

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
Saturday, April 2, 2022, 9:00 a.m.  
Hyatt Place Athens & The Classic Center  
Athens, Georgia/Zoom Hybrid**

The 291<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and time shown above. President Elizabeth L. Fite presided and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Hon. Charles E. Auslander III, Judge, Athens-Clarke County State Court, led the pledge of allegiance.

Invocation

R. Chiny Law, Board of Governors Member-at-Large, Post 2, gave the invocation.

Special Recognition

President Elizabeth L. Fite recognized the members of the judiciary, the past presidents of the State Bar and other special guests in attendance.

Roll Call

Secretary Ivy N. Cadle circulated the roll for signature. He reminded everyone participating by Zoom that it automatically creates a report of attendees. However, he asked those who telephoned into the meeting to email him to ensure they are reflected in the attendance record as being present. The list of those in attendance is attached as Exhibit A.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Elizabeth L. Fite reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule. She pointed out the meetings that have a note of “contract pending” are all still on schedule.

Minutes of the 290<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Governors

Secretary Ivy N. Cadle presented the minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held January 8, 2022, which were approved as presented by majority vote.

Dues 2022-2023

After a report from Finance Committee Chair Elena Kaplan, the Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved Active Dues at \$260 (a \$6 increase from fiscal year 2021-2022) and Inactive Dues at \$130 (a \$3 increase from fiscal year 2021-2022) for fiscal year 2022-2023.

Approval of Other Dues Items

The Board of Governors, by majority vote, approved the following other dues items:

- 1) Section Dues (\$10 to \$40).
- 2) Clients’ Security Fund (\$15 per member per Rule 1-506).
- 3) Professionalism Fee (\$11/year).
- 4) Legislative and Public Education Fund Contribution (\$100 optional contribution).
- 5) Georgia Legal Services Program (\$400 suggested individual contribution/\$100 suggested contribution for young lawyers).

### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported updates on the Bar Center and said the Conference Center is active and being used with more frequency each week. Staff has been in the building since July, in some form or fashion, and will now switch from a COVID policy to a new telework policy effective April 4, 2022. He said that over the past year, the Bar has had as many as 18 open positions and currently there are only four. Executive Director Elmore said that ICLE was impacted the most from the pandemic, but the numbers are increasing as more programming is offered in person, virtually and in hybrid formats. He reported the search for new office space for the Coastal Georgia Office in Savannah is going well, and two spaces are being considered that offer better parking, office space and handicap accessibility. Executive Director Damon Elmore reported on renting the 30,000 square feet of available space in the Bar Center, also noting that there is 40,000 square feet on the fifth floor that is completely empty and requires renovation to rent. He said that this item is top priority, and he is working with a small subcommittee to help fill that space, along with Cushman & Wakefield and their internal broker.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tony DelCampo reported on the finances of the Bar and that the Bar is sound. He asked everyone to review the list of variances in the Board Book. He commended Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner and Bar staff for their diligence in keeping the finances of the Bar on track.

### Young Lawyers Division

YLD President Elissa Haynes reported the YLD Spring Meeting in Chattanooga, "Networking Across State Lines," was a great success. The YLD Leadership Academy will meet in Dahlonega next week. She said the YLD is focusing on the well-being of young attorneys and is hoping to begin a podcast. The YLD will host a federal judge's reception in conjunction with the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit Judicial Conference. YLD President Haynes asked everyone to support and attend the YLD Signature Fundraiser, which will be held on April 30 at 433 Bishop. The fundraiser will benefit Kate's Club, an organization that helps children who have lost a loved one.

### Investment Policy Proposed Changes

President Elizabeth L. Fite reported on the Investment Committee's proposed changes to the Investment Policy. She said the goal of updating the policy is to move from a very conservative model to something more in line with the current financial climate to provide an optimal investment mix for the State Bar. This report was informational and required no action by the Board of Governors, but will come before the Board at the Annual Meeting for a vote.

### President's Report

President Elizabeth L. Fite spoke on attorney wellness. In light of recent attorney suicides, she said to take a moment and think about how you can connect with others and use your voice and position to help spread the word about resources, which include the Wellness Committee, the Suicide Prevention Committee and the Lawyer Assistance Program. Although these resources are excellent, each of us can help raise awareness and provide support for those in crisis. President Fite said everyone is capable of checking on someone else. You never know when that will be the day that saves them.

She also encouraged more members to attend in-person meetings as it is important for the comradery of the Board.

President Fite reported that the State Bar Elections are open through April 22 and that May 24 is an election for our judges in the state. She moved on to "Know Your Bar" and highlighted the "Find a Lawyer" directory that is a collaboration between the State Bar of Georgia and ReliaGuide (formerly known as CloudLawyers).

### ACL/Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Christine Butcher Hayes reported that Friday was Day 39 of the legislative session and Monday is Day 40. All items in the State Bar's legislative package have crossed over, and the Psychiatric Advance Directive Act (HB 752) that the Fiduciary Law Section has been working on has been well received and will hopefully pass without any issues. All funding requests that the Bar voted to support have been approved for full funding. The Remote Online Notary bill (HB 334) continues to be worked on, and the legislative team will watch it, along with other bills of interest.

### Executive Committee Minutes

The Board of Governors received copies of the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held on December 10, 2021, and February 18, 2022.

### Law Practice Management Program

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

### Office of the General Counsel

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

### Communications Update

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

### Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism Report

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

### Old Business

There was no old business.

### New Business

Board Member Joyce Gist Lewis reported that the Attorney Wellness Committee is working to establish themselves as a section of the Bar in order to put more emphasis on attorney wellness. As a section, they would be able to collect dues to help promote and hold better programming centered around attorney well-being. The committee will be submitting an application with proposed bylaws and asking to vote at the Annual Meeting.

### Announcements

There were no announcements.

### Executive Session

There was no executive session.

### Remarks / Q&A / Comments / Suggestions


President Elizabeth L. Fite opened the floor to remarks, questions, comments and suggestions.

### Adjournment

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

  
Ivy Cadle, Secretary

Approved:

  
Elizabeth D. Fite, President