

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, 1 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting**

Members Participating

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; Amy V. Howell; David S. Lipscomb; Martin Valbuena; and Nicki N. Vaughan.

Members Absent

Dawn M. Jones, President.

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-Elect Elizabeth L. Fite called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. She said that she would be presiding over the meeting because President Dawn M. Jones was unable to attend due to a family emergency. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings Schedule

President-Elect Elizabeth L. Fite reported the Executive Committee/Supreme Court Joint Meeting will take place on April 15-16, and the Supreme Court of Georgia requested that it be virtual rather than in person. Meetings Director Michelle Garner will research social activities to hold during the meeting. President-Elect Fite also reported that the 2021-22 meetings are not yet reflected on the Future Meetings Schedule because they are still in the contract phase.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Tony DelCampo presented for approval the minutes of two Executive Committee meetings. By unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee approved the revised minutes of December 4, 2020, and the minutes as presented for December 17, 2020.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous voice vote: Christopher Pearson-569288, Lisa Powell-549325, Melissa Kaufman-940396, Suzanne Kalutkiewicz-134859, William Stephen Lewis-451815, Terrance McGowan-101014, Brenda Jo Lyles-461720, Susan Eve Roberts-608889, Gary Mikell-504939, Michael Wayne Brown-588133, David Sturgess-897391, Lauren Moss-631224, Thomas LaFleur-165631, Daniel O. Bradley-074750, Stephen McKay-494210, Andrew Charles Levy-449190, Mary Roberson-608048, Robert James Heller Jr-344103, Michael John Machell-463622, Morad Fakhimi-236341, Warren B. Brams-075798, Dinko Hadzic-483994.

Members Requesting Disability Status

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

### President's Report

President-Elect Elizabeth L. Fite reported on behalf of President Dawn M. Jones. President Jones spoke with Past President Patrick T. O'Connor regarding his request to create a State Bar of Georgia Bobby Jones Award and let him know the Executive Committee did not have the desire to institute the award at this time. He was offered the opportunity to present the request to the Executive Committee, and he said he will consider it and may present at a later date. President-Elect Fite also reported that President Jones does not intend to pursue including an Executive Committee attendance roster in future Board Books, having heard the concerns of the Executive Committee members.

### Bar Center Assessment

President-Elect Elizabeth L. Fite reported that President Dawn M. Jones plans to meet with Past President Hal Daniel and Board Member Henry Walker, along with Executive Director Damon Elmore, and provide them with additional information regarding the Bar Center Assessment to ensure everyone has complete information prior to the Board of Governors Spring Meeting.

### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported that the State Bar's 2021-22 budget is the highest priority at the moment. He acknowledged that there are challenges with budgeting this year, including decreased revenue. He said that all departmental managers are looking closely at each line item in order to decrease the budget as much as possible. Executive Director Elmore also reported that he is working with staff to ensure everyone is performing their job duties with efficiency while continuing to work from home. He said that the managers are doing well and overseeing their staff regularly. He reported that he, along with Chief Operating Officer Sarah Coole and Human Resources Director Sandra Dixon, will be conducting interviews for the director of communications, while taking a close look at enhancing the responsibilities of the position. He said that the State Bar will be losing tenants effective next week, and he will be working on creative ways to find replacements. He plans to ask Executive Committee and Bar Center Committee members for leads and contacts.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sally Akins reported that there is about a \$500,000 loss in revenue due to losing tenants in the Bar building. She said that there is also decreased revenue because the parking deck has been closed, but that there will be savings in other line items, for example, meetings. Treasurer Akins also reported that the Clients' Security Fund is below the \$1 million required amount as of November 30, 2020, and that fund will need to be brought back up to the minimum as required by Bar Rule 10-103.

### Office of the General Counsel's Report

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

### YLD Report

YLD President Bert Hummel reported that the YLD has been planning programming for the Spring Meeting of the Board of Governors. He said that despite the pandemic, they are trying to finish the year strong. The YLD was also approved and added to the Reading to Children Program and to contact him if anyone would like to volunteer and be added to the rotation.

### Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Christine Hayes reported that a new bill had just been filed, HB 166, that would have "license fees and other moneys collected by the State Bar to be paid into the general fund of the state treasury and expended in compliance with the laws of this state and the rules and regulations of

the State Bar.” She will be contacting multiple parties to find out more information about HB 166 and report back to the Executive Committee accordingly. She reported that no Bar bills had yet been filed this year, but the remote notary bill was in its final state and should be filed that day. She reported that she and the other Bar lobbyists will be supporting funding for victims of domestic violence and the Georgia Resource Center. Martin Valbuena asked when an appropriate time would be to request additional funding for the Georgia Resource Center, which Director of Governmental Affairs Hayes said was May. She reported that there are other bills of interest to lawyers that she will be following: 1) a bill to create the Columbia County Judicial Circuit, and 2) a proposed bill the Bench & Bar Committee has frequently talked about, which would provide counsel for judges when lawsuits are filed against them.

#### Strategic Plan

President-Elect Elizabeth L. Fite said that the time has come to either commit to the strategic plan or to shelve it. For now, Bar staff will try to fill in the baseline numbers where possible. It was acknowledged that the strategic plan was written years ago, and it may need to be updated to be relevant.

#### Committee Updates

Executive Committee members updated on the following committees in which they are liaisons:

- Martin Valbuena reported that because the Bar no longer funds iCivics, we should consider not reappointing that special committee in the 2021-22 Bar year.
- Martin Valbuena reported on a recent Fee Arbitration Committee meeting.
- Martin Valbuena report that the *Georgia Bar Journal* Editorial Board continues to meet every other month to review the legal articles for the *Journal*.
- Amy Howell reported that the SOLACE Committee had a meeting during the Midyear Meeting in January, and with the help of staff liaison Layne Bridges in the South Georgia Office, they continue to take in requests and help members when possible.
- Will Davis reported that the Children and the Courts Committee meets about once a month. They are currently keeping an eye on legislation that would make changes to the domestic custody laws in Georgia. It is not a Bar sponsored bill; the committee is just monitoring it.
- Tony DelCampo reported that the Military Legal Assistance Program was scheduled to have an award ceremony at the Midyear Meeting, but it was canceled due to being virtual. They are now considering it for the Annual Meeting (or the next in-person meeting).
- Javoyne Hicks reported that the Attorney Wellness and Lawyer Assistance Program committees are both very active. One issue for the Lawyer Assistance Program is they may have underestimated the reach of the #UseYourSix campaign, which has resulted in a great increase for CorpCare, Inc., who is contracted to run the program. CorpCare, Inc., is currently under contract until 2022, but the contract may need to be renegotiated at that time. Both committees are discussing messaging and promoting that you do not have to have an issue to seek help.

#### Old Business

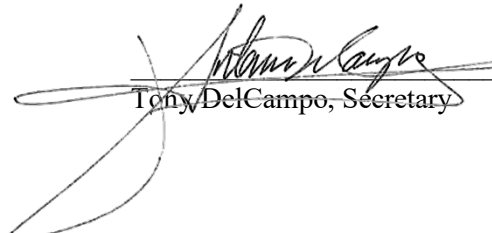
There was no old business.

#### New Business

There was no new business.

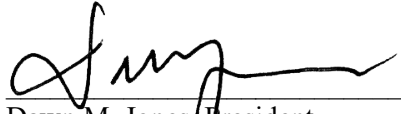
#### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.



Tony DelCampo, Secretary

Approved:



Dawn M. Jones, President