

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, June 10, 2017
Jekyll Island Convention Bureau/Jekyll Island, GA**

The 269th meeting of the Board of Governor of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and location shown above. Buck Rogers, President, presided.

Special Recognition

President Buck Rogers 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 Buck Rogers recognized the new Officers and Board of Governors members.

Roll Call

Secretary Dawn Jones circulated the roll for signature. The list of those in attendance is attached as Exhibit A.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Buck Rogers 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 4: William Gilmore Gainor, Conyers (2018)
- District 5: William Hickerson Thomas, Jr., Atlanta (2020)
- District 6: Elizabeth Pool O'Neal, Jackson (2020)
- District 7: Lawrence Alan Stagg, Ringgold (2020)

Review Panel

- Northern District: Halsey George Knapp, Jr., Atlanta (2020)
- Middle District: Jeffrey O'Neal Monroe, Macon (2020)
- Southern District: Amy Lynn Pickett, Augusta (2020)

Formal Advisory Opinion Board

- Georgia Trial Lawyers Association: C. Andrew Childers, Atlanta (2019)
- Georgia Defense Lawyers Association: Jacob Daly, Atlanta (2019)
- Young Lawyers Division: Jennifer Campbell Mock, Statesboro (2019)
- John Marshall: Jeffrey Alan Van Detta, Atlanta (2019)
- Mercer University: Patrick E. Longan, Macon (2019)
- University of Georgia: Lonnie Theodore Brown, Jr., Athens (2019)
- Investigative Panel: William Hickerson Thomas, Jr., Atlanta (2018)
- Review Panel: Charles B. Marsh, Atlanta (2018)
- At-Large: Edward B. Krugman, Atlanta (2019)
David Neal Lefkowitz, Athens (2019)

Approval of President's Appointments to the ICLE Board

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

ICLE Board

Jennifer Campbell Mock , Statesboro (2020)

Patrick T. O'Connor, Savannah (2020)

Kenneth L. Shigley, Atlanta (2020)

Approval of 2017-2018 Standing and Special Committees, Program Committees and Boards

The Board of Governors approved the proposed 2017-2018 Standing and Special Committees, Program Committees and Boards by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Darrell L. Sutton reported on the Bar's finances and investments and shared some membership, dues, and staff statistics. The Board of Governors received copies of the combined Operations and Bar Center Consolidated Revenues and Expenditures Report as of March 31, 2017; Income Statement YTD for the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2017; Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Summary for the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2017; State Bar Balance Sheet for March 31, 2017; and the Summary of Dues and Voluntary Contributions at March 31, 2017, State Bar Investment Performance Comparison 2005-2017, Legislative Fund Activity Report through February 28, 2017, and Cornerstones of Freedom Fund Activity Report through March 31, 2017.

2017-2018 State Bar Budget

Treasurer Darrell L. Sutton presented the consolidated 2017-2018 (4th Draft) Proposed State Bar Budget (Exhibit B) that was approved by the Board of Governors by unanimous voice vote and reflects the following:

- 1) Dues at \$250 for active members and \$125 for inactive members, which represents a \$2 dues increase for active members and a \$1 increase for inactive members; 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 (\$100 for young lawyers) 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 2016-2017.

Investment Policy

Following a report by Donna G. Barwick, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved proposed amendments to the State Bar of Georgia Investment Policy (Exhibit C).

Executive Director Election

The Board of Governors elected Jeff Davis as Executive Director for the 2017-2018 Bar year by unanimous voice vote.

JQC Nominations

Following a report by President Buck Rogers, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved the JQC Nominating Committee's proposed list of nominees (Exhibit D). The list will be provided to the various appointing authorities (Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House and Supreme Court).

Election Schedule 2017-2018

The Board of Governors approved the proposed 2017-18 Election Schedule (Exhibit E) 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:

One-Year Term 2017-18

Nominations:

Candidate: Damon E. Elmore
Nominator: Joseph W. Dent
Seconded: R. Gary Spencer

Results:

Elected by unanimous voice vote for a one-year term

Two-Year Term 2017-19

Nominations:

Candidate: Elizabeth L. Fite
Nominator: Carl R. Varnedoe
Seconded: Amy V. Howell

Elected by unanimous voice vote for a two-year term

Candidate: David S. Lipscomb Elected by unanimous voice vote for a two-year term
Nominator: Tina Shadix Roddenbery
Seconded: Judge R. Rucker Smith

Candidate: Frank B. Strickland Elected by unanimous voice vote for a two-year term
Nominator: Judge Shondeana G. Morris
Seconded: Edward Donald Tolley

Georgia Legal Services Appointments

The Board of Governors approved the appointments of Albert Reichert, Jr. and Tennell Lockett 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 appointments of Raymond Kyle Williams and Claudia Saari to the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism, for three-year terms, by unanimous voice vote.

Enhanced Membership Directory (Zeekbeek/CloudLaw Contract)

President Buck Rogers reported that we will have a term sheet and a contract in the near future with Zeekbeek/CloudLaw for an enhanced membership directory.

Creation of a Bike Law Section

Following a report by Bill NeSmith, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved the creation of a Bike Law Section (Exhibit F)

Proposed Amendment (Rescind) – Rule 1-205 Bar Judicial Circuit

Following a report by Bill NeSmith, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, rescinded its prior vote approving a proposed amendment to Rule 1-205 *Bar Judicial Circuit* (Exhibit G). The rule will go back to the Executive Committee for vetting before it is brought back to the Board of Governors for action in the fall.

Clients' Security Fund Part X Proposed Amendment

Following a report by Bill NeSmith, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved proposed rules amendments to Clients' Security Fund Part X (Exhibit H).

Uniform Juvenile Code Rule 1.5 (New Judge Orientation Training)

Following a report by Bill NeSmith, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, supported proposed changes to Uniform Juvenile Court 1.15 (new judge orientation training).

Uniform Court Superior Rule 22 Recording and Coverage of Judicial Procedures

Following a report by Bill NeSmith, the Board of Governors, by majority voice vote, supported proposed changes to Uniform Court Superior Rule 22 *Recording and Coverage of Judicial Procedures* as approved by the Judicial Procedure & Administration/Uniform Rules Committee and the Executive Committee.

Creation of the Attorney Wellness Standing Committee

Following a report by Bill NeSmith, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved making the Attorney Wellness Task Force into a Standing Committee on Attorney Wellness.

President's Remarks

President Buck Rogers addressed the Board of Governors with his 2017-18 programs (Exhibit I).

YLD Report

YLD President Nicole Leet presented an overview of her proposed program of activities for the 2017-2018 Bar year. She thanked the Executive Committee and the Board of Governors for being leaders in the profession and for their continued support of the YLD. She announced that all of the YLD meetings have been planned as follows: 1) Summer Meeting - Austin, Texas, 2) Fall Meeting - Brasstown Valley Resort, and 3) Spring Meeting - Nashville, Tennessee. She reported that she has created a continuity of themes and purpose moving the YLD forward this year. She pointed out that it is only the second time in the history of the YLD wherein the President, President-elect, and the Immediate Past President are all females. She reported that her signature project this year will be a challenge to all YLD members to pledge 50 hours of pro bono service. She is partnering this effort with the Bar's Access to Justice Committee and its *Do Justice, Do 50* Campaign. Her goal is to make it as easy as possible for YLD members to accomplish this goal, thereby reducing the access to justice gap and enhancing the legal profession.

Lawyers for Equal Justice Report

Stephanie Everett, Executive Director, reported on the activities of the Lawyers for Equal Justice Program (incubator program).

Georgia Bar Foundation Report

Len Horton, Executive Director, reported on the activities of the Georgia Bar Foundation and IOLTA.

Executive Committee Minutes

The Board of Governors received copies of the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held on February 17-18, April 14, and April 21, 2017.

Office of the General Counsel

The Board of Governors received a memorandum from the Office of the General Counsel with a link to access its Annual Report.

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.

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.

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.

Military Legal Assistance Program

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

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.

Media Report

The Board of Governors received a copy of the 2016-17 Media Report.

Georgia Legal Services Program Report

The Board of Governors received a written report on the activities of the Georgia Legal Services Program.

Sections' Annual Reports

The Board of Governors received written reports on the activities of the following State Bar Sections: Animal Law, Appellate Practice, Aviation, Child Protection & Advocacy, Corporate Counsel, Creditor's Rights, Dispute Resolution, Employee Benefits, Family Law, Fiduciary Law, General Practice & Trial, Health Law, Intellectual Property Law, International Law, Local Government Law, Military and Veterans Law, Taxation Law, and Workers' Compensation Law.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

YLD President Nicole Leet referred the Board of Governors to the following pro bono web sites: georgia.freelegalanswers.org and duejusticedo50.org.

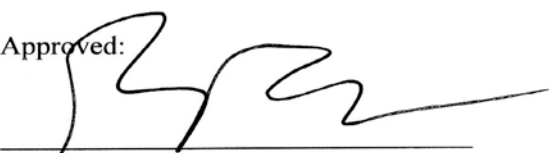
Secretary Dawn Jones provided her email address to the Board of Governors to use when requesting excused absences or changes to their attendance records.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Dawn M. Jones, Secretary

Approved: 

Buck Rogers, President