

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
Thursday, June 30, 2011  
Teleconference**

Members Present on the Teleconference:

Kenneth L. Shigley, President; Patrise Perkins-Hooker, Secretary; S. Lester Tate, III, Immediate Past President; Stephanie J. Kirijan, YLD President; Michael G. Geoffroy, YLD Immediate Past President; Phyllis J. Holmen; Robert J. Kauffman; David S. Lipscomb; Rita A. Sheffey; and N. Harvey Weitz.

Members Absent:

Robin Frazer Clark, President-elect; Charles L. Ruffin, Treasurer; Jonathan B. Pannell, YLD President-elect; and Brian D. Rogers.

Staff Participating:

Cliff Brashier, Executive Director; Sharon L. Bryant, Chief Operating Officer; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; and Bob McCormack, Deputy General Counsel.

Consent Agenda

President Shigley presented the Consent Agenda and there being no objection or request for removal of any item, a motion was made and seconded to approve all of the following items:

1) Previous Executive Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held May 12, 2011, were presented and amended, by unanimous voice vote.

2) Future Meetings Schedule

President Shigley reviewed the Executive Committee meetings agenda that was previously sent out to the Executive Committee members. He announced that the Executive Committee/Supreme Court Retreat will take place the weekend of April 20-22, 2012 at The Lodge at St. Simons Island.

The Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved all of the above items on the Consent Agenda.

Waiver Requests

Following a report by Bob McCormack, the Executive Committee took the following action on Bar members' waiver requests:

1) Scott S. Thomas Waiver of Fitness Certification Request

Approved the request by unanimous voice vote.

2) Jacques Nazarene Military Dues Waiver Request

Approved the request by unanimous voice vote.

3) Ronald W. McBay Military Dues Waiver Request

Denied the request by unanimous voice vote.

- 4) A. Clark Waid, III Dues Waiver Request  
Approved the request by unanimous voice vote.

President Shigley announced he was appointing a subcommittee consisting of Secretary Patrise Perkins-Hooker, YLD Immediate Past President Michael Geoffroy, and Harvey Weitz to review and make recommendations on members' requests for waivers, which will then be placed on the Consent Agenda for consideration and action by the Executive Committee.

#### Proposed New State Bar Award for Excellence in Legal Scholarship

President Shigley presented a request by Past President Bill Barwick and Ray Persons for the creation of a State Bar Award for Excellence in Legal Scholarship that would honor law professors in Georgia for achievements that truly advance the practice of law for Georgia's attorneys. This award, which is also supported by several other past presidents, would not be an annual award, but instead be given only in those years where a recipient has so distinguished him or herself. The suggested recipient for the first award is Professor Paul Milich for his outstanding job in drafting, explaining and advocating the evidence code rewrite legislation. The Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved making this award in the form of a Board of Governors Resolution expressing the State Bar's appreciation to Professor Milich for his legal scholarship and long-standing service in connection with the evidence code rewrite project.

#### Proposed New Military Assistance Board Resolutions

This item was tabled to a future Executive Committee meeting.

#### Fulton County Courts Membership Database Request (Mark Harper)

President Shigley presented a request from Mark Harper, who runs the IT system for Fulton County Courts, for a current electronic copy of the membership database to integrate into a new case management system for both the county's Superior and State Courts. He requested, and the Executive Committee unanimously approved, authorization to allow him to work with Marla S. Moore, Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), to see if we can provide that database to the AOC and have it distribute the information to court clerks and administrative personnel for their court management systems.

#### Treasurer's Report

The Executive Committee received a copy of the Bar's financial statements for the nine months ended March 31, 2011.

#### YLD Report

YLD President Stephanie Kirijan provided an update on the activities of the YLD including its continued focus on inclusive leadership and YLD affiliate participation, the fundraising efforts for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, and the rewrite of the juvenile code that the YLD hopes will become part of the Bar's legislative package this year. She reported that the YLD is supporting the Georgia Legal Services Program by committing the Signature Fundraiser proceeds to it, working with the YLD Family Law Committee to have its annual Supreme Cork Fundraiser also benefit GLSP, placing two of the seven PIIP interns in GLSP's Savannah office, and looking at other ways for the YLD to support GLSP and other public interest law groups that includes establishing a YLD Public Interest Law Committee in furtherance of these goals. She announced that the Long-Range Planning Retreat will take place July 15-17, and the Summer Meeting will be held on conjunction with the August Board of Governors meeting. Phyllis Holmen expressed her gratitude to YLD President Kirijan and the YLD leadership for its support of the GLSP.

### Legislative Program

Immediate Past President Lester Tate briefly reviewed the very successful 2010-11 legislative session. The Executive Committee received a copy of the Annual Report on the Legislative Activities for the State Bar of Georgia for 2011; information on “loser pays” tort reform in Texas, and details on a joint workshop presented at the ABA Annual Meeting on courts funding that featured Immediate Past President Lester Tate on the panel.

President Shigley announced that 1) the Executive Committee will take up the issue of renewing the services of Capitol Partners (Boller, Sewell, Segars) and Charles Tanksley as the Bar’s legislative consultants at its July meeting, and 2) that a vote on the proposed new juvenile code has been postponed to the Fall Board of Governors meeting to allow more time to iron out the differences between the current legislative proposal and the remaining concerns of stakeholders, including but not limited to the prosecutors, juvenile judges and others.

### 2011-12 Committees

President Shigley referred the Executive Committee to the Executive Committee Liaison assignments to the 2011-12 Standing, Special, Program and Board Committees in the agenda. He stated he wants them to play a more active role than in the past, particularly with helping those committees that have projects to complete this year stay on track.

### Executive Committee Retreat

President Shigley provided a report on the July 22-23 Executive Committee Retreat at Amicalola Falls State Park and Lodge. The following books have been sent out and will be the topic of discussion at the Friday afternoon session: *The Vanishing American Lawyer* by Tom Morgan, *The End of Lawyers: Rethinking the Nature of Legal Services* by Richard Suskind, and *The Happy Lawyer: Making a Good Life in the Law* by Nancy Levit.

### Consumer Assistance Program

The Executive Committee received a written report from the Consumer Assistance Program for the month of May 2011.

### Office of General Counsel

The Executive Committee received a copy of Report on Matters Handled Administrative by the Office of the General Counsel for the month of May 2011.

### Georgia Legal Services Program

The Executive Committee received a copy of the Georgia Legal Services Program 2010 Annual Report.

### Criminal Justice Reform

The Executive Committee received information on Governor Deal’s Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform, an ABA meeting to offer case studies of justice reform, and an AJC article about judges handing down extra long sentences.

### 2012 Appellate Court Elections

The Executive Committee received a copy of a Daily Report article on the upcoming 2012 appellate court elections.

### Georgia Bar Examination

The Executive Committee received a copy of the February 2011 Georgia Bar Examination results.

Indigent Defense

The Executive Committee received a copy of an AJC article on Cobb County's overspending for contract indigent defense attorneys, and information on an ACLU report stating that the Michigan public defender system is one of the worst in Michigan.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

YLD Immediate Past President Michael Geoffroy reported viewing a Frontline special on child abuse and the criminal justice system, and an HBO documentary on the McDonald's hot coffee trial that addressed the issue of tort reform and the civil justice system. He believes the Cornerstones of Freedom program's resources might be more effective if spent for a documentary on the rule of law and access to justice rather than the 30-second public service ads currently being aired. President Shigley announced that the Technology Advisory Committee will be looking at making the Bar's web site more interactive and less passive to help in this effort.

Immediate Past President Tate and Phyllis Holmen provided a report on a recent cy pres grant awarded to GLSP, and how the Bar can play a role in encouraging other lawyers handling class action lawsuits to do the same.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Executive Committee meeting was adjourned.

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Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker, Secretary

Approved:

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Kenneth L. Shigley, President