

D-R-A-F-T
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Monday, May 18, 2020/1:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Meeting

Members Participating:

Darrell L. Sutton, President; Dawn M. Jones, President-elect; Elizabeth Louise Fite, Treasurer; Sally B. Akins, Secretary; Kenneth B. Hodges, III, Immediate Past President; William T. Davis, YLD President; Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD President-elect; Rizza O'Connor, YLD Immediate Past President; Ivy N. Cadle; Tony DelCampo; R. Javoyne Hicks; Amy V. Howell, David S. Lipscomb; and Nicki Vaughan.

Staff Participating:

Sharon Bryant, Chief Operating Officer; Sarah Coole, Director of Communications; Jeff Davis, 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 Darrell Sutton called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings

Sutton reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule

President-elect Dawn Jones reported that she plans to have the Board of Governors Meeting via Zoom on Saturday morning, June 13, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. as was scheduled at the Annual Meeting. The installation of the Officers will also take place that morning. She has started having conversations with Wild Dunes Resort regarding contract options and costs to be ready in case we have to cancel the Executive Committee extended meeting. She is looking into the same with the Augusta Marriott for the Fall Board of Governors meeting in October.

Executive Committee Minutes

Secretary Sally Akins presented the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings held February 27-28, 2020, April 2, 2020, and April 20, 2020. The Executive Committee approved the minutes, as revised, by unanimous voice vote.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous voice vote: Matthew Newton Padgett-558705, James Ray Taylor-700246, Thomas Keith Checketts-011965, John Kevin McDonald-489417, Rose Kathleen Wilson-090607, Hannah Alise Rogers-556056, Woods King III-578329, Frank Henry Hupfl III-315701, Kelly J. Aran-021011, Debra Wakefield-730515, James Malone-468875, Douglas Rosinski-614942, Helen Silver-141487, Brian Bennett-050495

Members Requesting Disabled Status

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

Member Status Appeals

The Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved a request by Ricardo Polk for a 9-month extension from July 1, 2020 to obtain his Certificate of Fitness.

State Bar of Georgia 2021 Elections Schedule

Following a report by Sutton, the Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved recommending to the Board of Governors the 2021 Elections Schedule (Exhibit A). Dawn asked about voting only electronically next year if things stand as they are today. Javoyne Hicks asked that we also consider allowing electronic signatures. These matters will be referred to the Elections Committee.

2020-2021 State Bar Budget Recommendation to the Board of Governors and Other Dues Items

Sutton presented the proposed 2020-2021 budget.

Dawn thanked Bar staff, with Darrell's leadership and assistance by Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner, for tightening finances while at the same meeting our governance obligations.

Ron reviewed the budget assumptions that reflect no changes to license fees, a CCLC grant of up \$300,000, and no salary adjustments. Ron further reported there would be additional savings if any meetings are cancelled.

The Executive Committee, by unanimous voice vote, approved and recommended to the Board of Governors the proposed 2020-2021 State Bar Budget (Exhibit B). The budget also includes:

- 1) License fees at \$254 for active members and \$127 for inactive members, which represents no increase from the previous Bar year; and
- 2) Section dues to be reflected on the dues statement ranging from \$10-\$40; and
- 3) Continuation of the Clients' Security Fund assessment (\$100 @ \$25/year) required by Bar Rules. Such assessment begins with the second full fiscal year following a member's year of admission; and
- 4) Professionalism Fee (\$11), as mandated by the Supreme Court of Georgia; and
- 5) Continuation of a \$100 opt-out contribution to the Legislative and Public Education Fund; and
- 6) A suggested \$350 opt-in provision for individual contributions (\$100 for young lawyers) to the Georgia Legal Services Program.

Approval of Senior Staff Search Committee Selection of Young Mayden LLC

Sutton reported that the Senior Staff Search Committee recommended the hiring of Young Mayden LLC for the Executive Director's search at a cost of \$65,000 plus expenses.

After several Executive Committee members expressed the benefits for using a search firm, and Immediate Past President Ken Hodges expressed his opposition for doing so, a motion and second to forego using a search firm and have the State Bar conduct the Executive Director search internally failed by a roll call vote of 4 in favor to 9 opposed, with Javoyne Hicks abstaining.

Thereafter, a motion to engage the services of Young Mayden to conduct the Executive Director search was approved by majority voice vote, with Javoyne abstaining, and Ken asking the minutes to reflect that he voted no.

President's Report

Sutton reported that Bar staff has been working to ready the State Bar building and the satellite offices for reopening, and senior staff have developed a reopening plan. The General Counsel's office has taken the lead which includes policies and logistics, and the Bar is now working on gathering the resources necessary to allow the offices to reopen consistent with that plan.

Jeff reported that we have been incredibly productive during this time. When we do reopen, it will be a tiered approach in bringing staff back to adhere to social distancing, particularly in the area of our work stations. Safety is paramount at this point, and we are trying to get the supplies and effective equipment in place before we reopen.

General Counsel Paula Frederick reported that we have been determining which staff are able to continue do their jobs from home. Staff coming into the office will only be those that cannot do their jobs remotely.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Elizabeth Fite reported on the Bar's finances. She reminded everyone that the financials provided are through March, and we do not yet know of any losses that might occur from the Bar Center being shut down.

The Executive Committee received the Consolidated (Operational and Bar Center) Revenues and Expenditures Report as of March 31, 2020; Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Report as of March 31, 2020; Income Statement YTD-Operations as of Ended March 31, 2020; Status and Use of Cash and Investment as of March 31, 2020; Board-Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted Net Assets as of March 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contributions Paid Through March 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Contributions to GLSP Paid through March 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contribution Paid through March 31, 2020; Legislative Activity Report from July 1, 2019-March 31, 2020; and Clients' Security Fund Activity Report as of March 31, 2020.

YLD Report

YLD President Will Davis reported the Legal Food Frenzy was a tremendous success and raised over \$700,000, which is an incredible number over the goal of raising \$450,000. The Build a Better Georgia Day was converted to a statewide blood drive. The 11th Circuit Judicial Conference was transitioned to a panel discussion on a Saturday morning with five circuit judges participating in a program for the Leadership Academy. Will said he looks forward to his remaining time as YLD President, after which time YLD President-elect Bert Hummel will take over.

Executive Director's Report

Jeff said he had nothing further to report.

Advisory Committee on Legislation/Legislative Report

Governmental Affairs Director Christine Butcher Hayes reported the legislature has not met since March 16 and there were 11 legislative days remaining in the session when it left. She said the state is facing at least a \$1 billion revenue shortfall. Every state agency is looking, at the very least, to a 6-10% cut, but at the high end a 14% cut. The cuts will affect everyone across the board – the university system, the judiciary, and the Judicial Council. Grants for Kinship Care and Victims of Domestic Violence will be affected, and The Resource Center is facing up to a \$96,000 cut in its appropriation. Christine further reported the Bar still had two active bills that have not crossed the finish line and may not. The state budget has to be passed by June 30, and the legislators may not take up any bills while working on the budget. Christine also reported that the Bar's legislative lobbyist contracts expire on June 30.

Executive Session

Following a motion, second, and unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss contracts for the legislative lobbyists. Thereafter, by unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee emerged from Executive Session.

Office of General Counsel Report

Paula reported that the State Disciplinary Board held its first Zoom meeting on May 8. Every member attended the five-hour meeting and the board dealt with over 30 cases. The State Disciplinary Review Board will meet on May 27.

Paula reported that her office continues to work on the reopening policies, as well as some court orders related to the COVID pandemic.

Paula requested recommendations for appointments to the State Disciplinary Board.

Board of Governors Minutes

The Executive Committee received the draft minutes of the April 3, 2020 Board of Governors meeting.

Retiring and Incoming Board Members

The Executive Committee received a list of the retiring and incoming Officers and Board of Governors members for the 2020-2021 Bar year.

Old Business

Dawn reminded the Executive Committee that in February she asked it to consider adding ABA dues as a reimbursable expense for the Officers, which would actually result in savings to the Bar from the reduction in registration costs for attending ABA meetings. She will place the Officer Reimbursement Policy on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

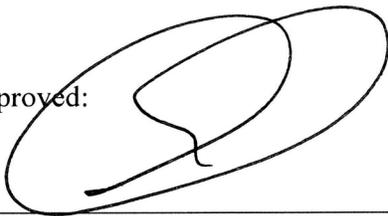
New Business

Dawn said she has greatly appreciated Darrell's leadership during this most trying time. David Lipscomb recognized Ken and thanked him for his many years of service, and the same was expressed to YLD Immediate Past President Rizza O'Connor. Both will be rolling off the Executive Committee.

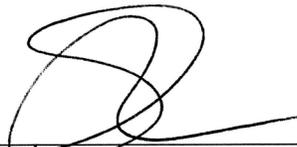
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Approved:



Darrell L. Sutton, President



Sarah B. (Sally) Akins, Secretary