

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Friday, May 14, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
Zoom Meeting**

Members Participating

Dawn M. Jones, President; Elizabeth L. Fite, President-Elect; Sally B. Akins, Treasurer; Tony DelCampo, Secretary; Darrell L. Sutton, Immediate Past President; William T. Davis, YLD Immediate Past President; Amy V. Howell; Ivy N. Cadle; David S. Lipscomb; Martin Valbuena; and Nicki N. Vaughan.

Members Absent

Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD President; Elissa B. Haynes, YLD President-Elect; R. Javoyné Hicks.

Staff Participating

Sarah Coole, Chief Operating Officer; Damon Elmore, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Michelle Garner, Director of Meetings; Christine Butcher Hayes, Director of Governmental Affairs; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; and Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer.

Call to Order

President Dawn M. Jones called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings Schedule

President Dawn M. Jones reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule. President-Elect Elizabeth L. Fite reported that her goal was to stagger the Executive Committee meetings, virtual and hybrid, for convenience and as a cost-savings measure. The first meeting of the 2021-22 Bar year will be July 9 and virtual since it will be directly following the Annual Meeting. She said the joint meeting on Sept. 16-17 of the Executive Committee and Supreme Court will be rescheduled to another date, and she will follow-up with the Court to find an appropriate date that works for all.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Tony DelCampo presented for approval the minutes of four Executive Committee meetings. By unanimous voice vote, after revision, the Executive Committee approved the revised minutes of March 16, 2021, and the revised minutes of April 15, 2021.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous voice vote: Stewart Walter Karge-762339, Eliot Owen Brandy-076667, Craig Mordock-521925, Sheri L. Bocher-065119, Alisa Ann Blanford-383302.

Inactive Sections

President Dawn Jones reminded the Executive Committee of the prior discussions that began last August and continued through the Midyear Board of Governors meeting regarding inactive sections of the Bar and what to do about them. Since then, several sections had responded and have become active, with the exception of two. President Jones reported that Section Liaison Mary Jo Sullivan had contacted both section leaders and section members of the Individual Rights Law Section and Law and Economics Section multiple times in an attempt to find interested parties to rejuvenate the sections. Those attempts were unsuccessful. Pursuant to State Bar Rule Article IX, Section 5, the Executive Committee agreed by consent to recommend to the Board of Governors to abolish the Individual Rights Law Section and Law and

Economics Section due to inactivity for three or more years. Pursuant to the rule, the following notice will be sent to each section:

Notice of Intent to Abolish

Pursuant to Article IX, Section 5 of the State Bar of Georgia Bylaws, this serves as notice of the intent to abolish the {section name}.

The Bylaws require notice to the Section by mail or email to the last-known leadership and members of the Section, and by posting a notice of intent to abolish the Section on the official website of the State Bar of Georgia. On {date}, the State Bar of Georgia notified the Immediate Past Chair of the Section of the Intent to Abolish. The Notice of Intent will be published on the Bar's website on {date}.

The Bylaws provide that a section may be abolished if it has been inactive for three or more years. The State Bar of Georgia is not aware of any activity by the {section} since {date/year}.

The Board will vote whether to abolish the Section at the {meeting and date}. Upon an affirmative vote the Section will be abolished immediately.

If you object to abolition of the Section, contact Sections Director Mary Jo Sullivan at maryjos@gabar.org.

President's Report

President Dawn M. Jones reported that she continues to be asked to speak at local bar association events, most recently speaking at the Clayton County Bar Association at their Law Day event on the importance of the rule of law. She said she has also enjoyed working with the Wellness Committee and other various committees. She mentioned the Louisiana Bar and Mississippi Bar are also having hybrid annual meetings, and there might be information they and other organizations can share with us regarding planning hybrid meetings.

Additional details regarding the Annual Meeting were discussed.

- Cpl. Dexter Harden attended to answer any security questions from Executive Committee members.
- Many members expressed their concern about the increased registration costs for Annual Meeting events. With the new Bizzabo platform, packages were not offered to lawyers and judges. President Jones instructed Bar staff to come up with messaging and pricing to offer packages and resend to all members in hopes of increasing attendance. President Jones and President-Elect Fite will approve the language and decreased pricing on behalf of the Executive Committee. Those who have already registered will be contacted to switch to packages and/or receive refunds if necessary.
- If further updates or decisions are needed for any Annual Meeting concerns, a specially called Executive Committee meeting will be planned.

Executive Session

Following a motion, second, and unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss further Annual Meeting details. Thereafter, by unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Damon Elmore updated the Executive Committee on the following:

- The crisis communications consultant, Castle, was hired. The scope and direction have changed slightly from the initial contact with them. Instead of a heavy crisis communications portion, it has been switched to more of a member benefits and services campaign. They will advise us on crisis communications when needed.
- The Safety and Crisis Response Liaison is still in the works. The Bar's internal safety team has not met yet. Plans are still going forward to utilize UPL investigators in that role. Cpl. Dexter Harden also offered his services if anything additional is needed.
- The Woodrow Wilson display still in the lobby, which was voted on in July 2020 for removal. Finding and coordinating with the owner of the artifacts has been difficult and that has been the main hurdle. Another plan is in place to store the artifacts and disassemble the display.
- On the credit card messaging regarding passing a utilization fee to our members, Bar staff added information to the website, including the online dues payment screens, and offered an option for our members to use bill pay to avoid the processing fee.
- The Bar Center Committee will meet in the near future to evaluate a proposal to bring the Cushman contract in-house.
- GLSP might renew their lease for 5 years. More details to come as negotiations progress.
- On July 6, we will begin to bring employees back into the building on a staggered schedule at first, working up to everyone being back in the office full time over the next few months.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sally Akins reported on the Bar's budget and the financial statement through March 2021 was provided to the Executive Committee.

State Bar Audit Report

Treasurer Akins congratulated and thanked Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner and his staff for receiving a clean audit report with no issues found and no changes in accounting principles needing to be made. In addition, the Investment Committee met with Greystone consulting and asked them to look at the Bar's investment policy statement to see if we can be more aggressive with investing.

Office of the General Counsel Report

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.

Clients' Security Fund Proposed Rules

Deputy General Counsel Bill NeSmith gave a brief background on the history of the Clients' Security Fund, and then he presented the proposed changes to Rule 1-506 and Rule 10-103 to create a permanent solution to funding the program and more stability. By majority vote, the Executive Committee agreed to recommend the proposed changes to Rule 1-506 and Rule 10-103 to the Board of Governors. It will be presented to the Board for discussion at the 2021 Annual Meeting and then for a vote at the 2021 Fall Meeting.

YLD President's Report

YLD President Bert Hummel was not in attendance, but President Jones wanted to reflect in the minutes that she appreciated his leadership and has enjoyed working with him this year, and that he has been very helpful and supportive of her.

Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Christine Hayes reported on the legislative program. She stated that if anyone has relationships with legislators, that she would appreciate an introduction in order to create more relationships between the Bar and the Legislature. She stressed the importance of legislators having connections to the Bar and its lawyers so they can easily come to us with questions when needed and vice versa.

Committee Updates

The following committee updates were given:

- David Lipscomb reported on the following: The Disciplinary Rules and Procedures Committee will be meeting at the Annual Meeting; Judicial Procedure and Administration/Uniform Rules has not met recently; and the Professional Liability Insurance Committee continues to wait for an in-person meeting to present their findings to the Board.
- President Dawn M. Jones reported that the Seeking Equal Justice and Addressing Racism & Racial Bias Committee is not meeting at the Annual Meeting. The SEJ committee and the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the Profession are both hosting 3-hour CLEs at the Annual Meeting. She said that the Judicial Qualifications Commission Nominating Committee met yesterday, and she was proud of the discussion and the various perspectives offered by their members.
- Treasurer Sally Akins reported on the Supreme Court Lawyer Competency Task Force. She said that they have been separated into three study committees focusing on the following: the future of the bar exam; other admission into the Bar (admission on motion, etc.); and the third is CLE and transition into law, the competency part of the study committee. Sally said she would ensure that the Bar is included in the discussions. Sally and Keith Blackwell will be non-voting members of every committee.
- Martin Valbuena reported that the iCivics Committee will be sunsetted in 2021 and that the Fee Arbitration Committee only meets when needed. The Georgia Bar Journal Editorial Board regularly meets every other month. The Local and Voluntary Bar Committee made assignments to members and reached out to all local bars to encourage their participation in the local bar awards.

Informational Items

As information, the Executive Committee received a draft of the March 20, 2021, Board of Governors meeting minutes.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

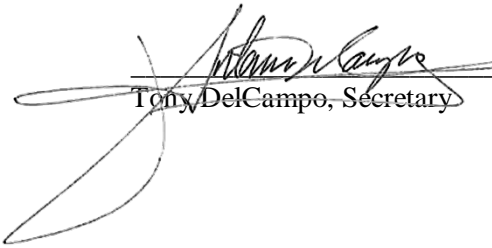
Amy Howell announced that she will not seek reelection on the Executive Committee. She will be nominating Shiriki Jones for her empty seat at the Annual Meeting.

Announcements

It being their last meeting, Immediate Past President Darrell Sutton and Immediate Past YLD President Will Davis were both thanked for their service to the Bar on the Executive Committee. President Jones also thanked everyone for their attention and dedication this year.

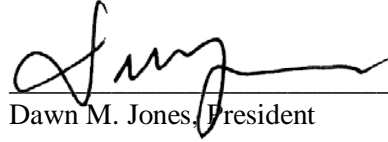
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.



Tony DelCampo, Secretary

Approved:



Dawn M. Jones, President