members are nominated by the Board of Governors. There will be an orientation reception and other events held during the Midyear Meeting for the Council members. The deadline for Board members to submit their nominations is December 1.

Grass Roots Legislative Events

Rusty Sewell provided an update on the State Bar's grass roots legislative efforts. It was suggested that in addition to working with the local bar presidents and the State Bar Sections, that it also connect with the

Board of Governors members around the state who can be a valuable resource in helping to further promote the program.

2013 Final Legislative Report

Rusty Sewell reported on last year's legislative session and carry over legislation that will be considered this year. He stated that the 2014 legislative session is expected to move quickly due to the changes in the state's elections schedule. The Board of Governors received the Annual Report on the Legislative Activities of the State Bar of Georgia for 2013.

New Section Request – Law and Economics Section

This item was deferred to the next Board of Governors meeting.

President's Report

President Ruffin reported on the State Bar's 50th Anniversary Celebration. The program includes guest speaker Governor Nathan Deal, a discussion on the benefits of a unified Bar, a humorous segment by Past Presidents Bill Barwick and Bob Brinson, and a replay of portions of the Walk Down Memory Lane video. There will also be a CLE program on Friday morning moderated by Justice Benham on the unification of the State Bar.

President Ruffin provided an update on the National Constitutional Law Symposium, March 12-14, 2014, celebrating the 225th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution's ratification. Participants will include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and either Justice Stephen Breyer or Justice Elena Kagan, David Oedel, and other distinguished guests.

President Ruffin reported that he has met with the Secretary of State to discuss the continuing problems with its website and also plans to meet with the Governor's office. While some of the issues have been corrected, many problems remain that need to be resolved.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bob Kauffman reported on the Bar's finances and investments. The Board of Governors also received a summary report of the State Bar of Georgia Revenues and Expenditures Report as of August 31, 2013, the Income Statement YTD for the two months ending August 31, 2013, the State Bar Balance Sheet as of August 31, 2013, and the State Bar of Georgia Revenues and Expenditures Report for the Bar Center as of August 31, 2013.

YLD Report

YLD President Darrell Sutton reported on the activities of the YLD. One of his goals this year is to secure permanent funding for the Public Interest Internship Program (PIIP). He is hoping to establish an endowment and raise \$150,000 for the program this year. The program will also be the beneficiary of the 8th Annual Signature Fundraiser that will be held on February 8, 2014, and he encouraged Board members to consider one of the sponsorship opportunities and to attend the event. He referred the Board members to the written report outlining his other initiatives and other activities of the YLD committees.

Real Estate Task Force

President-elect Patrise Perkins-Hooker provided an update on the activities of the Real Estate Task Force.

ABA Report

Paula Frederick reported on the activities of the ABA House of Delegates at the August ABA Annual Meeting.

Private Insurance Exchange

Treasurer Bob Kauffman reported on a private insurance exchange that will be offered to Bar members by Member Benefits, Inc. (formerly BPC Financial) that is the broker recommended by the State Bar for health, dental and vision insurance plans. The exchange is an on-line market place designed to assist individual members and employer groups in securing health insurance coverage.

Elections Committee: New Elections Policy

Thomas Burnside reported on a new Standing Executive Committee Policy 1000 concerning State Bar elections.

SOLACE Program

Past President Ken Shigley reported on the activities of the SOLACE Program.

Long-Range Planning and Bar Governance Committee

Pat O'Connor provided an update on the activities of the Long-Range Planning and Bar Governance Committee and referred the Board of Governors to the committee's written report. He announced that the committee is sponsoring a CLE at the Midyear Meeting on Thursday morning, January 9, 2014, on the future of the practice of law. Panelists include Past President Linda Klein, Bucky Askew and Allan Tanenbaum.

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

Dawn Jones reported that the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. The Commission is also accepting nominations for the 15th Annual Justice Benham Community Service Awards Program. The Board of Governors received a written report on all of the activities of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism.

Annual Meeting Survey

The Board of Governors received a copy of the results of the 2013 Annual Meeting Survey.

Suicide Awareness Campaign "How to Save a Life"

The Board of Governors received a copy of the written materials that will accompany the suicide prevention video as part of the State Bar's suicide awareness campaign.

Office of General Counsel

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

Military Legal Assistance Program

The Board of Governors received a written report on the Status of the Military Legal Assistance Program.

Consumer Assistance Program

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

Law Practice Management Program

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

BASICS

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

ABA 2013 Charles Dorsey Award (Steve Gottlieb)

The Board of Governors received information about Steve Gottlieb being chosen as the recipient of the ABA Government and Public Section Lawyers Division's 2013 Dorsey Award.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Remarks, Questions/Answers, Comments and Suggestions

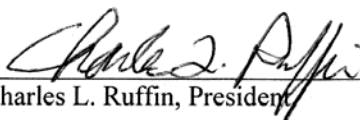
The President opened up the meeting for questions and comments.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Rita A. Sheffey, Secretary

Approved:


Charles L. Ruffin, President