

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 19, 2016
State Bar Building/Atlanta, GA**

Members Participating:

Robert J. Kauffman, President; Patrick T. O'Connor, President-elect and Treasurer; Brian D. (Buck) Rogers, Secretary (by phone); Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker, Immediate Past President; John R.B. Long, YLD President; Jennifer Campbell Mock, YLD President-elect, V. Sharon Edenfield, YLD Immediate Past President (by phone); Thomas R. Burnside, III; Elizabeth Louise Fite; Kenneth B. Hodges, III; Phyllis Holmen; David S. Lipscomb; and Nicki Vaughn.

Staff Participating:

Sharon Bryant, Chief Operating Officer; Jeff Davis, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Steve Laine, Chief Financial Officer; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel, and Thomas Worthy, Director of Governmental Affairs.

Recognition of Retiring Executive Committee Members

President-elect and Treasurer Patrick T. O'Connor recognized outgoing Executive Committee members Immediate Past President Patrise Perkins-Hooker and YLD Immediate Past President Sharri Edenfield for their service on the Executive Committee and to the State Bar.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Bob Kauffman reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule.

Executive Committee Minutes

The minutes of the April 15, 2016 meeting of the Executive Committee were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved the following resignation requests: Abiye Tibebe-371289, Vincent Velardo-500234, Diane Renea Zecchino-Lukin-494909, Mary Blank Love-459225, Matilyn F. Dye-236825, Peggy Burke Beville-056050, Jeffrey P. Ganek-283750, Amelia Anne Myers-573881, Joel I. Rosenblatt-531008, Joshua E. Luber-001133.

Member Request: Appeal to Extend Fitness Deadline (Jay Steele)

The Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, granted a request by Jay Steele to extend the Fitness process deadline with the stipulation that he apply for Fitness within 30 days of being apprised of the Executive Committee's decision and that he receive a Certificate of Fitness by December 15, 2106. If he does not meet those deadlines, he will be required to retake the Bar exam.

Proposed Amendments to the Uniform Rules for Superior Court

Paula Frederick reported that the proposed amendments to the Uniform Rule 22, Electronic and Photographic News-Coverage of Judicial Proceedings have been provided to the Executive Committee for its review and comment. Thereafter, the Executive Committee provided its commentary to Paula Frederick, which she will report back to the Council of Superior Court Judges.

Insurance Committee/Security Consultant

Jeff Davis reported that the Insurance Committee, after interviewing two security consulting firms, recommended that the Executive Committee utilize its internal resources that include staff investigators with military and security backgrounds, in coordination with the State Bar's building management

company, Cushman & Wakefield, and the State Bar's building security officer services company, Allied Barton, to assess the State Bar's security infrastructure, technology, policy and training needs.

Communications Committee Proposed Media Plan

Following a report by President Bob Kauffman, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved a proposal from the Dalton Agency, in the amount of \$80,000, for the 2016 State Bar of Georgia Public Education Effort. This social media campaign will promote positive perception of the legal system and the legal profession. The funds will be paid from the Cornerstones of Freedom budget.

Access to Justice Committee Video Funding

Following a report by Nicki Vaughan, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved a request by the Access to Justice Committee for \$29,000 to produce three short videos that highlight pro bono service in an engaging way that can be shown on rotation for CLE programming purposes. They will also be available on the State Bar's website and embedded in the sites of pro bono and other advocacy organizations in Georgia. The funds will be paid from the Cornerstones of Freedom budget.

Strategic Plan

President Bob Kauffman reminded the Executive Committee that the Strategic Monitoring Plan calls for an annual review to determine what, if any, adjustments need to be made to the targets and priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan. The Executive Committee agreed to undertake that review at the September Executive Committee Retreat.

Executive Session

Following a motion and second, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss the Governmental Affairs position, receive a report on pending litigation, and discuss the JQC. Afterward, by unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee moved out of Executive Session.

The Executive Committee took the following action:

- 1) By unanimous voice vote, approved a motion that the State Bar will continue its open dialogue with the General Assembly members to make refinements to the JQC bill in the upcoming legislative session, and
- 2) By unanimous voice vote, approved a motion that the State Bar provide outside counsel to the State Bar's JQC appointees if they are subpoenaed to testify before a House study commission which will review the policies and procedures of the JQC.

Executive Session

Following a motion and second, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to further discuss the JQC. Afterward, by unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee moved out of Executive Session.

Reception for Incoming ABA President Linda Klein

The Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved spending \$17,000 for a reception for incoming ABA President Linda Klein following her swearing-in at the 2016 ABA Annual Meeting, and to amend the 2016-2017 Conference Sponsorship line item to reflect \$40,000.

Feasibility Study & Funding – 5th Floor Data Center

Following a report by President Bob Kauffman, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved a consulting proposal from Enabled Energy in the amount of \$26,240 to conduct a due diligence and feasibility study of the 5th floor for utilizing the floor as a data center.

Bar Litigation Reserve

Following a report by President-elect and Treasurer Patrick T. O'Connor, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved 1) eliminating the OGC and UPL litigation line items in each department's operating budget and moving them to the Litigation Reserves budget, and 2) raising the Litigation Reserves budget from \$250,000 to \$300,000. This will be established by using the residual of the 2015-16 operating budget line items as of 6/30/15, plus an allocation of Bar surplus funds to total \$300,000. Thereafter, the Litigation Reserves account for Bar years 2016-17 and beyond will be the necessary amount to replenish the reserve fund to \$300,000.

President's Report

President Bob Kauffman expressed thanks to the Executive Committee members for their time and support this Bar year. Thereafter, he recognized outgoing Executive Committee members Immediate Past President Patrise Perkins-Hooker and YLD Past President Sharri Edenfield for their service on the Executive Committee.

Treasurer's Report

President-elect and Treasurer Patrick T. O'Connor reported on the Bar's finances and investments. The Executive Committee received copies of the Operations and Bar Center Consolidated Revenues and Expenditures Report as of March 31, 2016; Income Statement YTD for the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2016; Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Summary for the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2016; State Bar Balance Sheet for March 31, 2016; Summary of Dues and Voluntary Contributions at March 31, 2016; Investment Performance Comparison 2006-2016, and Legislative Fund and Cornerstones of Freedom Fund Activity Reports through March 31, 2016.

Thereafter, he provided an update on the Georgia Bar Foundation and the revitalization of the Fellows program.

YLD Report

YLD President Jack Long reported that this year's annual Legal Food Frenzy met its goal of raising over 1 million pounds of food, making a cumulative total raised of more than 5 million pounds of food over its first five years in existence. He announced that the YLD Estate and Elder Law Committee just finished a complete rewrite of the Senior Citizens Handbook and a brochure on selecting a personal care home. He reported that the YLD's quarterly meetings were very well attended this year, and commended the work of the YLD committees. He thanked everyone for giving him the opportunity to serve this year as the YLD President.

Executive Director's Report

Jeff Davis reported that the Attorney Wellness Task Force's *Lawyers Living Well* website will be debuted at the Annual Meeting. Ken Hodges announced that t-shirts will be provided to anyone that registers for one of the Annual Meeting wellness activities.

Election Results

The Executive Committee received a copy of the 2016 State Bar of Georgia Election Results.

Old Business


There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.



Brian D. (Buck) Rogers, Secretary

Approved:



Robert J. Kauffman, President