

*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

**Hilton Sandestin and via Zoom  
Coastal Ballroom C  
4000 S. Sandestin Boulevard  
Miramar Beach, Florida 32550**

**Wednesday, June 22, 2022**

#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

In the absence of President Taze Shepard, Vice President Tom Perry convened this meeting of the Alabama State Bar Board of Commissioners at 3:07 p.m. in Coastal Ballroom C of the Hilton Sandestin, Miramar Beach, Florida. President-elect Gibson Vance gave the invocation and the pledge was led by Vice President Tom Perry.

#### 2. **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	Will Broome
Clay Carr	Joel Connally
Brad Cornett	Mark Debro
Deborah Dunsmore	Lang Floyd
Kira Fonteneau	Scott Foster
Anne Glass	Leon Hampton
Fred Helmsing	Scott Holmes
Carmen Howell	Mitch Kemmer
Angela Kennedy	Edwin Lamberth
Bill Lancaster	Karen Laneaux
Long, Felicia	David Martin
Doug Martinson	Clint Maze
LaBella McCallum	Rebekah McKinney
Bob McMillan	Cliff Mendheim
Bob Methvin	Kenneth Moore

George Parker  
 Tom Perry  
 Ryan Robichaux  
 Pat Sefton  
 Allison Skinner  
 John Smyth  
 Angeline Sperling  
 Andrew Stanley  
 Terri Tompkins  
 Gibson Vance

Manish Patel  
 Chuck Price  
 Freddy Rubio  
 Jason Simmons  
 Elizabeth Smithart  
 Kyra Sparks  
 John Stamps  
 Jimbo Terrell  
 Halron Turner

The following commissioners were absent:

Bob Brogden  
 Bryan Comer  
 Christy Graham  
 Erik Heninger  
 Jason Knight  
 David Langston  
 Don Mansell  
 Tina Moon  
 Lynn Perry  
 Jon Rea  
 Chrissy Riddle  
 Charles Tatum  
 Mallory Whitley

Aaron Chastain  
 Kirk Garrett  
 Dana Grimes  
 Brett King  
 Leigh Anne Landis  
 Patrick Loftin  
 Clay Martin  
 Larry Morris  
 Barry Ragsdale  
 Jim Rebarchak  
 Taze Shepard  
 Leila Watson

#### QUORUM PRESENT

Also in attendance were President-elect Gibson Vance, President-elect Designate Brannon Buck and Immediate Past President Bob Methvin. Staff members in attendance were: Justice Will Sellers, Roman Shaul, Merinda Hall, Jeremy Rakes, Michelle Shaw, Melissa Warnke, Olivia Walker, Karen Laneaux, and Linda Lund.

### 3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Parliamentarian Mark Boardman moved to amend the Agenda. Vote carried and agenda was amended to reflect that election of new officers would take place at the reconvening meeting on Saturday, June 25, 2022.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2022 BOARD MEETING AND THE JUNE 6, 2022 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

Vice President Tom Perry stated that the minutes of the May 13, 2022 Board Meeting and the June 6, 2022, Special Called Meeting had been transcribed and circulated prior to the meeting. He asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions. The June 6, 2022 minutes were amended to reflect that Raymond Bell was present.

COMMISSIONER MENDHEIM MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2022 BOARD MEETING AND THE JUNE 6, 2022 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

**5. RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COMMISSIONERS AND NEW COMMISSIONERS**

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

Halron W. Turner	1 <sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit
Larry W. Morris	5th Judicial Circuit
Terri O. Tompkins	6th Judicial Circuit, Place 1
Barry A. Ragsdale	10th Judicial Circuit, Place 3
Bryan E. Comer	13 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 4
Charles C. Tatum, Jr.	14th Judicial Circuit
George R. Parker	15 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 1
Rebekah K. McKinney	23 <sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 3
F. Patrick Loftin	26 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit
J. Lynn Perry	28 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 1
Jason P. Knight	32 <sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit
Karen L. Laneaux	At Large, Place 5

Next, Vice President Perry recognized the new members of the commission whose terms commence July 1, 2022. They were:

Jeff Utsey	1st Judicial Circuit
Brian Strength	5th Judicial Circuit
Josh Hayes	6 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 8

Andrew Nix	10 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 3
Conrad Anderson	10 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 6
Richard E. Fikes	14 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit
Bobby Poundstone	15 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 1
Robin Wolfe	23 <sup>rd</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 3
Jorja Loftin	26 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit
Steven Savarese	28 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Place 1
Matt Carter	32 <sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit
Jana Garner	At-Large, Place 5

**6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Vice President Perry recognized Allen Howell, chair of the Pro Bono Celebration Task Force, who updated the commission on planning that is underway for the 2022 Pro Bono Month in October. He informed the commission that this was the 14th year of the nationwide Pro Bono Month, and that Alabama has participated each year and been recognized nationally for its participation.

John Stamps was recognized for his work as chair of the 2021 Pro Bono Celebration Task Force and he was presented with a signed Proclamation of the Governor, recognizing October as Pro Bono Month.

**7. MCLE NOMINATIONS**

Commissioner Cliff Mendheim, Chair of the MCLE Commissioner, reported the following nominations:

Jana Garner  
Joel Connally  
Holly Sawyer

FOLLOWING THE REPORT, COMMISSIONER BOWLING MOVED TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE. MOTION FROM JEFF BOWLING TO MOVE TO AN ACTION ITEM. SECONDED BY SALLY BOWERS. MOTION TO APPROVED JANA GARNER,

JOEL CONNALLY, AND HOLLY SAWYER TO THE MCLE COMMISSION. MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF 13<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT, PLACE 4 COMMISSIONER**

On behalf of the Mobile County Bar, Commissioner Fred Helmsing nominated Steven Nicholas.

A MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE 13<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT, PLACE 4. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMISSIONER ALLISON SKINNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF STEVEN NICHOLAS AS THE 13<sup>TH</sup> CIRCUIT, PLACE 4, BAR COMMISSIONER. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**9. INSURANCE RESEARCH TASK FORCE REPORT**

Commissioner Halron Turner advised the Board that a report of the Insurance Research Task Force had been circulated to the members. He stated that the Task Force had been asked to make a report relative to the Alabama State Bar Health Plan and the Huntsville Bar Health Plan.

COMMISSIONER LANG FLOYD MOVED TO TABLE THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE REPORT. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND THE REPORT WAS TABLED ON A VOTE OF 27-AYE AND 20-NAY

**10. ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Executive Director Terri Lovell explained that the recent audits indicated that the Alabama State Bar should have memorandum of understandings with affiliate organizations where monies are exchanged. Director Lovell indicated that the document had been included in the materials for the meeting.

COMMISSIONER SKINNER MOVED TO APPROVED THE MOU BETWEEN THAT ALABAMA STATE BAR AND THE ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY JOHN STAMPS AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

**11. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE**

- For any appointment to be voted on by the BBC, if the incumbent wishes to be reappointed, any written or verbal announcement of said pending appointment by the State Bar will include the number of years that said incumbent has already served in that position.

- For any appointment to be voted on by the BBC, the announcement will be repeated when the appointment is brought up as a discussion item or an action item at a BBC meeting.
- For any appointment to be voted on by the BBC, if the incumbent wishing to be reappointed has served in that position more than eight years, the BBC will give serious consideration to any other qualified candidate who is nominated for that position.

COMMISSIONER HELMSING MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ON APPOINTMENTS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MARK DEBRO AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

## **12. PROPOSED CHANGES TO DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

General Counsel Roman Shaul advised the Board that he would be circulating proposed changes to the Disciplinary Commission Disciplinary Board appointments. These changes would include lifting the restrictions that a Commission or Board Member must be a current Bar Commissioner. The proposed changes would also increase the size of the Disciplinary Board and Disciplinary Commission.

## **13. APPROVAL OF LICENSE FEES**

Commissioner Mark Debro, co-chair of Finance Committee, advised that the Finance Committee upon analysis of the financial improvements and projections, recommends that license fees continue at the reduced rate of \$300 and \$150 for special membership during FY 2022.

COMMISSIONER ALLISON SKINNER MOVED TO APPROVE LICENSE FEES AT \$300.00 AND CORRESPONDING SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP AT \$150.00. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LANG FLOYD AND APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE.

## **14. CLIENT SECURITY FUND APPOINTMENT**

General Counsel Roman Shaul announced that there is one remaining vacancy on the Client Security Fund. Lance Gould was the only person nominated. Nominations were closed.

COMMISSIONER LANG FLOYD MOVED TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CLIENT SECURITY FUND. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER CLIFF MENDHEIM MOVED TO APPROVE LANCE GOULD TO THE CLIENT SECURITY FUND. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

**15. RECESS TO A DATE AND TIME CERTAIN**

Vice President Perry stated that the Grand Convocation would be held on Saturday morning, immediately followed by the reconvened Board Meeting at 11:15 am. to be held in Emerald Ballroom E. Vice President Perry stated that no further business for the afternoon meeting, the meeting was recessed at 4:50 p.m.



Tazewell T. Shepard, III  
President, 2021-2022

ATTEST:



Terri B. Lovell, Secretary  
Alabama State Bar