1. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Bob Methvin convened this meeting of the Alabama State Bar Board of Commissioners at 1:30 p.m. in Azalea Ballrooms C-F of The Grand Hotel, Point Clear, Alabama. Commissioner Gibson Vance gave the invocation.

2. **ROLL CALL**

The secretary took the roll of the commission and the following commissioners were present:

- Edgar Black
- Sally Bowers
- William H. Broome, Jr.
- Clay Carr
- Joel Connally
- Christy Crow
- Michael D. Ermert
- Jana Russell Garner
- Anne Malatia Glass
- Scott B. Holmes
- Edward Lamberth
- Leigh Anne Landis
- Felicia Long
- David Margin
- Clint L. Maze
- Rebekah K. McKinney
- R. Cliff Mendheim
- Larry W. Morris
- George R. Parker
- Taylor T. (Tom) Perry, Jr.
- Barry A. Ragsdale
- Chrissy Riddle
- Freddy Rubio
- Pat Sefton
- Mark S. Boardman
- Jeffrey L. Bowling
- Brannon J. Buck
- Bryan E. Comer
- Bradley Cornett
- Mark Debro
- J. Langford Floyd
- J. Kirkman Garrett
- Frederick G. Helmsing, Jr.
- Carmen Howell
- William R. Lancaster
- David Langston
- Donald B. Mansell
- Clay M. Martin
- LaBella S. McCallum
- Bob McMillan
- Robert G. Methvin, Jr.
- J. Levi Nichols
- J. Lynn Perry
- Chuck Price, II
- James Rebarchak
- Jeanne Dowdle Rizzardi
- Holly Sawyer
- Allison O. Skinner
Elizabeth Smithart  
John T. Stamps  
James Michael (Jimbo) Terrell  
Halron W. Turner  
Mallory B. Whitley  

John A. Smyth  
Andrew D. Stanley  
Terri O. Tompkins  
C. Gibson Vance  

The following commissioners were absent:

Evan G. Allen  
John A. Brinkley, Jr.  
Diandra S. Debrosse  
Kira Y. Fonteneau  
Dana Grimes  
Erik S. Heninger  
Brett A. King  
Karen Laneaux  
Tina Moon  
Manish H. Patel  
John Rea  

Raymond L. Bell, Jr.  
Robert H. Brogden  
Deborah Dunsmore  
Christy W. Graham  
Leon Hampton  
Richard M. Kemmer  
Jason P. Knight  
Patrick F. Loftin  
Kenneth Moore  
Amanda Porter  
Charles C. Tatum, Jr.

Also in attendance were President-elect Taze Shepard. Staff members in attendance were: Terri Lovell, Roman Shaul, Jeremy McIntire, Mark Moody, Tripp Vickers, Autumn Caudell, Melissa Warnke, Michelle Shaw, Merinda Hall, Linda Lund, Hilaire Armstrong, and Suzi Huffaker.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

President Methvin recognized special guests including Justice Will Sellers, Supreme Court Clerk Julia Weller, Ann Sirmon, Nicki Thomas, Billy Bedsole and Jimmy Pool.


President Methvin stated that the minutes of the Board Meetings had been transcribed and circulated prior to the meeting. He asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions. There were none.

5. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COMMISSIONERS AND NEW COMMISSIONERS

President Methvin recognized those members of the commission who are retiring. They were:

Levi Nichols 2nd Judicial Circuit
Jana Garner 4th Judicial Circuit
Brannon Buck 10th Judicial Circuit, Place 8
Gibson Vance 15th Judicial Circuit, Place 4
John Brinkley 23rd Judicial Circuit, Place 2
Amanda Porter 24th Judicial Circuit
Diandra Debrosse At-Large, Place 1
Jeanne Rizzardi At-Large, Place 7

Next, President Methvin recognized the new members of the commission whose terms commenced on July 1, 2021. They were:

Jason Simmons 2nd Judicial Circuit
Kyra Sparks 4th Judicial Circuit
Ryan Robichaux 10th Judicial Circuit, Place 3
Doug Martinson 23rd Judicial Circuit, Place 2
Scott Foster 24th Judicial Circuit
Angela Kennedy At-Large, Place 1
Leila Watson At-Large, Place 7

RECOGNITION OF RECIPIENTS OF COMMISSIONERS’ AWARD

President Methvin recognized Commissioner Jana Garner, Rebekah McKinney, John Brinkley, and Mike Ermert as the recipients of the Commissioners’ Award. Commissioner McKinney thanked Commissioner Ermert, thanked the leadership for their efforts during a difficult year, encouraged the new commissioners to take
advantage of the opportunity to make friends and new colleagues during their time of
service to the Alabama State Bar. Commissioner Ermert then gave an inspiring message
addressed to all commissioners to remind them of the importance of working together
harmoniously and to grow the collegiality of the organization.

6. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Methvin thanked the commission for their leadership and willingness to work
together during a very difficult year. He then thanked Ellen Brooks for stepping in and
serving as Interim Executive Director stating that she was a great manager of people and
a great motivator. Many of the things she started will continue to propel the bar forward.
President Methvin then thanked his Executive Council. He informed the Board that the
first six months his council was on a zoom or conference call once or twice a week. He
thanked Gibson Vance, Christy Crow, and Roman Shaul for their help on the internal
operation of the bar. He stated that Cliff Mendheim was the voice of reason, and for
Jeff Bowling always being the voice of reason. He stated that Diandra Debrose (Fu)
was always vocal and always had his back, and that Leon Hampton and Evan Allen were
always there to give him a different perspective. President Methvin then acknowledged
the new Executive Director, Terri Lovell, and stated that she was a quick study and
motivator for our troops.

President Methvin then thanked the Board for their commitment to carry out his theme
of unity and service, helping lawyers adapt to a new norm. He stated that serving as a
commissioner and as president had been the highlight of his legal career. He thanked
everyone for letting him serve.

President Methvin then closed by thanking the amazing bar staff and acknowledged that
this was a transitional year. He stated to the Board that we have the best bar staff in the
country that the culture of the bar is improving.

7. **PRESIDENT-ELECT REPORT**

President Methvin recognized President-Elect Taze Shepard to give a report to the
commission. President-Elect Taze Shepard remarked that it was an honor to work with
President Methvin and he commended him for reaching out to lawyers across the state
and letting them know how important they are to the Alabama State Bar. He stated that
President Methvin’s leadership was outstanding.

8. **OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT**

General Counsel Roman Shaul informed the commission that the Alabama Supreme
Court is accepting comments on the advertising rule changes and the
deadline for comment is noon on July 31, 2021.
9. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Director of Finance Merinda Hall reported to the commission that third quarter revenue increased by approximately 1.3% over the prior year and that expenses in the same time period were down by approximately 5%. She reported that investment balances are approximately 13.3% over the prior year and 8.8% for the Client Security Fund. Expect to close the year with a surplus of over $900,000.00 this year.

10. **PRO BONO CELEBRATION TASK FORCE UPDATE**

John Stamps, chair of the Pro Bono Celebration Task Force updated the commission on planning that is underway for the 2021 Pro Bono Month in October. He informed the commission that this was the 13th year of the nationwide Pro Bono Month, and would start off with the Governor signing a proclamation. Alabama has always been at the forefront. Variety of events include pro bono services, promotional, education for the public and CLEs. We have various subcommittees working on events around the state and a list can be found on the Alabama State Bar website.

Last year was more difficult, but we were able to have virtual CLEs and a Law School Video Contest that received national attention from the ABA.

For 2021, they will host a book club featuring Brittni Barnett, *A Knock at Midnight*. She will be participating in a discussion of her book the last week in October.

Commissioner Stamps invited Commissioner Scott Holmes and Director Linda Lund to come to the front of the room. Mrs. Lund was recognized for her work as Director of Volunteer Lawyer Program and was presented with a plaque in recognition of a dedicated service to the Pro Bono Celebration Task Force.

11. **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

President Methvin informed the commission that nominations were solicited for a vacancy on the Alabama Law Foundation Board of Trustees. Six of the twelve members are appointed by the Commission on a rotating basis. Appointees may serve two consecutive three year terms. Three appointees are expiring this month. Leslie Barineau, Flynn Mozingo and Tom Oliver. Leslie Barineau and Flynn Mozingo have both been nominated for another term. Tom Oliver has resigned and Rich Raleigh has been nominated to take his place. All three of these are former bar commissioners and Rich Raleigh is also a former Bar President. Motion was made to suspend the rules to move the nomination to an action item. Passed unanimously.

MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
THE COMMISSION VOTED TO FILL VACANT ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES POSITIONS AND ELECTED LESLIE BARINEAU, FLYNN MOZINGO AND RICH RAILEIGH AS MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

12. **MCLE REVIEW AND REVISION TASK FORCE REPORT**

President-elect Taze Shepard, chair of the MCLE Review and Revision Task Force informed the Board that the report had been completed and submitted to the members.

MOTION TO APPROVE TASK FORCE REPORT, SECONDED AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

13. **2020 AND 2021 ALABAMA LAWYERS HALL OF FAME CLASS**

President Methvin reported that the selection committee of the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame had recommended four individuals who have been deceased at least two years. The 2020 inductees are Jane Dishuck, Bill Hairston, Helen Shores Lee, and Cecil Strawbridge. The 2021 inductees are Charles Arendall, Jerome Cooper, Doug Corretti, and J.O. Sentell. President Methvin stated that the selection committee had also recommended the induction of Henry Minor (2020) and William Council (2021) who has been deceased more than 100 years.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE INDUCTION OF JANE DISHUCK, BILL HAIRSTON, HELEN SHORES LEE, CECIL STRAWBRIDGE AND HENRY MINOR FOR 2020 AND CHARLES ARENDALL, JEROME COOPER, DOUG CORRETTI, J.O. SENTELL, AND WILLIAM COUNCIL FOR 2021 TO THE ALABAMA LAWYERS HALL OF FAME. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

14. **COURT OF THE JUDICIARY APPOINTMENTS**

President Methvin informed the Commission that the terms of Rocky Watson and Dale Marsh are expiring on the Court of the Judiciary. He stated that both have indicated they would like to continue to serve.

MOTION TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS FOR THE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

MOTION MADE TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ROCKY WATSON AND DALE MARSH TO THE COURT OF THE JUDICIARY, THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.
15. **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE CLIENT SECURITY FUND COMMITTEE**

President Methvin informed the commission that the terms of Jim Ward and Gilda Williams are expiring on the Client Security Fund Committee. He reported to the commission that each has expressed an interest to continue serving.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CLIENT SECURITY FUND COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE JIM WARD AND GILDA WILLIAMS AS MEMBERS OF THE CLIENT SECURITY FUND COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

16. **ADJOURN TO A DATE CERTAIN**

President Methvin asked if there was any more business to come before the commission.

MOTION THAT THE BOARD CONCLUDE FOR THE DAY, IT ADJOURN TO A DATE CERTAIN, SPECIFICALLY TO SATURDAY MORNING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GRAND CONVOCATION AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

President Methvin asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was duly made and seconded. At 2:23 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to a date certain.

Robert G. Methvin, Jr.
President, 2020-2021

ATTEST:

Terri B. Lovell, Secretary
Alabama State Bar