

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Thursday, April 15, 2021, 1 p.m.
Zoom Meeting**

Members Participating

Dawn M. Jones, President; Elizabeth Louise Fite, President-Elect; Sally B. Akins, Treasurer; Tony DelCampo, Secretary; Darrell L. Sutton, Immediate Past President; Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD President; Elissa B. Haynes, YLD President-Elect; William T. Davis, YLD Immediate Past President; Ivy N. Cadle; R. Javoyne Hicks; David S. Lipscomb; Martin Valbuena; and Nicki N. Vaughan.

Members Absent

Amy V. Howell

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 Dawn M. Jones called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Dawn M. Jones reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule. She reported that the Annual Meeting schedule of events has been sent to all Bar members, along with information regarding making room reservations. Annual Meeting registration will be available by the end of the month. President Jones said that as of right now, the Executive Committee meeting on May 14 will be held in person at the Bar Center in Atlanta, with an option to attend virtually as well. All safety precautions will be taken for attendees and staff alike, and if the COVID-19 climate worsens, the meeting will be moved to virtual only. President Jones also reported on plans to also honor the 2019-2020 Bar awards recipients during the upcoming 2020-2021 Annual Meeting, which will require close management of time during the Board of Governors meeting scheduled for Friday, June 11, 2021. President-Elect Elizabeth L. Fite reported that she is working to schedule the 2021-2022 meetings. She plans to schedule the Executive Committee meetings the second Friday of the month. She also noted that the Executive Committee Extended Meeting will likely take place in August instead of September this year.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Tony DelCampo presented for approval the minutes of the February 26, 2021, Executive Committee meeting. By unanimous vote, the Executive Committee approved the minutes as presented.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous vote: Wyatt Robinson-753634, Sara Kluberdanz-311033, Cathleen Massey-654932, Paul Bleak-141895, Paul Karlzen-407945, Franz Wright-449835, Frederick Whittington III-756855, David Keeton-006960, Lisa Henry-190704, Ariel Altman-618168, Sonia Fishkin-261777, William C Davis Jr-213325, Lawrence Reinhold-600475, Katherine Bissell-058908.

Member Status Appeals

The Executive Committee, by unanimous vote, approved a request by Cara Hergenroether for an extension until December 1, 2021, to complete fitness and reinstate from administrative suspension due to non-payment of fees; by unanimous vote, moved to not waive the late fees for Leslie Pfrang and denied her request to resign without the required petition; by unanimous vote, approved a request by Angela Sconyers to grant her an extension of time until December 1, 2021, to complete fitness and reinstate from administrative suspension due to non-payment of fees.

Approval of 2021-2022 Election Schedule

The Executive Committee, by unanimous vote, approved the 2021-2022 Election Schedule as presented.

Approval of 2021-2022 Proposed State Bar Budget

After a summary and explanation of the proposed 2021-2022 Budget Assumptions and 2021-2022 State Bar Budget from Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner, and discussion by the Executive Committee, there was a motion and a second to provide \$110,332 to the Georgia Resource Center for the 2021-2022 Bar year. This motion failed, 2 for and 9 against, with 1 abstention.

Following a motion, second, and unanimous vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss personnel budget items, including staff salaries and increase in health insurance premiums. Thereafter, by unanimous vote, the Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session.

After further discussion by the Executive Committee, the 2021-2022 State Bar Budget was approved by majority vote with revisions to the 2021-2022 Budget Assumptions page as follows:

- On the 6th budget assumption, add “for the Bar Center in Atlanta” to make the first sentence read, “The Bar does not pay rent to any independent company or organization for the Bar Center in Atlanta.”
- On the 9th budget assumption, change it to read, “Excludes any income associated with previous Bar Facility assessments. Those Bar Facility assessments previously contributed \$260,000 per year (\$50 per year per affected attorney) to the budget.”

Executive Session

Following a motion, second, and unanimous vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss the upcoming joint meeting with the Supreme Court. Thereafter, by unanimous vote, the Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session.

President’s Report

President Jones reported that she continues to meet with senior staff – Executive Director Damon Elmore, General Counsel Paula Frederick and Chief Operating Officer Sarah Coole – twice a week to ensure all Bar needs are handled. She also continues to receive invitations to speak at local bar events. She reported that Director of Meetings Michelle Garner is working hard on the new meeting platform, Bizzabo, for the Annual Meeting.

Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported that with assistance from our Governmental Affairs Department, he is looking to schedule meetings with certain legislators or key legislative staff outside of the legislative session. He will keep the Executive Committee updated and make everyone aware ahead of time in order to invite others to join. He announced that the new communications director, Lauren Kane, officially started today. He reported that the Bar has three open positions currently: Georgia Diversity Program Executive Director, Executive Administrative Assistant and the Law Practice Management

Director. He said planning is underway for returning to the office, while staff currently continues to work from home.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sally Akins and Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner reported the finances of the State Bar. The Audit Committee met and approved the audit report. That report will be provided to the Executive Committee as an informational item at the May meeting.

YLD Report

YLD President Bert Hummel reported that the Legal Food Frenzy will officially begin on Monday, April 19. He asked that all Executive Committee members participate in this important and meaningful event. He said that the YLD's Women in the Profession Committee is holding another wills clinic during the month of April. He reported that the Leadership Academy class of 2020 will graduate at the Annual Meeting. He is currently working to finalize a CLE, either for Leadership Academy or as the second event for the YLD Speakers' Bureau. YLD President Hummel thanked everyone for their support of the Young Lawyers Division and invited everyone to the annual YLD dinner, held Friday night during the Annual Meeting.

Office of General Counsel Report

Following a motion, second, and unanimous 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.

Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Christine Hayes reported that this year's legislative session ended on March 31. The Uniform Mediation bill passed, but the online notary bill did not pass and will continue next year in the second year of the session. She said this year's ABA Day is being held virtually, and it will be easier for more to participate. She will be setting up meetings with Georgia's congressional delegation to discuss LSC funding, etc., within the next three weeks and will notify Executive Committee members so they can participate, particularly in meetings with their own representatives. President Jones thanked Director of Governmental Affairs Hayes, Executive Director Damon Elmore and others who worked behind the scenes to help gather and prepare the needed information for their work during the session.

Committee Updates

The following committee updates were given:

- President Dawn M. Jones reported that the Seeking Equal Justice Committee will hold a 3-hour CLE at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 10, at 9:00 a.m. She said that the next Courageous Conversation is planned for early May on the topic of white fragility.
- Martin Valbuena reported that the Local Bar Committee met and judged the 2020 awards and that the 2021 awards are in motion.

Old Business

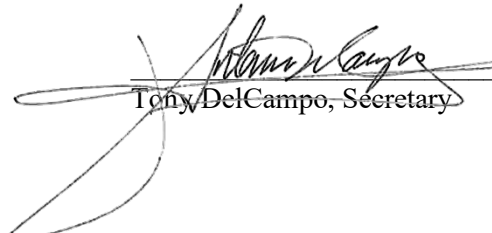
There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

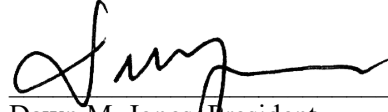
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.



Tony DelCampo, Secretary

Approved:



Dawn M. Jones, President