

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, June 8, 2019/9:00 a.m.
Ritz-Carlton Reynolds Orlando, Grande Lakes/Orlando, FL**

The 279th meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and location shown above. Darrell Sutton, President, presided.

Special Recognition

Sutton recognized the members of the judiciary, the past-presidents of the State Bar, and other special guests in attendance.

Welcome to New Officers and Board Members

Sutton recognized the new Officers and Board of Governors members.

Roll Call

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

Future Meetings Schedule

Sutton reviewed 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 Boards by unanimous voice vote:

State Disciplinary Board

Christopher Sutton Connelly, Summerville (2019-2022)

Casey Carter Santas, Duluth (2019-2022)

Lay Member: Michael A. Fuller, Macon (2019-2022)

State Disciplinary Review Board

Northern District: Aimee Lynn Pickett, Atlanta (2019-2022)

Middle District: Caroline Whitehead Herrington, Macon (2019-2022)

Southern District: Paul Threlkeld, Savannah (2020-2022); Jack Long, Augusta (2019-2020)

Lay Member: Clarence Pennie, Kennesaw (2019-2022)

Formal Advisory Opinion Board

Member-at-Large: David N. Lefkowitz, Athens (2019-2021)

Member-at-Large: Edward B. Krugman, Atlanta (2019-2021)

Georgia Defense Lawyers Assoc.: Jacob Edward Daly, Atlanta (2019-2021)

Young Lawyers Division: Elissa Blache Haynes, Atlanta (2019-2021)

Atlanta's John Marshall Law School: Prof. Jeffrey Van Detta, Atlanta (2019-2021)

Mercer University School of Law: Prof. Patrick E. Longan, Macon (2019-2021)

University of Georgia Law School: Prof. Lonnie Brown, Jr., Athens (2019-2021)

State Disciplinary Review Board: Alfreda Sheppard, Albany (2019-2020)

Approval of 2019-2020 Standing, Special & Program Committees and Boards

The Board of Governors approved the proposed 2019-2020 Standing, Special & Program Committees and Boards by unanimous voice vote.

President's Address

Following an introduction by Immediate Past President Ken Hodges, Sutton delivered the President's Address (Exhibit B).

Nominations to the Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC)

Following a report by Sutton, the Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved the following list of nominees, as revised, to the Judicial Qualifications Commission, which was submitted by the JQC Nominating Committee: Christopher Paul Twyman, LaRae Dixon Moore, Samuel S. Olens, Matthew Glen Moffett, Scott Dewitt Delius, and Robert Laurence Barr, Jr. The names will be provided to Governor Brian Kemp for consideration.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Elizabeth Fite reported on the Bar's finances and investments. She discussed the efforts undertaken by Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner and the Finance Committee, chaired by Nancy Whaley, to redesign the financial reports so they are easier to read and understand. Before reviewing the redesigned financial reports, Elizabeth reported on the structures of the different entities under the aegis of the State Bar which are the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), the Commission on Continuing Lawyer Competency (CCLC), and the Chief Justice's Commission Professionalism (CJCP). She also reported that the Cornerstones of Freedom reserve fund, used for the Bar's PSA campaign, is being eliminated and some expenses will be reallocated to other line items in the budget because we will be using the PSAs created this year and previous years in the 2019-2020 Bar year. David Cannon suggested that the next year's Bar license fee notice include an indication of the reserve balance for the Legislative and Public Advocacy fund.

The Board of Governors received copies of the combined Operations and Bar Center Consolidated Revenues and Expenditures Report as of March 31, 2019; Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Summary for the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2019; Status and Use of Cash Investments as of March 31, 2019; Board-Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted Net Assets as of March 31, 2019; Summary of Members and Voluntary Contributions to GLSP Paid through March 31, 2019; Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contributions Paid through March 31, 2019; Legislative Activity Report from July 1, 2019 through March 31, 2019; and Cornerstones of Freedom Activity Report from July 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

2019-2020 State Bar Budget

Treasurer Elizabeth Fite presented the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Proposed Consolidated Budget and ICLE Budget (Exhibit C), which the Board of Governors approved by unanimous voice vote. The proposed Consolidated Budget reflects the following:

- 1) License fees at \$254 for active members and \$127 for inactive members, which represents a \$2 increase in actives dues and a \$1 increase in inactive dues;
- 2) Section dues to be reflected on the license fee statement ranging from \$10-\$40; and

- 3) Continuation of the assessment required by Bar Rules regarding the Clients' Security Fund (\$100 @ \$25/year, beginning with the second full fiscal year following a member's year of admission); and
- 4) Professionalism Fee (\$15) (mandated by the Supreme Court); and
- 5) Continuation of a \$100 voluntary contribution for the Legislative and Public Education Fund; and
- 6) A suggested \$300 individual contribution (\$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 financial resolutions by unanimous voice vote:

- 1) That the President be authorized to secure a blanket fidelity bond to cover all officers, employees and other persons handling State Bar funds as is required by Article V, Section 8 of the Bylaws.
- 2) 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/or Investment 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 President, the Immediate Past President, the Executive Director, the Office Manager and the General Counsel, provided either the President 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 as said banks are concerned until they are notified in writing of such revocation of authority and in writing, acknowledge receipt thereof.
- 3) 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 2018-2019.

Executive Director Election

The Board of Governors elected Jeff Davis as Executive Director for the 2019-2020 Bar year by unanimous voice vote.

Election Schedule 2019-2020

The Board of Governors approved the proposed 2019-2020 Elections Schedule (Exhibit D) by unanimous voice vote.

Executive Committee Election

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

One-Year Term 2019-2020

Nominations:

Candidate: Ivy N. Cadle
Nominator: Judge Kathy S. Palmer
Seconded: Shiriki Cavitt Jones

Results:

Elected by acclamation for a one-year term

Two-Year Term 2019-2021

Nominations:

Candidate: John R.B. (Jack) Long
Nominator: Carl R. Varnedoe
Seconded: C. Sutton Connelly

Candidate: R. Javoynne Hicks
Nominator: R. Gary Spencer
Seconded: Dennis C. Sanders

Elected by majority ballot vote for a two-year term

Candidate: David S. Lipscomb
Nominator: Michael G. Geoffroy
Seconded: Nicole C. Leet

Elected by majority ballot vote for a two-year term

Candidate: Amy V. Howell
Nominator: Judge Dax E. Lopez
Seconded: Thomas R. Burnside, III

Elected by majority ballot vote for a two-year term

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism Appointment

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

ICJE Board Appointment

By unanimous voice vote, the Board of Governors approved the appointment of President-elect Dawn Jones to the ICJE Board of Trustees for a three-year term.

Revised Officer Reimbursement Policy

Following a report by Sutton, the Board of Governors, with President-elect Dawn Jones abstaining, approved the revised Officer Reimbursement Policy (Exhibit E) by unanimous voice vote,

Proposed Amendment – TILPP Rule 8.104 Education Requirements and Exemptions

This item was tabled.

Proposed Amendment – Part XII – Client Assistance Program Preamble, Rule 12-101, Rule 12-102

Following a report by Sutton, the Board of Governors approved recommending to the Supreme Court of Georgia proposed amendments (Exhibit F) to Part XII Client Assistance Program (formerly Consumer Assistance Program) Rules 12-101 and 12-102 by unanimous voice vote.

Approval Appointments to the ICLE Board

By unanimous voice vote, the Board of Governors approved the following presidential appointments for three-year terms to the ICLE Board of Trustees: Carol V. Clark; Harold T. Daniel, Jr.; Allegra J. Lawrence Hardy; and Kenneth B. Hodges.

Young Lawyers Division

YLD President Will Davis reported that he is excited to be the YLD President. He said that he became active in the YLD in 2012 with the support of his then employer, GLSP. Will stated that his main focus will be to build upon and grow the great projects of the YLD. He plans to start with the YLD membership by letting the members know that the YLD is there for them and that the YLD offers tremendous opportunities to work together across the state to make a statewide impact. He will also work closely with the ten YLD affiliates. Will announced that his Summer Meeting will be at the King & Prince on St. Simons Island in August, the Fall Meeting will be at Lake Lanier Islands in November, and the Spring Meeting will be in Athens on the last week in April. He wants to encourage more YLD members to participate by letting them know that the meetings are accessible and over one weekend. Will also asked the Board of Governors to sponsor a young lawyer in their firm or community to attend a YLD meeting. He reported that the YLD will continue to work on its signature projects, including its Build a Better Georgia Day and the High School Mock Trial program. He stated that he has assigned two of his board members to reach out to the specialty bars so they and the YLD can work together on projects, and the YLD will continue to take a lead in diversity and innovation. Will said that the YLD has given a lot to him both professionally and personally and he has made good friendships. He will continue to reach out to the lawyers across the state to get behind the YLD and work for the profession. Lastly, Will reported that he looks forward to working with his slate of officers, and he gave a quick shout out to the Leadership Academy members.

Georgia Legal Services Board Appointments

Following a report by President-elect Dawn Jones, the Board of Governors approved the appointments of Darrell Sutton, Demetrius Tannel Locket, and William Hulbert Gregory, IV, for two-year terms to the Georgia Legal Service Board of Trustees by unanimous voice vote.

Georgia Bar Foundation Report

There was no report.

Legislative Report

Governmental Affairs Director Christine Butcher Hayes reported that the Bar successfully lobbied the passing of both the family law bill and guardianship rewrite bill. She stated that she was grateful for the support of the Bar's contract lobbyists Rusty Sewell, Mark Middleton, and Roy Robinson. She reported that the Bar is moving forward with the coming year's legislative agenda, and we will continue to produce quality legislation thoroughly vetted by the Advisory Committee on Legislation that will be chaired by Amy Howell. She also reported that we will continue to be missionaries to encourage lawyers to run for the legislature. Lastly, Christine thanked Immediate Past President Ken Hodges, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Governors for their support of the legislative program.

National High School Mock Trial Competition Report

Michael Nixon reported on the National High School Mock Trial Championship Competition that took place May 16-18 2019, in Athens. Immediate Past President Ken Hodges recognized Michael for his outstanding job in planning and running the competition.

State of the Georgia Senate Special Judiciary Committee

Senator Jen Jordan, Chair of the Senate Special Judiciary Committee, reported on the activities of that committee. She also encouraged Board of Governors members to run for legislative office.

Executive Committee Minutes

The Board of Governors received a copy of the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held at Callaway Gardens on March 16-18, 2019.

Office of General Counsel

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

Insurance Committee

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

Consumer Assistance Program

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

Fee Arbitration Program

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

Law Practice Management Program

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

Military Legal Assistance Program

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

Unlicensed Practice of Law Program

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

Communications Media Report

The Board of Governors received a written media report from the Communications Department.

Georgia Legal Services Program Report

The Board of Governors received a written report from Georgia Legal Services.

Transition into Law Practice Program

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

Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism

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

The Arc of Justice Institute

The Board of Governors received a written report from the Arc of Justice Institute.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Sutton thanked the Cobb Judicial Circuit's Board of Governors delegation for their support, and the nine YLD Past Presidents who are members of the Board for their support and guidance.

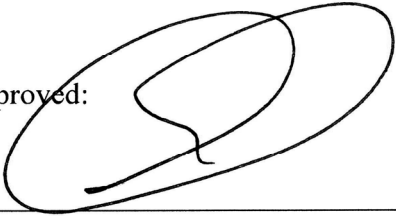
Remarks/Q&A/Comments/Suggestions

Sutton opened the floor to remarks, questions, comments and suggestions.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a smaller 'S' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Darrell L. Sutton, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sarah B. (Sally) Akins, Secretary