

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
Friday, June 8, 2018/9:00 a.m.  
Omni Amelia Island Resort/Amelia Island, FL**

The 273<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia was held at the date and location shown above. Buck Rogers, President, presided.

Special Recognition

President Buck Rogers recognized the members of the judiciary, the Past Presidents of the State Bar, and other special guests in attendance.

Recognition of Retiring Executive Committee Members and Retiring Board Members

President Buck Rogers recognized the following retiring Executive Committee members: Immediate Past President Patrick T. O'Connor, YLD Immediate Past President Jennifer Mock.

President Buck Rogers recognized the following retiring Board of Governors Members: Dwight L. Thomas, Atlanta Circuit Post 6; Damon Elmore, Atlanta Circuit Post 9; Elena Kaplan, Atlanta Circuit Post 12; William R. McCracken, Augusta Circuit Post 4; Dennis C. O'Brien, Cobb Circuit Post 1; Gerald P. Word, Coweta Circuit Post 1; Lawrence Alan Stagg, Lookout Mountain Circuit Post 3; John Kendall Gross, Middle Circuit Post 1; William Gilmore Gainer, Rockdale Circuit; and Gary Stuart Freed, Stone Mountain Circuit Post 4.

Roll Call

Secretary Dawn Jones circulated the roll for signature. The list of those in attendance is attached as Exhibit A.

Minutes of the 272<sup>nd</sup> Board of Governors Meeting

The minutes of the Board of Governors meeting held March 20, 2018 at the Ritz-Carlton Reynolds at Lake Oconee, in Greensboro, Georgia were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Future Meetings Schedule

President-elect Ken Hodges reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule.

Awards and Presentations

The following State Bar awards, resolutions, and presentations were made:

Distinguished Service Award

President Buck Rogers presented the Distinguished Service Award (Exhibit B) to Phyllis Holmen for her many years of service on the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors, and to the Georgia Legal Services Program. Her contributions to upholding the American ideal of equal justice for all during more than four decades epitomizes the award's criteria of conspicuous service to the cause of jurisprudence and to the advancement of the legal profession in the state of Georgia.

Resolution for Emory Schwall

President Buck Rogers and Supreme Court Justice Carol Hunstein presented a resolution (Exhibit C) to Bar member Emory Schwall honoring his exceptional 68-year legal career.

Resolution for Roy Sobelson

President Buck Rogers presented a resolution (Exhibit D) to Roy Sobelson, Professor of Law and Director of LL.M. Programs at Georgia State University College of Law, for a career of devoted service to legal education and the justice system in the State of Georgia.

Judge Willie Lovett Award for Advancing the Field of Juvenile Law

Nicki Vaughan, Chair of the Child Protection and Advocacy Section, Supreme Court Justice David Nahmias, Seletha Lovett, and Ira Foster, GLSP Interim Director, presented the award to the Honorable C. Gregory Price, Juvenile Court of Floyd County.

Chief Justice Harris Hines Award for Outstanding Advocacy for Children in Dependency Proceedings

Supreme Court Justice David Nahmias and Chief Justice P. Harris Hines presented the award to Attorney Christopher Hampfling, Rockdale County Special Assistant Attorney General, and case manager Demetria Campbell, Colquitt County.

Georgia Legal Services Program

President Buck Rogers presented Interim Executive Director Ira Foster a replica check in the amount of \$571,925, which represents contributions from attorneys and law firms received during the 2017-18 Justice For All Campaign.

Corporate Sponsors

President Buck Rogers acknowledged the State Bar's two corporate sponsors: Member Benefits, Inc. (5 Gavel Sponsor) and LawPay (3 Gavel Sponsor).

President Buck Rogers presented the following awards:

Bench and Bar Committee Thomas O. Marshall Professionalism Award

Judge Recipient: Honorable Steven C. Jones

Lawyer Recipient: Past President J. Douglas Stewart

Local and Voluntary Bar Awards

Thomas R. Burnside, Jr. Excellence in Bar Leadership Award: Honorable Christopher C. Edwards

Award of Merit: Oconee Judicial Circuit Bar Association (under 50 members), Walton County Bar Association (51-100 members), Fayette County Bar Association (101-250 members), Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (251-500 members), Atlanta Bar Association (501 or more members)

Law Day Award of Achievement: Gwinnett County Bar Association (101-250 members), Cobb County Bar Association (501 or more members)

Best New Entry: Fayette County Bar Association

Best Newsletter: Gwinnett County Bar Association (101-250 members), Savannah Bar Association (501 or more members)

Best Website: Paulding County Bar Association (under 50 members), Gwinnett County Bar Association (101-250 members), Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (251-500 members), Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (501 or more members)

President's Cup Award: Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys

#### Sections

Section of the Year: Family Law Section

Section Awards of Achievement: Child Protection and Advocacy Section, Health Law Section, Intellectual Property Law Section, and Technology Law Section.

#### Military Legal Assistance Program Marshall-Tuttle Award

This year's recipient is Immediate Past President of the ABA Linda Klein, who is currently traveling internationally. The award will be presented at the Fall Board of Governors meeting.

#### Resolution for Chief Justice P. Harris Hines

President Buck Rogers presented a resolution (Exhibit E) to Chief Justice P. Harris Hines for 50 years of devoted service to the community, the legal profession, and the justice system of Georgia. Chief Justice Hines will have served on the Supreme Court for 23 years, including the past two-and-a-half years as Chief Justice, at the time of his announced retirement in August.

#### State of the Court of Appeals of Georgia

The Honorable Stephen Dillard, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of Georgia, delivered the State of the Court of Appeals of Georgia address.

#### State of the Supreme Court of Georgia

The Honorable P. Harris Hines, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, delivered the State of the Supreme Court of Georgia address.

#### State of the Georgia Law Department

Attorney General Chris Carr delivered the State of the Georgia Law Department address. Thereafter, Attorney General Carr, YLD President Nicole Leet, President Buck Rogers, and Danah Craft, Executive Director of the Georgia Food Bank Association, presented the following Legal Food Frenzy awards:

Sole Proprietor: Attorney Justin Oliverio, LLC

Small Firm: Jenkins & Roberts, LLC

Medium Firm: Whelchel, Dunlap, Jarrard & Walker, LLP

Large Firm: Moore Ingram Johnson & Steele LLP  
King & Spalding

Corporate, In-House Counsel: Serta Simmons Bedding, LLC

Legal Organizations: Georgia Institute of Technology Office of Legal Affairs

Judicial: Augusta Judges

Attorney General's Cup - Law School Division: Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law

Attorney General's Cup: Attorney Joe S. Habachy

Bar President's Award: Coleman Talley LLP

State of the Georgia House Judiciary Committee

Representative Wendell Willard, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, reported on the activities of the House Judiciary Committee.

State of the Georgia Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Jesse Stone, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, reported on the activities of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Memorials

President Buck Rogers presented the Memorials report.

Young Lawyers Division

YLD President Nicole Leet reported about the activities of the Young Lawyers Division. This year's major focus was on pro bono service. Through the Signature Service Project's Pro Bono Challenge, she announced that over 10,000 hours of pro bono service were pledged. In continuing the work of service, she reported that the Community Service Project Committee conducted a statewide day of service in conjunction with Habitat to Humanity and participated in building three homes, and the YLD hopes to make this an annual event. While President Leet referred the Board members to the YLD Report in the Board book to learn more about the work of the YLD, she reported that in addition to annual projects, there are over 20 YLD committees working on projects every year. The Law School Outreach Committee conducted outreach early in the year at all of Georgia's law schools and hopes to include feeder law schools in Tennessee and Alabama next year. The YLD participated in an ABA program, *What Do Lawyers Do*, that educates undergraduate students about legal careers and how to become a lawyer. Other continuing programs include the Public Interest Internship Program, the Leadership Academy, and the Legal Food Frenzy. She announced that the YLD was recognized by the ABA as an Affiliate Star of the Quarter for the Pro Bono Challenge, and that YLD member Jana Edmondson-Cooper was honored with the ABA YLD William Reece Smith Jr. National Outstanding Young Lawyer Award. Continuing her efforts of pro bono service, she announced that there is a Help-a-thon at this meeting where lawyers can sign up to provide free legal answers. Lastly, she announced that sponsorship money was raised to help subsidize young lawyers attending tomorrow night's swearing-in ceremony. She thanked the YLD Officers and Board members, the Bar's Officers, Executive Committee, and the Board of Governors for their support.

Investigative Panel

Panel Chair Sherry Boston reported on the activities of the Investigative Panel and recognized the current and retiring Panel members.

Review Panel

Panel chair Tony Askew reported on the activities of the Review Panel and recognized the retiring Panel members.

Formal Advisory Opinion Board

Board chair Jeff Schneider reported on the activities of the Formal Advisory Opinion Board.

Clients' Security Fund

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith reported on the activities of the Clients' Security Fund.

Receiverships

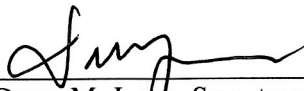
Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith reported on receiverships and the importance of succession planning.


President's Address

Following an introduction by Immediate Past President Patrick T. O'Connor, President Buck Rogers delivered the President's Address (Exhibit F).

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:21 a.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn M. Jones, Secretary

Approved:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Buck Rogers, President