

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 1 p.m.  
Zoom 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. Javoynne Hicks; Shiriki Jones; David S. Lipscomb; Martin Valbuena; and Nicki N. Vaughan.

Members Absent

All were present.

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 March 11, 2022, Executive Committee meeting, which were passed by unanimous voice vote as amended.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous voice vote: Ruchira Ray-906787, John E. Kresge-429614, D. Michael Keen-410485, Cheryl J. Thomas-176750.

Members Requesting Disability Status

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-202, the Executive Committee approved one request for disabled status by unanimous voice vote.

Standing Executive Committee Policy 1000 (State Bar Elections)

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith presented the Elections Committee's proposed changes to Section (h) *Questions and Appeals*, of Standing Executive Committee Policy 1000 (State Bar Elections). After discussion of changes to be made for clarification, Secretary Ivy Cadle made a motion to table this discussion until the next meeting to allow for Deputy General Counsel NeSmith to make the proposed amendments. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Approval of the 2022-2023 Election Schedule

The Executive Committee approved the 2022-2023 Election Schedule as proposed.

### Approval of the 2022-2023 Proposed State Bar Budget

The Executive Committee approved the 2022-2023 State Bar budget as amended.

### Committee Updates

The following committee updates were provided:

- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones reported that the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession is planning a CLE presentation for the State Bar's 2022 Annual Meeting.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones reported that the Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias Committee has a committee meeting on April 22. She said she will give further details by email about their upcoming events.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones has asked the chairs and leaders of the Georgia Diversity Program, the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession, and the Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism and Bias Committee to meet and see if they can help support each other, share resources, and invite committee members to the others' events to have a more cohesive understanding of the similar committees and knowledge of each other's goals.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones reported on the ICLE Board. She said they were disappointed in the low attendance at the General Practice and Trial Institute. The ICLE Board is working to gather information and feedback about the sections and other entities that participate in ICLE programming.
- Executive Committee Member David Lipscomb reported that the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Committee had a meeting at the Spring Meeting. They are considering revisions to Rules 1.5 and 1.8 to clarify whether a lawyer may include a provision in a retainer agreement that requires the client to arbitrate malpractice claims and disputes.
- Executive Committee Member Shiriki Jones reported that the Local and Voluntary Bar Committee has been working on two main items, the Local Bar Awards and Law Day. The committee members are reaching out to the local bars to invite them to submit for the awards and also encourage them to participate in Law Day events in their communities.

### OGC Succession Planning Process

Office of the General Counsel Overview Committee Chair Amy Howell reported that President Elizabeth L. Fite charged the committee with evaluating the need for a succession plan for the Office of the General Counsel. She said that the first step was assessing what the challenges are in the next 1-5 years, what positions are critical, and the competency and skills needed. The second step is evaluating high potential candidates, whether internal or external. And the third step is to take action. Ms. Howell said that the committee is narrowing down the first step, identifying what has been done, updating the general counsel's job description, creating a list of core competencies for the role, and having discussions around future issues that may arise. The committee will then make a recommendation if succession planning would be beneficial. If it is recommended, they will continue to work through the process.

### Standing Board Policy 600 (Conflicts of Interest)

General Counsel Paula Frederick presented proposed changes to Standing Board Policy 600 (Conflicts of Interest), which requires that volunteer leaders of the Bar (Volunteers) disclose conflicts in certain situations. The proposed policy would allow Volunteers who disclose the conflict to participate in discussion but would project the Volunteer from voting. If the Volunteer is not willing to disclose the nature of the conflict, he or she would not be allowed to participate in discussions or vote on the issue. These changes will also be mirrored in the Bar's Employee Handbook. General Counsel Frederick asked everyone to email her with thoughts, changes or additions to the policy. The Executive Committee will vote on the proposed changes at an upcoming meeting.

### Officer and Executive Committee Expense and Reimbursement Policy

The Executive Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed changes to the “Executive Committee Members (Non-Officers) Reimbursement Policy” portion of the Officer and Executive Committee Expense and Reimbursement Policy. As the policy stands, non-officers are only reimbursed for their standard hotel room and organized meals for the Executive Committee Extended Meeting and the Supreme Court of Georgia joint meeting. The proposed changes would continue to include the standard hotel room and organized meals for those two meetings, plus reimbursements for lodging, organized meals and mileage for all Executive Committee meetings. It was suggested that the policy include all Executive Committee meetings with an amount not to exceed a set amount, and be subject to the same policy as officers. After much discussion, President Elizabeth L. Fite said she would take everyone’s feedback and discuss it further with Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner and Executive Director Damon Elmore, and they will present a new version of the proposed policy at the next Executive Committee meeting.

### Executive Director’s Report

Following a motion, second, and unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session for Executive Director Damon Elmore’s report to discuss a personnel matter. Thereafter, by unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session.

### 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 Bridget Bagley retired as Review Board Counsel, and the Board has hired Josh Bell as the new Review Board Counsel.

### Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Christine Hayes reported that the legislative session ended Monday, April 4. She said the bill to remit State Bar funds to the treasury did not get a hearing and failed, along with the study committee to look at Bar funds. Legislation to create the Prosecuting Attorneys Oversight Commission (HB 411 and SB 218) also failed. HB 974 passed, which requires all clerks of superior court to offer electronic filing for recordable instruments. The Real Property Law Section was able to get the language they wanted added that allows for mail-in filing. The Legislature did not extend the Georgia COVID-19 Pandemic Business Safety Act, the 2020 legislation which limits liability for potential claims arising from COVID-19 transmission and exposure.

The following is a summary of the Bar’s 2022 legislative package:

1. Support for the Inclusion of Fraud Prevention Provisions from ATLA/MBA Model Act in Georgia's Remote Online Notary Legislation (HB 334)—Real Property Law Section  
*Status: Did not pass. A conference committee of legislators from both chambers failed to reach a consensus on the language of the bill.*
2. Support for the Adoption of Advance Psychiatric Directive Legislation in Georgia (HB 752)—Fiduciary Law Section  
*Status: Passed.*
3. Support for the Superior and State Court Appellate Practice Act (HB 916)—Appellate Practice Section  
*Status: Passed.*

4. Support for Establishing the Judicial Legal Defense Fund Commission (HB 409)—Bench and Bar Committee  
*Status: Passed.*
5. Support for "Raise the Age" Legislation (HB 272)—Children and the Courts Committee  
*Status: Did not pass. Failed to receive a final vote in the Senate.*
6. Support for Digital Court Reporting Legislation—General Practice & Trial Law Section  
*Status: This proposal was ultimately not filed during the 2022 session.*
7. 7. Support for FY 2023 Judicial Council Budget Request  
\$750,000 to Fund Civil Legal Services Grants for Kinship Care Families  
*Status: Kinship grants are fully funded in the 2023 fiscal year budget.*
8. Support for FY 2023 Judicial Council Budget Request  
\$3 Million to Fund Civil Legal Services Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence  
*Status: Domestic violence grants are fully funded 2023 fiscal year budget.*
9. Support for FY 2022 Judicial Council Budget Request  
\$800,000 to Fund the Georgia Appellate Practice and Educational Resource Center  
*Status: Georgia Resource Center is fully funded in the 2023 fiscal year budget.*

#### YLD Report

YLD President Elissa Haynes reported she has moved to Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP. She said the YLD Signature Fundraiser is in two weeks on Saturday, April 30, and asked the Executive Committee to consider sponsoring or buying tickets to attend. She said they have raised enough money to cover their expenses, and the remainder of the donations will go to Kate's Club.

#### Lawyer Competency Task Force

President Elizabeth L. Fite reported that the Lawyer Competency Task Force had a town hall at the 2022 Spring Meeting. The task force subcommittees reported on their purpose and progress to date. Comments and discussion from those in attendance added to the conversation and understanding of the committee's purpose.

#### President's Report

President Elizabeth L. Fite reported that she has been working with Executive Director Damon Elmore to create an annual review process for the executive director position. This will allow for transparency and gives the Board of Governors additional information for their annual approval of the executive director.

#### State Bar Employee of the Year Award

General Counsel Paula Frederick announced the Employee of the Year Award recipient.

#### Distinguished Service Award

President Elizabeth L. Fite announced the Distinguished Service Award recipient.

#### Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements


There were no announcements.

Adjournment

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

  
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Ivy Cadle, Secretary

Approved:

  
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