

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this in-person meeting of the Board of Bar Commissioners was also available via video teleconference in accordance with Alabama Code § 36-25A-5.1.

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS MEETING

RSA Activity Center
201 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Friday, January 14, 2022

INVOCATION:

Prior to convening the Board of Bar Commissioners meeting, Associate Justice Will Sellers delivered the invocation.

CALL TO ORDER

President Taze Shepard convened this meeting of the Alabama State Bar Board of Commissioners at 10:05 a.m. at the RSE Activity Center, 201 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND GUEST SPEAKER

University of Alabama School of Law student Anthony Irwin led the Pledge of Allegiance and Guest Speaker Chief Justice Tom Parker shared remarks regarding court funding and current legislative session.

ROLL CALL

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

Raymond Bell	Edgar Black
Mark Boardman	Sally Bowers
Jeff Bowling	Clay Carr
Bryan Comer	Joel Connally
Mark Debro	Lang Floyd
Scott Foster	Kirk Garrett
Anne Glass	Leon Hampton
Fred Helmsing	Erik Heninger
Carmen Howell	Angela Kennedy
Edwin Lamberth	Bill Lancaster
Leigh Ann Landis	Karen Laneaux
David Langston	Felicia Long

Don Mansell
 Clay Martin
 Clint Maze
 Bob McMillan
 George Parker
 Chuck Price
 Chrissy Riddle
 Holly Sawyer
 Allison Skinner
 John Smyth
 Angeline Sperling
 Andrew Stanley
 Terri Tompkins
 Gibson Vance

David Martin
 Doug Martinson
 Rebekah McKinney
 Cliff Mendheim
 Tom Perry
 Jim Rebarchak
 Ryan Robichaux
 Jason Simmons
 Elizabeth Smithart
 Kyra Sparks
 John Stamps
 Jimbo Terrell
 Hal Turner
 Leila Watson

The following commissioners were absent:

Bob Brogden
 Aaron Chastain
 Deborah Dunsmore
 Christy Graham
 Scott Holmes
 Brett King
 Pat Loftin
 Tina Moon
 Larry Morris
 Lynn Perry
 Freddy Rubio
 Charles Tatum

Will Broome
 Brad Cornett
 Kira Fonteneau
 Dana Grimes
 Mitch Kemmer
 Jason Knight
 LaBella McCallum
 Kenneth Moore
 Manish Patel
 Barry Ragsdale
 Pat Sefton

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made to approve the previously prepared agenda, with the addition of Chief Justice Tom Parker's request to support legislative efforts through a letter of support, and the minutes of the October 29, 2021, board meeting as transcribed, there were no corrections, additions or deletions.

TOM PERRY MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA AND MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 29, 2021 BOARD MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Shepard asked that all Commissioners and guests join with him in a moment of silence in the passing of Mike Ermert, Bar Commissioner, 10th Judicial Circuit.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

President Shepard recognized special guests including Chief Justice Tom Parker, Associate Justice Will Sellers, Associate Justice Sarah Stewart, Alabama Supreme Court Clerk Julia Weller, Ane Debro, Flynn Mazingo, Aylia McKee, Clay Martinson, Professor Yuri Linetsky of University of Alabama School of Law, and UA Law students Callie Cochran, Brenita Softley, Tripp Perry, Ginny Bradley, and Anthony Irwin.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Taze Shepard announced that in the absence of our mid-year meeting, a mid-year review would be electronically transmitted to all Commissioners the following week; he mentioned that Leadership Symposiums had been conducted with the Sections, Committees and Task Forces, and that the same would be conducted with local bar leadership.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

The General Counsel gave an annual review of OGC cases. He also thanked the Commissioners that serve on the Disciplinary Commission and the Disciplinary Board.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Executive Director highlighted bar activities to include Leadership Forum Class 16, February Bar Exam plans, Task Force on Governance and Internal Operations, Leadership Symposiums, hiring of Karen Laneaux for Admissions Director and Chris Colee for Law Practice Management Coordinator, monthly themes, and the reports on Commissioner Engagement and the Use of Technology for BBC Meetings. She also reminded the Commissioners of upcoming deadlines for award nominations and bar elections. In closing, the Commissioners were reminded of the importance of their work through a video of Commissioner Mike Ermert from the 2021 Annual Meeting.

FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The 1st Quarter ASB Checking and Treasury Fund revenues decreased by 6.5% over the previous year, as expected with the dues reduction that went into effect in the current fiscal year, with most of the revenue decrease noted in license fees and special membership dues. Expenses decreased by 6% over the past year, namely in personnel costs, professional services, and supplies. The Carr, Riggs, and Ingram audit firm performed an audit of the FY2021 ASB financial statements, and issued an unmodified opinion again this year.

ASB FOUNDATION REPORT

ASB Foundation revenues were almost identical to revenues reported in the 1st quarter of the previous year. Total spending decreased by 18% over the last year with no legal fee payments this year, and investment balances increased by 12% over the past year. The Warren Averett audit firm performed an audit of the FY2021 ASB Foundation financial

statements, and although they issued an unmodified opinion, they also noted a deficiency in controls that recommended the bar develop a data breach plan.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MEMBER BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Ane Debro and Flynn Mozingo, chairs of the member benefits committee, announced that five new member benefit or discounts had been approved by the committee and that several had been tabled for further considerations related to revenue sharing.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT

President Shepard announced a CLE presentation by Assistant Attorney General Audrey Jordan on January 19th and a second CLE being planned the last week of January by LSA and the MCBA. He announced the Human Trafficking Summit scheduled for February 4, 2022, at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Legislative counsel announced that session began on January 11th and was off to a slow start, with only two committee meetings during the week. She mentioned that there may be a special session within the regular session to focus on the distribution of the pandemic relief money. Over 100 bills were filed prior to the session and many more during the first week. Several of the issues involve elections, guns, lotteries, campaign finance, vaccines and student athletes. She briefly responded to the Chief Justice's request for support from the bar related to funding for interim judges and/or pandemic backlog relief judges.

REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS TASK FORCE

Co-chair Terri Tompkins announced that the sub-committees have completed their work and a draft report is currently circulating with the full task force with a deadline of January 18th to provide final comments. The task force will meet on Jan 28 to finalize the report, with the goal of delivering the report to the Board of Bar Commissioners at its meeting on March 11, 2022.

MCLE COMMISSION

President Shepard informed the Commission that it has two appointments to the MCLE Commission and that Jimbo Terrell and Carmen Howell had been nominated by the MCLE Commission and approved by the EC. President Shepard asked that the rules be suspended to make this an action item.

JOEL CONNALLY MOVED THAT THE RULE BE SUSPENDED AND THAT THE COMMISSION MOVE FORWARD WITH THE MCLE COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS AS

AN ACTION ITEM, THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOHN SMYTH, MOTION TO SUSPEND WAS TAKEN BY ROLL CALL AND PASSED.

ALABAMA BOARD OF COURT REPORTING APPOINTMENT

President Shepard announced that the term of Linda Flippo expired on January 1, 2022. We will vote on three appointments that go the Governor where she will choose one. This item was carried over to the commission meeting to be held on March 11, 2022. Nominations may be submitted to the Executive Director at terri.lovell@alabar.org.

ACTION ITEMS

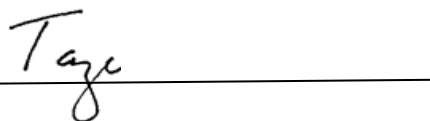
The following action items were taken:

The Board of Bar Commissioner approved nominees Ane Debro and Blake Harper to replace LaVeeda Battle and Nathan Gordon on the Legal Services of Alabama Board of Directors; the nominees to the MCLE Commission Jimbo Terrell and Carmen Howell.

TOM PERRY MADE A MOTION TO TAKE ACTION ON THE LSA APPOINTMENTS AND MCLE APPOINTMENT, THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DON MANSELL, AND APPROVED BY PUBLIC VOTE BY ROLL CALL AND MOTION PASSED.

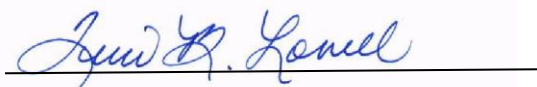
ADJOURNMENT

President Shepard asked if there was any further business to come before the Commission. There being no further business to come before the Board, President Shepard announced the meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.



Tazewell T. Shepard, III
President, 2021-2022

ATTEST:



Terri B. Lovell, Secretary
Alabama State Bar