

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
Friday, December 10, 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; Elissa B. Haynes, YLD President; 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

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 1:04 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Elizabeth L. Fite reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule. She announced the January Executive Committee meeting will be cancelled.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Ivy Cadle presented for approval the minutes of the November 5, 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: Patricia Banks Morrison-036296, Lee Rivera Williams-002540, Michael F. Nullet-688096, Dean Carl Arvidson-023890, Frank Liss-453880, William Montross-517663, Mark Tomaszek-152574.

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, approved the staff recommendation of waiving the late fee for Mansoor Ansari; and approved the staff recommendation to vacate the administrative suspension for Amy Koontz and have her pay annual fees and late fees for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022.

### Review of Investment Policy Statement

Andy Harbour, the managing partner of Greystone Atlanta, attended the Executive Committee meeting to discuss the Investment Committee's proposed changes to the Investment Policy. He said the goal of updating the policy is to move from a very conservative model to something more in line with the current financial climate to provide an optimal investment mix for the State Bar. The changes provide for longer-term investing and allow up to 30% with a target of 20% of the portfolio to be invested in equities, which are excluded from the current policy. This report was informational and required no action by the Executive Committee, but will likely come before the committee at the February meeting.

### Committee Updates

The following committee updates were provided:

- President Elizabeth L. Fite reported that representatives from the Military Legal Assistance Program have asked about the possibility of bringing back an executive director or staff person. She asked them to identify the gap in services that are not currently being covered and to submit that to the Programs Committee for review.
- Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena reported the Programs Committee will meet next Friday, Dec. 17, to review all requests and will send their recommendations to the Finance Committee.
- Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena said the Indigent Defense Committee is also meeting next Friday, and they are talking to the ACL and getting them to approve those funding items. The "Raise the Age" bill was approved by the ACL.
- Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena reported the Law Practice Management Program Committee had a meeting in October, and in November, they held a series of virtual lunch and learns that were well received.
- Executive Committee Member Martin Valbuena said the Formal Advisory Opinion Board will meet in January.
- Executive Committee Member Shiriki Jones said the Local and Voluntary Bars Committee hasn't had an official meeting this year, but the committee helps support the various local and voluntary bars, who are all very busy right now.
- Executive Committee Member Shiriki Jones reported the Professionalism Committee met on Sept. 29, with members providing updates of the various subcommittees.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones reported that she plans to meet with the chairs of the Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism and Racial Bias Committee, the Georgia Diversity Program and the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession to discuss how to coordinate between the interested committees who want to work together.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones said the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession is working on planning their CLE program for the Annual Meeting in June.
- Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones reported that Executive Director Halima White sends weekly updates to the Georgia Diversity Program Committee.
- Executive Committee Member Nicki Vaughan reported the COVID-19 Committee is paused indefinitely.
- Executive Committee Member Nicki Vaughan said BASICS Committee Chair Mike Terry said they were finally able to get back in the prisons for their programming after being denied entry due to COVID.

### Proposed Revisions to the Advertising Rules

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported 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 of professional conduct. 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. This will also be reported as an informational item at the Board of Governors Midyear Meeting as well, so Board members can then talk to their constituents. President Elizabeth L. Fite said she will share the proposed revisions with GTLA and GDLA leadership, along with other organizations, to ensure they have an opportunity to comment on the proposed revisions.

#### Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported that he followed up with Past President Bob Kauffman regarding the 2016-2018 Strategic Plan Closing Report. He said that GLSP will be renewing their lease, and they have asked for some renovations that are being reviewed. He reported that Bar staff have started the process of finding new space for the Coastal Georgia Office in Savannah. Priorities for the new space include ample and easily accessible parking, necessary meeting room space, and convenient location. He said the Membership and Communications departments have been working together to notify Bar membership about the changes to the delivery of the State Bar election ballot. Notifications that members must opt-in to receive a paper ballot include: a barwide email in November; an ad in the December issue of the *Georgia Bar Journal*; inclusion in three issues of *Enews*; a follow-up email in January; and social media posts. Executive Director Elmore said the Elections Committee is reviewing Standing Executive Committee Policy 1000 that deals with the State Bar Election process, specifically the portion about false, misleading, or disparaging remarks in the Election process. He said meetings and events continue to steadily increase at all Bar offices, and ICLE has been working diligently to schedule and hold CLE programming. Executive Director Elmore also mentioned he has been in discussions with the General Practice and Trial Section leadership after unexpectedly losing Betty Simms, their longtime executive director. Right now, the Sections Department will absorb those additional duties and support the section, but for the long-term, there will be additional discussions to decide if the section requires a dedicated person to support them.

#### ACL/Legislative Report

Legislative and Governmental Affairs Director Christine Hayes reported on the Advisory Committee on Legislation meeting that was held on Nov. 30. She said four proposals were approved, including: Access to Justice Committee, Support for Judicial Council Budget Request for FY 2023 Funding for Civil Legal Services Grants for Kinship Care; Indigent Defense Committee, Support for Judicial Council Budget Request for FY 2023 Continued Funding for the Georgia Resource Center; Child Protection and Advocacy Section, Support for HB 272 "Raise the Age" of Juvenile Court Delinquency Jurisdiction; and Bench and Bar Committee, Support for HB 409 – Establishing a Judicial Legal Defense Fund Commission.

#### Treasurer's Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore reported on the finances of the Bar and said everything is fiscally sound. He said the budget process has begun and is moving along.

#### Office of the General Counsel Report

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported the new e-filing system has been launched and is working well. She said has not yet heard from the Supreme Court on Rule 3.8, but she will update the committee when she knows more. She reported there has been an increased amount of activity in receiverships. She said she plans to review germaneness at the Board of Governors Midyear Meeting. General Counsel Frederick said she is drafting an in-house counsel registration rule based on the ABA model rule, and she will present it to the Executive Committee to review and decide if that is something they want to pursue.

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 Elissa Haynes announced her new initiative that encourages young lawyers to take other young lawyers out to lunch to talk and check in with each other during December, #lunchandlisten. She reported that they are finalizing details for the YLD Signature Fundraiser, and she will announce a date at the Midyear Meeting.

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 has continued to attend and speak at local and voluntary bar meetings, both in-person and virtually. She said that she was honored to give greetings on behalf of the Bar at the Supreme Court's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She also presented the Access to Justice Awards and reported the recipients were very appreciative of the recognition. President Fite said the February meeting agenda items will include the State Bar, CJCP, CCLC, ICLE flow chart of monies; the officer reimbursement policy; and in-house counsel registration, among other items.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business


President-Elect Sally Akins announced that the 2022 Fall Meeting will be all virtual. Historically, the Fall Meeting is the least attended meeting and this provides an opportunity to save a significant amount of money on meeting costs. Immediate Past President Dawn M. Jones announced she will be speaking about designated attorneys at the CJCP Professionalism CLE on Friday, Dec. 17, and encouraged all to attend.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

  
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Ivy Cadle, Secretary

Approved:

  
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Elizabeth Fite, President