

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Friday, June 5-6, 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; 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.

Members Absent:

Kenneth B. Hodges, III, Immediate Past President.

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

After obtaining the required 2/3 vote in favor of holding the specially called Executive Committee meeting, President Darrell Sutton called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Op-Ed Addressing Judiciary Budget Cuts

Governmental Affairs Director Christine Butcher Hayes reported she was contacted by the Council of Superior Court Judges concerning the budget cuts being proposed for the entire judicial branch, public defenders, and prosecutors. All have been asked to cut their budgets by 14%.

Christine presented a proposed op-ed column asking lawmakers to thoughtfully consider the constitutional duties of our judiciary and to pass a budget that strategically faces the reality of reduced revenues while enabling the judiciary's fulfillment of the essential functions of our justice system. At Christine's suggestion, the Executive Committee elected to have the information be sent in a letter to the legislators instead of published as an op-ed.

Statement Addressing Social Justice in Action

Following a discussion on how best to address Bar member concerns prior to this meeting, Dawn asked that the Executive Committee consider providing a statement from the Bar related to the racial and social justice concerns being discussed. Darrell agreed and, during this meeting, asked whether the leadership should make such a statement.

Sutton circulated three draft statements for consideration. One was a statement he prepared, which he shared with President-elect Dawn Jones. The second was a statement prepared by Dawn. The third was a statement Sutton prepared melding his and Dawn's statements together.

Following a lengthy discussion and members sharing their own personal perspectives, it was the consensus of the Executive Committee that the Bar issue a statement starting with Dawn's language, but with some further articulation. General Counsel Paula Frederick, Executive Director Jeff Davis, Communications Director Sarah Coole, and Chief Operating Officer Sharon Bryant were asked to work on the statement, and forward it to the

Executive Committee for discussion on Saturday morning, June 6, at 10:00 a.m.

Members Requesting Disabled Status

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-202, the Executive Committee approved one request for disabled status by unanimous voice vote, with David Lipscomb abstaining,

Executive Session

Following a motion, second, and unanimous vote, the Executive Committee met in Executive Session to discuss legislative lobbyists contracts. Thereafter, a motion and second to move out of Executive Session was approved unanimously.

The Executive Committee, by unanimous vote, approved the following legislative consultant contracts for the 2020-2021 Bar year: 1) Capitol Partners at \$150,000/year; 2) Mark Middleton at \$70,000/year; and 3) Roy Robinson at \$48,000/session only. The costs will be paid from the voluntary Legislative and Public Advocacy funds.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. and will reconvene on Saturday, June 6, at 10:00 a.m.

Continuation of the Executive Committee Meeting on Saturday, June 6, 2020

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 10:00 a.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above. Immediate Past President Ken Hodges, and YLD Immediate Past President Rizza O'Connor recused themselves from the meeting due to their judicial positions.

Statement Addressing Social Justice in Action (cont'd.)

After a lengthy discussion and input by the Executive Committee, the following statement was approved:

The State Bar of Georgia acknowledges that so many of our members are in pain due to the tragic deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and so many others. These deaths have highlighted the long-standing and systemic injustices and unfair treatment that African-Americans and other minorities endure.

As advocates, servants and justice-seekers, the State Bar opposes inequality in our justice system, we fight bigotry and racism, and we seek fairness and equity for all. Among its goals, our State Bar exists to improve the administration of justice, working daily to protect the public and support its lawyers.

As lawyers, we are problem solvers and must use our special training and positions of leadership for the betterment of society.

There is much work to be done.

We commit to engaging, listening and learning from the experiences and perspectives of all those willing to share them. We will act upon what we learn to deliver on the promise of equal justice for all people. These conversations are uncomfortable, but silence is unacceptable.

The Executive Committee was in agreement that the statement come from the President, and that it be sent to all Bar members and posted on social media and the Bar's website.

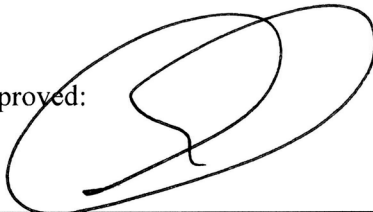
After a request by the Executive Committee, Sarah said she would gather members' responses to the statement daily and email them to the Executive Committee members.

Dawn reported that she wants to be able to discuss some action steps next Saturday during her President's remarks. She asked for continuing discussion of how we collectively move forward.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Approved:



Darrell L. Sutton, President



Sarah B. (Sally) Akins, Secretary