

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS MEETING

The Grand Hotel
Azalea Ballrooms C-F
Point Clear, Alabama

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 30, 2020, DECEMBER 4, 2020, JANUARY 22, 2021, MARCH 19, 2021, APRIL 23, 2021, AND MAY 7, 2021 BOARD MEETINGS

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.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 30, 2020, DECEMBER 4, 2020, JANUARY 22, 2021, MARCH 19, 2021, APRIL 23, 2021, AND MAY 7, 2021 BOARD MEETINGS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

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	24 th 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	24 th 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 Debrosse (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 Brittini 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 RALEIGH 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.

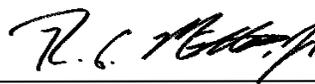
16. ADJOURN TO A DATE CERTAIN

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