

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Friday, March 11, 2022, at 1 p.m.
UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center
Hybrid Meeting**

Members Participating

Elizabeth L. Fite, President; Sally B. Akins, President-Elect; Tony DelCampo, Treasurer; Ivy N. Cadle, Secretary; Dawn M. Jones, Immediate Past President; Ronald E. Daniels, YLD President-Elect; Elissa B. Haynes, YLD President; Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD Immediate Past President; William C. Gentry; R. Javoyné Hicks; Shiriki Jones; David S. Lipscomb; Martin Valbuena; and Nicki N. Vaughan.

Members Absent

All were present either in person or via Zoom.

Staff Participating

Sarah Coole, Chief Operating Officer; Damon Elmore, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Christine Butcher Hayes, Director of Governmental Affairs; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; and Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer.

Call to Order

President Elizabeth L. Fite called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Elizabeth L. Fite reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Ivy Cadle presented for approval the minutes of the February 18, 2022, Executive Committee meeting, which were passed by unanimous voice vote as presented.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous voice vote: Anthony Chang Yup Ji-636887, Haifeng Chen-296042, Margaret Anne Boock-066176, Michael P. Senger-921077, Jerome Michael Albanese-007140, Kathryn Karen Wilz-769680, Leon Joe Wolfe-773367.

ACL/Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Christine Butcher Hayes reported that 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 the State Bar is interested in.

Because of the work of the Programs Committee over the last few years, Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena asked if the Georgia Resource Center could ask for more money this year. Director of

Governmental Affairs Hayes said that while they technically could, it isn't how the Judicial Council's budget works, and she would advise they ask for additional funding during next year's budgeting process.

Committee Updates

The following committee updates were provided:

- Executive Committee Member Javoyné Hicks reported the Wellness Committee will be submitting an application to become a section. She will share the application and proposed bylaws with the Executive Committee before it is presented to the Board of Governors. Joyce Gist Lewis is championing the process. The plan is to present the information at the Annual Meeting and vote at the Fall Meeting. Together with the Suicide Awareness Committee and the Lawyer Assistance Program, they are creating a 911 wellness seminar. With the recent increase in attorney suicides, the chairs of each committee are working together on doing whatever they can do to help. There is a Wellness Connection (formally known as Monthly Touches) next week on meditation.
- Executive Committee Member David Lipscomb reported the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Committee will meet at the Spring Meeting in Athens.
- Executive Committee Member David Lipscomb reported the Judicial Procedure and Administration/Uniform Rules Committee hasn't met.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones reported the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession is asking for nominations for the 2022 Commitment to Equality Awards. The deadline is extended to March 31. The Roadmap to Law School Program, headed up by Ira Foster, has had another successful event.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones reported the Georgia Diversity Program is having a CLE on March 15. It is aimed at younger lawyers to help them with business development and includes one ethics hour. Anyone is welcome to attend.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones reported the Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism and Racial Bias Committee has been sharing information about International Women's Day celebrations.
- Executive Committee Member Shiriki Jones reported on the Professionalism Committee. She said they recently met and all the subcommittees attended and gave reports. The hypotheticals for the law school orientations for first-year law students have gone through an extensive review. Another subcommittee is working on updating the Speakers' Bureau with attorneys who have expertise in the areas of professionalism and encouraging organizations to use a diverse group of speakers. She reported the Connect with a Colleague Program will begin soon and to look for information on that. And lastly, the Law Day theme is "Toward a More Perfect Union: The Constitution in Times of Change." The Professionalism Committee encourages the local and voluntary bars to participate in Law Day and interact with their communities.
- Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena reported that the Programs Committee is done for the year.
- Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena reported the Formal Advisory Opinion Board hasn't met since the last Executive Committee meeting.
- Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena reported the Law Practice Management Committee is gearing up for a series of lunch and learns in March, April, May and June, and they are meeting next week.
- Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena reported the Indigent Defense Committee is involved in a lot of legislative activity, and closely monitors all bills that would impact their area of law.
- YLD Immediate Past President Bert Hummel reported that Bridgette Bagley has officially stepped down as outside counsel for the Disciplinary Review Board, and Josh Bell will be the new counsel.

- YLD Immediate Past President Bert Hummel reported that there was some discussion at the CCLC meeting about CCLC's annual contribution to the Bar and to be prepared for questions regarding that in the future.
- Treasurer Tony DelCampo reported that the Statewide Judicial Evaluation Committee has been fairly active in judicial appointments.
- Treasurer Tony DelCampo reported the International Trade in Legal Services Committee is working on a proposed rule change, and he will have more information on that soon.
- Executive Committee Member Bill Gentry reported the Senior Lawyers Committee continues their work and will meet at the Spring Meeting in April. They are currently planning a seminar.
- Executive Committee Member Bill Gentry reported the Children and the Courts Committee meets regularly.
- Executive Committee Member Bill Gentry reported the Attorney-Client Solicitation Committee; has not met.

State Bar of Georgia and Related Organizations Flow of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner presented the State Bar of Georgia and Related Organizations Flow of Cash Receipts and Disbursements. Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones said it was great background information and suggested giving it to the Board of Governors for a better understanding of the Bar's finances.

Officer and Executive Committee Expense and Reimbursement Policy

Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner presented the proposed changes to the Officer and Executive Committee Expense and Reimbursement Policy following the discussion at the September 2021 Executive Committee Meeting. The policy contains three sections: "Officer Reimbursement Policy," "Executive Committee Members (Non-Officers) Reimbursement Policy," and "Reimbursement Procedures (Officers and Non-Officer Executive Committee Members)." After an extensive review, the Executive Committee approved the proposed changes with minor revisions to the "Officer Reimbursement Policy" and the "Reimbursement Procedures (Officers and Non-Officer Executive Committee Members)" sections by majority vote. At their next meeting, the Executive Committee will further review the "Executive Committee Members (Non-Officers) Reimbursement Policy" portion. President Elizabeth L. Fite asked committee members to send comments regarding the non-officer section to Executive Director Damon Elmore and Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported the Bar Center currently has 29,000 square feet of rentable space, and with the help of a broker and Cushman & Wakefield, a small focus group is exploring how to rent or utilize that space. He said that it is a top priority, and there are many different ideas including temporary offices or more long-term solutions for individual attorneys. GLSP has signed a 5-year lease with some office renovations. 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. The mask mandate for the Bar Center has been lifted to be in line with the Supreme Court's policy for their building, along with current CDC recommendations. Executive Director Elmore said that activity in the Conference Center continues to increase, with more meetings taking place in person. He reported that nominating petitions for the Board of Governors race are closed, and there is a lot of competition in some circuits. The election will run from March 18 through April 22. He said that there is a continued focus on ICLE programming, with an increase in attendance at the seminars. They are working to find the balance between in-person, virtual and hybrid meetings. There have been two new ICLE staff members added to help manage content and programming.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tony DelCampo reported that there have not been any major changes since the last Executive Committee meeting, and everything is in order regarding the finances of the Bar.

Office of the General Counsel Report

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported that the recent lawyer suicides and wellness issues are having an impact on OGC, mostly due to an increased number of receiverships. She said the real effort will be making sure people understand the responsibilities of a designated attorney. The description on the license fee notice has been updated to better define the duties of a designated attorney. General Counsel Frederick gave an update on in-house counsel registration, reporting that a subcommittee of the Disciplinary Rules Committee will be created to explore the possibility of requiring in-house counsels to register and pay a fee. The subcommittee will be composed of current in-house counsels, members of the Corporate Counsel Section and Disciplinary Rules Committee members.

Following a motion, second, and unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss the litigation report. Thereafter, by unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session.

YLD Report

YLD President Elissa Haynes reported that the YLD Spring Meeting will be held March 17-20 at the Westin Chattanooga. The YLD Signature Fundraiser will be held on April 30, with Kate's Club as the beneficiary. YLD President Haynes encouraged Executive Committee members to register for the Legal Food Frenzy. The goal this year is \$1 million.

Lawyer Competency Task Force

President Elizabeth L. Fite reported that the Lawyer Competency Task Force will hold a town hall on April 1 at the Spring Meeting to answer questions regarding the task force and its mission.

President's Report

President Elizabeth L. Fite reported that she received a request from Judge Dorothy Beasley to reinstate the iCivics Committee. After discussion, the Executive Committee decided not to reinstate the committee. President Fite reported that the Senate Judiciary dinner went well, and she made sure that they all knew the Bar is willing to be a resource to them when needed. In light of recent attorney suicides and the general well-being of attorneys, President Fite and Executive Committee members had a heartfelt discussion about attorney wellness and the importance of using their voices to help others and normalize therapy, struggles, etc.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones reported that the Leadership Institute for Women of Color Attorneys will be having their 17th annual leadership conference from March 23-25. She also reported that Board Member Gary Spencer has been named senior counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



Ivy Cadle, Secretary

Approved:


