

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EXTENDED MEETING  
MINUTES  
September 23, 2021 at 11 a.m.  
Nathan Deal Justice 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; Elissa B. Haynes, YLD President; Ronald E. Daniels, YLD President-Elect; Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD Immediate Past President; William C. Gentry; R. Javoynne Hicks; Shiriki Jones (via Zoom); David S. Lipscomb; Martin Valbuena; and Nicki N. Vaughan (via Zoom).

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 11:05 a.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Elizabeth L. Fite reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule. President-Elect Sally Akins reported that she has picked dates for her meetings and is working with Meetings Director Michelle Garner on locations and contracts. Senior Bar staff will continue to look at ways to decrease costs of meetings and will then share that information with upcoming officers, e.g., drink tickets at events, cash bar after a certain point, evaluate supplementing costs, etc.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Ivy Cadle presented for approval the minutes of the August 20-21, 2021, Executive Committee meeting. By unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee approved the minutes of August 20-21, 2021, as presented.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous voice vote: Sanford Jeremy Roth-729108, Howard Douglas Hinson-356790, Nichole C. Milton-970969, Daniel Cornelius Gunter III-151119, Mark A. Hall-319209, Jessica Anne McArdle-738218, Nanette P. Harley-581911, Judith Jackson Chorlog-420510, Mark David Salsbury-622940, Mesheba Ann Rourk Veeder-616508, Elizabeth Carlin Benton-053351, Teri L. Powers-586579, Matthew Timothy Wood-375656, Laurence Benjamin Beckler-046213, Ingrid Elizabeth Nuss-548027, David Joel Metcalf-503270.

Disability Status

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

### Member Status Appeals

The Executive Committee, by majority vote, approved the staff recommendation to deny Ruth Handley's request to waive the August Late Fee.

### Officer and Executive Committee Expense and Reimbursement Policy

Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner presented proposed changes to the State Bar of Georgia Officer and Executive Committee Expense and Reimbursement Policy. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that senior Bar staff will implement recommendations and add additional information for clarity, and the Executive Committee will discuss the policy further at a future meeting.

### Strategic Plan

President Elizabeth L. Fite reported that many individuals spent years creating the 2016-2018 strategic plan, but then it was challenging to get volunteers to take up the individual sections of the plan and difficult for staff to find the metrics needed to measure the success of each item. Instead of allowing the plan to sit incomplete, the Executive Committee discussed its next course of action. There was a motion and a second to sunset the strategic plan, which failed by majority vote. After much discussion and acknowledgment that the strategic plan by its own language expired in 2018, it was decided that senior Bar staff will work on a closure document for the strategic plan that details the process and the outcomes. It will be presented to the Executive Committee at a later meeting.

### Virtual Meeting and Electronic Voting

President Elizabeth L. Fite updated the Executive Committee regarding the plan for virtual meetings and electronic voting. Zoom will continue to be the platform for virtual meeting participation. She said given the agenda items at the Fall Meeting, it will be important to make sure voting is accurate. Chief Operating Officer Sarah Coole said that Bar staff had researched multiple options for electronic voting, and it was decided that TurningPoint will allow for the most flexibility to change polling questions in real time, as well as have everyone voting on the same platform, both in person and virtual participation. The Communications Department will make sure that all Board of Governors members are notified and have the proper instructions on how to utilize the new platform.

### Committee Updates

The following committee updates were provided:

- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones reported the Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism and Racial Bias Committee met Sept. 15. They are breaking into subcommittees to plan for programs and events. They were reminded to check with the Office of the General Counsel if they had questions regarding their agenda items and to ensure *Keller* compliance. The committee plans to continue their Courageous Conversations series in November with a program about white fragility.
- Jones reported the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession met on Sept. 17. She said she reminded the committee that disabilities are included in their equality mission and goal, not just race, gender and sexual orientation.
- Jones reported that the Georgia Diversity Program will meet next week on Sept. 28 regarding their programming for the year. She also plans to reach out separately to the new executive director Halima White.
- Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena reported the Programs Committee met on Sept. 20. They, along with Finance and Personnel, have started meeting earlier this year per President Fite, to make the budgeting process smoother. They began discussing the programs that they would like to have come back in and report on their program. They will meet again in November and December and give a final recommendation to the Finance Committee.

- Valbuena reported the Indigent Defense Committee met last Friday and will be sending a request to the Executive Committee at an upcoming meeting.
- Valbuena reported the Law Practice Management Committee has a meeting schedule for Oct. 22.
- Executive Committee Member David Lipscomb reported that the Professional Liability Insurance Committee sent their materials to the Board of Governors for further review and vote at the Fall Meeting.
- Executive Committee Member Javoyné Hicks reported the Attorney Wellness Committee met and talked about a lot of ideas, including the possibility of wellness becoming a section. They have a subcommittee looking into that. The program needs funding and becoming a section would be a way generate non-dues revenue. She said they would ask to remain a committee as well to show the importance of wellness. She said their “monthly touches” will begin again soon, and they are planning a CLE for 2022.
- Hicks reported that the Lawyer Assistance Program will meet on Sept. 24.
- The Suicide Prevention Committee is participating in the Out of the Darkness Walk on Nov. 7. They will have a team registered for the Bar for those who want to participate and walk with the group.
- Executive Committee Member Bill Gentry said the Children and the Courts Committee sent a survey to its members. They meet regularly and do a lot.
- Gentry said there will be a side bar in the October issue of the *Georgia Bar Journal* regarding the succession planning tool the Senior Lawyers Committee launched last year. President Fite said that her focus for the next Know Your Bar program will be the succession planning tool and the importance of naming a receiver.
- Gentry said the Advertising and Solicitation Committee has not yet met this year. Executive Committee Member Tony DelCampo said that while solicitation is a big problem, it’s hard to prosecute these cases.

#### ACL/Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Christine Butcher Hayes reported the Advisory Committee on Legislation met two weeks ago, and there was one item on the agenda: Support for Judicial Council Budget Request for FY 2023 Funding for Civil Legal Services Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence. She said she expects the Nov. 30 meeting to include more items after the committees and sections have had more time to meet and submit their requests.

#### Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported on the activity of the ICLE department, including a review of upcoming programming, both in-person and livestreaming; changes in communication and marketing; and ICLE survey results and data related to in-person and virtual programming. He also provided a detailed report regarding the recent meeting of the CLE subcommittee of the Supreme Court’s Lawyer Competency Task Force.

#### Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer Tony DelCampo reported on the Bar’s finances and the Executive Committee reviewed the end of the year financials, ending June 30. In total, the Bar budgeted a profit of \$214,511 for the year ended June 30, 2021. This total budgeted profit for the Bar was calculated as a budgeted loss for the Bar of \$336,081 and a budgeted profit for Bar Center operations of \$550,592. Bar Center operations realized an actual profit of \$500,127 for the year. The Bar also realized a profit of \$466,171 instead of the budgeted loss of \$336,081. This difference of \$802,252 is comprised of the following six components: (1) savings in

salaries and related personnel costs of \$331,609, (2) savings in officer expenses (both Bar and YLD) of \$135,285, (3) savings in attorney, staff and investigator travel of \$127,919, (4) savings in meetings of \$115,676, (5) savings in contract special master costs of \$71,848, and (6) savings in YLD Committees expenses of \$70,591. The savings on these six items total \$852,928.

Treasurer DelCampo made a recommendation of increasing the \$100 variance on the line item variance explanation memo to a \$500 variance to save a significant amount of time for staff. There will be no effect on the audit, and Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner agreed with the recommendation. There was no formal vote, but the Executive Committee acknowledged that a \$500 variance threshold was more than sufficient.

Chief Financial Officer Turner reported the Finance Committee met on Sept. 22 and had a good discussion regarding the budgeting process and upcoming budgeting season.

#### Office of the General Counsel's Report

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported that at the president's request, she is working on updating many policies that will ready next month for review by the Executive Committee. She said the Disciplinary Board meets tomorrow, and there was a nationwide trend over the last 3-4 years where the number of grievances was falling, but right now, it is up for Georgia. She attributes that to lawyers and the public getting back to a normal pace after the pandemic. The Office of the General Counsel has also been testing an e-filing system for disciplinary cases that will be significant for the Bar and helpful for Georgia lawyers.

General Counsel Frederick said that the Disciplinary Rules Committee has been working on revising Part VII of the disciplinary rules, which deals with advertising and solicitation, bringing our rules more in line with the ABA model rules, although they won't be exactly the same. They are looking for feedback on what they have drafted, possibly a town hall at the Midyear Meeting, and then they will revise what they have done based on that feedback. If the timing does not work right now, the committee is willing to hold this item until a later date.

#### YLD Report

YLD President Elissa Haynes reported that she continues to work on the YLD buddy program, and she and Bill Gentry have both pledged \$500 to support a young lawyer attending YLD meetings. She will be sending materials to the Executive Committee regarding the program as well. The YLD is also working to pair lawyers who are thinking of retiring with young lawyers with the hope that the younger lawyers will take over those offices and clients. YLD President Haynes said she has planned visits to the YLD affiliates across the state, and the affiliates' contact information will be placed on the YLD website in an effort to connect the entire state.

#### Lawyer Competency Task Force

The Executive Committee discussed the Supreme Court's Lawyer Competency Task Force, and members reported on their specific subcommittees.

#### Topics of Discussion with the Supreme Court

The Executive Committee discussed topics of discussion for the joint meeting of the Supreme Court of Georgia, which directly followed this meeting.

#### President's Report

President Elizabeth L. Fite had no additional report.

#### Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

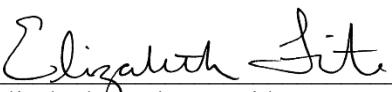
There was no new business.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.

  
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Ivy Cadle, Secretary

Approved:

  
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Elizabeth D. Fite, President