

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Friday, November 5, 2021 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; Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD Immediate Past President; William C. Gentry; R. Javoyne Hicks; Shiriki Jones; David S. Lipscomb; Martin Valbuena; and Nicki N. Vaughan.

Members Absent

Elissa B. Haynes, YLD President.

Staff Participating

Sarah Coole, Chief Operating Officer; Damon Elmore, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; and Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer.

Call to Order

President Elizabeth L. Fite called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above. For the good of the order, President Fite recognized the Atlanta Braves winning the World Series. Go Braves!

Future Meetings Schedule

President Elizabeth L. Fite reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule. She announced the April 2022 meeting will be moving to April 14 to avoid a conflict with Good Friday. The pending contract for the 2022 Spring Meeting is almost complete. President-elect Sally Akins reported that there is no contract for the 2023 Annual Meeting yet, but tentative dates are June 7-11, 2023. President Fite reported there will be a clothing drive benefitting Canine Cellmates at the Midyear Meeting, an organization she volunteers with that is in need of gently used men's business and casual attire.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Ivy Cadle presented for approval the minutes of the September 23, 2021, 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: Mark Dermot O'Mara-553115, Janelle Nicole Christian-891644, H. Owen Maddux-465516, Andrew Mourad Shenoda-490908, Erich Jason Schwerd-631329, Louis E. Brizzolara III-083550, Stephen Anthony Fern-259152, Rachel Marie Van Strayhorn-489564, Amy Cara Willis Aaron-674187, Robert Michael Bennison-052172, Arthur Greebler-306667, Maureen Malloy Calderara-102470, Tiffany Adair Timmerman-910484, Lisa Anne Ruff-619075, George L. Strobel II-688590.

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 unanimous voice vote, denied a request by James Matthew Bass for waiver of August late fees.

Amendments to Rules & Proposed Changes

Rule 1-501. License Fees

David Lipscomb made a motion to amend the proposed changes to Rule 1-501, License Fees, to Section (e), to add “(4) good cause for the delinquency.” The Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved the amendment, and by unanimous voice vote, approved the proposed amendments to Rule 1-501, License Fees. Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith will share the proposed changes with the Supreme Court of Georgia before the rules go to the Board of Governors for a vote.

Article III, Section 7. Honorary Members

The proposed changes to Article III, Section 7, Honorary Members, are in line with Robert’s Rules of Order, except for nominating members for the Executive Committee or an officer, which it is silent on. The Executive Committee, by majority vote, approved the amendments to Article III, Section 7, Honorary Members with the following changes: 1) Line 5: remove “er” from “younger”, and 2) Line 11: Add “however” at: “ascertaining a quorum; **however**, honorary members may nominate or second a member of the Bar to serve as a member of the Executive Committee or an officer of the State Bar of Georgia.” These proposed changes will now go to the membership of the State Bar of Georgia at the 2022 Midyear Meeting.

Standing Board Policy 600 (Conflicts of Interest)

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith presented a revised version of Standing Board Policy 600, which deals with conflicts of interest for Bar volunteers. After discussion, the Executive Committee was asked to send further comments to General Counsel Paula Frederick and Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith.

Committee Updates

The following committee updates were provided:

- Executive Committee Member Javoyné Hicks reported the Attorney Wellness, Suicide Awareness and Lawyer Assistance Program committees are participating as a team for the Out of the Darkness Walk on Sunday, Nov. 7, and invited everyone to join them.
- Executive Committee Member David Lipscomb reported the Board of Governors voted to sunset the Professional Liability Insurance Committee.
- Executive Committee Member David Lipscomb reported the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Committee met at the Fall Meeting.
- Executive Committee Member David Lipscomb reported the Board of Governors approved the amendments to the Fee Arbitration rules.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones said the Georgia Diversity Program has been active. They recently held a CLE focused on mediations and another CLE focused on disabilities and disabled members of the Bar, covering a broad range of topics.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones reported the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession is also very active. Committee Member Ira Foster has been coordinating Road Map to Law School events at Fort Valley State and Savannah State University.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones said the Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism and Racial Bias Committee rescheduled their meeting for next month.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones said the ICLE Board met but did not have a quorum to vote on who would be chairing next year and other items. They will take up those items at their next meeting.
- Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena reported the Programs Committee will have

- its second meeting of the Bar year next week, and they will hear reports on select programs.
- Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena said the Formal Advisory Opinion Board recently held a meeting and discussed arguments in front of the Supreme Court of Georgia on the opinion that deals with whether a lawyer can contact former employee of a corporation.
 - Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena said the Law Practice Management Committee has created a series of Lunch and Learns through November. The new LPM director, Nkoyo Effiong, started on Oct. 18.
 - Executive Committee Member Nicki Vaughan, on behalf of the Indigent Defense Committee, thanked President Fite and President-elect Akins for their interest in a project the committee is working on.
 - Executive Committee Member Bill Gentry reported the Children and the Courts Committee is working on multiple legislative issues, including raising the age and equal parenting time.
 - President Elizabeth Fite reported the Communications Committee is working on an RFP for a website redesign. The redesign is needed to better connect the separate databases where information is stored and displayed on the Bar's website.
 - President Elizabeth Fite reported that the Finance, Personnel and Programs committees have already met and are getting an early start on the budget.
 - Treasurer Tony DelCampo said the Investment Committee has been working on changes to the investment strategy.

ACL/Legislative Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore gave the legislative report. He reminded everyone the next meeting of the Advisory Committee on Legislation is on November 30. The deadline for committees or sections to submit proposals to be considered at that meeting is November 23.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported that the Investment Committee is considering changes to the investment policy, primarily modifying the asset allocation and prohibiting additional items like cryptocurrency. The Bar's fund manager will be invited to the December meeting to further explain the changes and recommendations. Executive Director Elmore said Bar staff has been focused on meetings and long-term planning and budgeting. He said leasing is a big topic right now with Bar Center tenants, and initial conversations have begun regarding securing a new space in Savannah to house the Coastal Georgia Office in an effort to save on rent and find more suitable space. He reported the Conference Center has been much busier with many groups utilizing the space.

Executive Director Elmore shared a draft of a memo that will serve as a closing report for the 2016-2018 strategic plan. He will contact Past President Bob Kauffman to get any additional input regarding the plan. Executive Committee Member Javoyne Hicks and Nicki Vaughan will work with Executive Director Elmore to add additional details to the closing report.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tony DelCampo reported on the finances of the Bar and said everything is fiscally sound.

Office of the General Counsel Report

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported the General Counsel Office Overview Committee has had a rigorous meeting schedule this year, focused on a succession plan for the general counsel position, including setting a timeline and planning for overlap with the successor.

She said the Disciplinary Rules and Procedures 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. The committee is looking for feedback on what they have drafted. They will hold a 1-hour CLE at the Midyear Meeting to explain the changes, and then they will revise what they have done based on that feedback.

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-elect Ron Daniels reported that he has started planning his presidency year and is touring the state meeting with affiliates. He said that YLD leadership were all happy with the joint BOG/YLD Fall Meeting in Savannah.

Lawyer Competency Task Force

President-elect Sally Akins reported that the Lawyer Competency Task Force subcommittees are continuing to meet and form their recommendations to present to the full committee by the end of the year. She said there will be a town hall at the Midyear Meeting with task force members present to answer questions.

President's Report

President Elizabeth Fite reported that she continues to attend local bar meetings when invited, including recent visits with the Columbus Bar, Gwinnett Bar and Savannah Bar. She said that she meets with senior Bar staff weekly to address concerns or any outstanding issues. President Fite also reported that she recorded a Lawyers Living Well podcast with Lawyer Assistance Program Committee Chair Lynn Garson that will be out soon.

Recap of BOG Fall Meeting

President Elizabeth Fite briefly recapped the Board of Governors Fall Meeting:

- The Board voted to keep everything status quo regarding the Professional Liability Insurance Committee's recommendation.
- The Clients' Security Fund \$15 annual assessment passed, along with the rules governing the fund. Those rules will be published on the Bar's website for a comment period and will then go to the Supreme Court of Georgia for their approval.
- The amended Fee Arbitration rules passed. Those rules will also be published on the Bar's website for a comment period and will then go to the Supreme Court of Georgia for their approval.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

- GLSP Executive Director Rick Rufolo is retiring at the end of the year.
- YLD Immediate Past President Bert Hummel announced that he will be leaving Lewis Brisbois and joining a personal injury firm.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones said the State Disciplinary Review Board is hiring a part-time disciplinary counsel (independent contractor) and if anyone knows of someone who may be interested in the position to send resumes to Jack Long.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones said ICJE Director Doug Ashworth is retiring as of Feb. 1, 2022. She will provide the job description and further information by email.

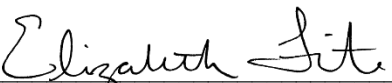
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.



Ivy Cadle, Secretary

Approved:



Elizabeth D. Fite, President