

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
MINUTES  
Friday, June 19, 2015  
Evergreen Conference Center/Stone Mountain, GA**

The 257<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and location shown above. Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker, President, presided.

Special Recognition

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker recognized the members of the judiciary, the Past Presidents of the State Bar, other special guests in attendance, and the retiring Executive Committee members.

Roll Call

Secretary Pat O'Connor circulated the roll for signature. The list of those in attendance is attached as Exhibit A.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker referred the Board of Governors to the Future Meetings Schedule.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker presented the Meeting Agenda and explained to the members of the Board of Governors the need for the Board to go into and out of Plenary Session since there was an action item that only members of the Board could vote on, but the Board of Governors Meeting was being convened during the Annual Meeting for members of the State Bar. There being no requested changes to it, the Board of Governors adopted the Meeting Agenda by majority voice vote.

Consent Agenda

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker presented the following Consent Agenda. There being no objection or request for removal of the item, a motion was made and seconded to approve the following item:

- 1) Minutes of the 256<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board of Governors  
The minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held on Aril 18, 2015 at Brasstown Valley Resort in Young Harris, GA.

The Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, approved the above item on the Consent Agenda.

Plenary Session/Members' Meeting

Upon a motion and second, President Patrise Perkins-Hooker recessed the Board of Governors meeting and convened the Plenary Session/Members' Meeting.

State of the Supreme Court of Georgia

The Honorable Hugh P. Thompson, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, delivered the State of the Supreme Court of Georgia address.

State of the Court of Appeals of Georgia

The Honorable Herbert E. Phipps, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia, delivered the State of the Court of Appeals of Georgia address.

State of the Georgia Senate Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Senator Jesse Stone, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, provided an update on the Committee's activities.

State of the Georgia House Judiciary Committee

Representative Wendell Willard, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, provided an update on the Committee's activities.

State of the Georgia House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee

Representative Rich Golick, Chair of the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee, provided an update on the Committee's activities.

House Juvenile Justice Committee

Representative Tom Weldon, Chair of the House Juvenile Justice Committee, provided an update on the Committee's activities.

State of the U.S. District Court, Southern District

The Honorable Lisa Godbey Wood, Chief Judge of the United States District Court, Southern District of Georgia, delivered the State of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District address.

State of the Georgia Law Department

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker announced that Attorney General Sam Olens was unable to attend the meeting and referred the Board members to the written report from the Georgia Law Department.

Board of Governors Meeting

Upon a motion, second and unanimous voice vote, President Patrise Perkins-Hooker recessed the Plenary Session/Members' Meeting and reconvened the Board of Governors Meeting.

Law School Incubator Project

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker reported on the proposed Law School Incubator Project. She stated that at the workshop, presentation, and question and answer session held during the Spring Board of Governors meeting concerns were raised about liability from the project being housed at the State Bar Building, the costs to refurbish the 5<sup>th</sup> floor, rent abatement, whether or not the project was helping one group of people over another, lack of parking, security, and other issues. She reported that she had worked with Bucky Askew to try to address as many of the concerns as possible, but due to the nature of the project, not all of those issues have been resolved. She stated that she was no longer seeking for the project to be a State Bar program. She described the program as a joint project of the State Bar, the five Georgia law schools, and the Supreme Court of Georgia. It will be overseen by a separate 501(c)(3) entity called Lawyers for Equal Justice (LEJ) with member representatives from each of the stakeholder groups interested in the project. She asked the Board of Governors to approve funding for the Law School Incubator Project in the amount of \$85,000 per year for three years. The funds will be used by the LEJ to locate, rent and occupy space for the incubator project. She indicated that the \$85,000 was based on the average of downtown Atlanta space rental rates for the square footage that the incubator wanted to occupy in the Bar Center. She explained that these rental rates were provided by Cushman Wakefield, the Bar Center's property manager and leasing agent. After a motion was made and seconded on the request for the Bar to provide \$85,000 a year for rent for three years, and discussion by the Board of Governors on the merits for and against the project, the Board of Governors took the following action:

- 1) A motion for a ballot vote instead of a hand vote on the original motion passed by a standing vote of 58 in favor to 41 opposed; and

- 2) A motion to table the matter indefinitely failed by a ballot vote of 47 in favor to 59 opposed, and
- 3) A motion to approve funding for the proposed incubator project in the amount of \$85,000 a year for three years for the purposes of providing funding to cover its rent was approved by a ballot vote of 59 in favor to 48 opposed.

#### Plenary Session/Members' Meeting

Upon a motion, second and unanimous voice vote, President Patrise Perkins-Hooker reconvened the Plenary Session/Members' Meeting of the State Bar of Georgia.

#### Sutherland Resolution

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker and David Lipscomb presented a resolution to the Sutherland law firm for their many years of pro bono assistance to the State Bar's Fee Arbitration Program.

#### Audit Resolutions

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker announced that Jeffrey R. Banish and Susan P. Logan were unable to attend the meeting to receive their resolutions, but she acknowledged them for their assistance in providing pro bono services to the Fee Arbitration Program.

#### Presentation of the Employee of the Year Award

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker and YLD Immediate Past President Darrell Sutton presented the Employee of the Year Award to Mary McAfee, Director of the Young Lawyers Division.

#### Presidential Recognitions

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker recognized various Bar staff, Communications Consultant Stephenie Jones for all of their outstanding work and support during the past year. She also recognized the State Bar Corporate Sponsors.

#### Young Lawyers Division

YLD President Sharri Edenfield reported on the activities of the Young Lawyers Division. Initiatives pursued this year were: 1) Military Support, 2) Succession Planning and 3) Professional Development. She stated that 40-50 lawyers were accredited to represent veterans on benefits appeals. The Augusta Warriors Project, which was the recipient of the Annual Signature Fundraiser, was presented with a check for \$60,139. She reported that a Succession Planning Program designed to connect young lawyers with older lawyers transitioning out of practicing law was held and received strong, positive initial feedback. She indicated that a Next Step Institute took place at the Midyear and Annual Meetings with topics that included media training, becoming a community leader, and opening your own law firm. A Solo-Small Firm Institute on how to open your own law practice was held at Mercer Law School in February. She reported that the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Legal Food Frenzy collected statewide the equivalent of 1.18 million pounds of food, which is the largest amount of food collected to date. The Spring YLD Meeting featured a CLE on *Plessy v. Ferguson* moderated by Avarita Hanson, Director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism and Morgan Clemons, Cochair of the YLD Minorities in the Profession Committee. She thanked members of the Executive Committee and Board of Governors for all of their support during her Presidency.

#### Awards Presentations

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker presented the following State Bar awards:

Indigent Defense Award: The Southern Center for Human Rights

Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Awards: Honorable Herbert E. Phipps and Lester B. Johnson, III

Local and Voluntary Bar Awards:

Thomas R. Burnside, Jr. Excellence in Bar Leadership Award: Dawn M. Jones

Award of Merit (presented in categories based upon the size of the local bar association): Tifton Judicial Circuit Bar, Houston County Bar, Blue Ridge Bar, Stonewall Bar, Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys

Law Day Award of Achievement (presented in categories based upon the size of the local bar association): Piedmont Circuit Bar, Blue Ridge, Augusta Bar, Cobb County Bar

Best New Entry: Tifton Judicial Circuit Bar

Best Newsletter(presented in categories based upon the size of the local bar association) : Georgia Hispanic Bar, Blue Ridge Bar, Gwinnett County Bar, Georgia Defense Lawyers Association

Best Website: Georgia Hispanic Bar, Blue Ridge Bar, DeKalb Bar, Atlanta Bar Association

President's Cup Award: Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys

Section Awards:

Section of the Year: Child Protection & Advocacy

Awards of Achievement: Family Law Section, Intellectual Property Law

### Memorials

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker presented the Memorials report.

### Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP)

President Patrise Perkins-Hooker presented a check to Phyllis Holmen representing contributions made by Bar members to the GLSP in the amount of \$532,234 and congratulated her for the outstanding work that her organization was doing outside of the Metro Atlanta area to address the legal needs of poor and low income Georgians.

### Investigative Panel

Laverne Lewis Gaskins reported on the activities of the Investigative Panel and recognized the current and retiring Panel members. President Patrise Perkins-Hooker recognized Laverne Lewis Gaskins who while remaining on the Panel, is stepping down as the chairperson, for her work as the Panel's chair this Bar year.

### Review Panel

Tony Askew reported on the activities of the Review Panel and recognized the current and retiring Panel members.

### Formal Advisory Opinion Board

Brad Marsh reported on the activities of the Formal Advisory Opinion Board and recognized the current Board members.

Clients' Security Fund

Vince Clanton reported on the activities of the Clients' Security Fund.

President's Address

Following an introduction by Immediate Past President Buck Ruffin, President Patrise Perkins-Hooker delivered the President's address (Exhibit B) and referenced the cumulative Communications Report which was not available at the meeting, but is attached hereto as (Exhibit C).

Ratification of Vote on the Law School Incubator Project

The Board of Governors, by unanimous voice vote, ratified that the minutes would reflect the results of the final vote on the proposed law school incubator project, as the results had to be tabulated and were announced later on in the agenda.

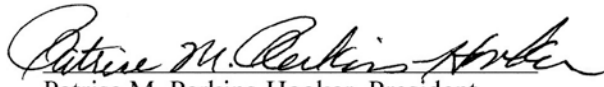
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Patrick T. O'Connor, Secretary

Approved:



Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker, President