MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR
BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS MEETING

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.

Alabama State Bar and via Zoom
415 Dexter Avenue
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

Monday, June 6, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Tom Perry serving in the absence of President Taze Shepard convened the special called meeting of the Alabama State Bar Board of Commissioners at 8:30 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Raymond Bell          Edgar Black
Mark Boardman         Jeff Bowling
Will Broome           Aaron Chastain
Joel Connally         Mark Debro
Scott Foster          Kirk Garrett
Leon Hampton          Fred Helmsing
Erik Heninger         Carmen Howell
Mitch Kemmer          Angela Kennedy
Edwin Lamberth        Karen Laneaux
David Langston        Clay Martin
Doug Martinson        Clint Maze
Bob McMillan          Cliff Mendheim
Lynn Perry            Tom Perry
Jim Rebarchak         Ryan Robichaux
Holly Sawyer          Pat Sefton
Elizabeth Smithart    John Smyth
Terri Tompkins        Halron Turner
Gibson Vance          Leila Watson
The following commissioners were absent:

Sally Bowers, Bob Brogden
Clay Carr, Bryan Comer
Brad Cornett, Deborah Dunsmore
Lang Floyd, Kira Fonteneau
Anne Glass, Christy Graham
Dana Grimes, Scott Holmes
Brett King, Jason Knight
Bill Lancaster, Leigh Anne Landis
Patrick Loftin, Felicia Long
Don Mansell, David Martin
LaBella McCallum, Rebekah McKinney
Bob Methvin, Tina Moon
Kenneth Moore, Larry Morris
George Parker, Manish Patel
Chuck Price, Barry Ragsdale
John Rea, Chrissy Riddle
Freddy Rubio, Taze Shepard
Jason Simmons, Allison Skinner
Kyra Sparks, Angeline Sperling
John Stamps, Andrew Stanley
Charles Tatum, Jimbo Terrell
Mallory Whitley

Also in attendance was President-elect Brannon Buck. Staff members in attendance were: Terri Lovell, Roman Shaul, Merinda Hall, Michelle Shaw, Melissa Warnke, Suzi Huffaker.

QUORUM WAS NOT PRESENT.

VICE PRESIDENT TOM PERRY ANNOUNCED THAT THE BODY WOULD MEET AS A COMMITTEE FOR INFORMAL CONSIDERATION WITH THE AUTHORITY TO DEBATE THE REPORT OF THE EXAMINER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS BUT NO AUTHORITY TO TAKE ACTION OR REPORT TO THE COMMISSION.

3. ADEPA AUDIT REPORT DISCUSSION

Vice President Tom Perry asked that President-Elect Gibson Vance lead the discussion. President-Elect Vance asked General Counsel Roman Shaul to address the findings of the report. Mr. Shaul first addressed that the staff of the Alabama State Bar has worked with the Alabama Department of Examiners of Public Accounts (ADEPA) to address past practices of the State Bar that which the ADEPA believe no longer comply with state law or requirements of the State auditors. The audit report issued by ADEPA provides examples of these past practices that have now been resolved. He further
indicated that the Alabama State Bar is constantly working to improve every aspect of its operations and greatly appreciates its positive working relationship with the ADEPA Chief Examiner, Rachel Riddle, and Chief Legal Counsel, Jason Paulk.

The examination is conducted biennially by the Examiners of Public Accounts (EPA) to ensure our records are compliant with applicable laws and regulations of the State of Alabama. He informed the Commission that, historically, the Alabama State Bar operated under the quasi-state agency philosophy for several decades and maintained our checkbook accounts in compatibility with privately run entities that, ordinarily, are limitedly subject to generally accepted accounting principles. He reminded the Bar Commissioners that we are entirely funded by the dues of our 19,000+ members. However, new EPA regulations require state agencies to treat all collected funds as public funds that will also be subject to state laws and regulations, and therefore, the underlying reason for many of the findings cited in the report. In anticipation of and response to the audit report, we have committed our efforts to realigning our traditional operating procedures to comply with the state requirements. Future compliance for some regulations may require the Alabama State Bar to request guidance from the Alabama Attorney General’s office or the Alabama Supreme Court.

Mr. Shaul indicated that the majority of the findings occurred prior to Executive Director Terri Lovell being hired. Mr. Shaul asked that Terri Lovell address the actions being taken to comply with the Open Meetings Act and asked Finance Director Merinda Hall to address the E-Verify findings that occurred prior to her taking on many of the HR responsibilities.

4. ADJOURNMENT

President-elect Vance closed the discussion and announced the meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

\[\text{Tazewell T. Shepard, III} \]
\[\text{President, 2021-2022}\]

ATTEST:

\[\text{Terri B. Lovell, Secretary}\]
\[\text{Alabama State Bar}\]