

**ALABAMA STATE BAR
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING**

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

Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER

President Tom Perry convened the meeting of the Alabama State Bar Executive Council at 10:00 a.m. at the Alabama State Bar building at 415 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama.

ROLL CALL

The Secretary took the roll of the members, and the following were present:

Tom Perry (President)
Fred Helmsing (President-Elect)
Brannon Buck (Immediate Past President)
John Stamps (Vice President)
Pat Sefton
Ron Strawbridge
Tom Heflin (Personnel Chair)
Ryan Duplechin (YLS President)
Aigner Kolom (ALA President)
Mark Boardman (Parliamentarian)
Terri Lovell (Executive Director)
Roman Shaul (General Counsel)

The following members were absent:

Jana Garner
Halron Turner (Finance Chair)

QUORUM PRESENT

The following staff members were present:

Chad Coker (Director of Operations)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA FOR JULY 18, 2024, BY BRANNON BUCK, SECONDED BY FRED HELMSING, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Perry reported on the successful annual meeting. Since becoming President, he and Executive Director Lovell were invited to lunch with Chief Justice Parker. Perry indicated the Chief Justice offered his continued assistance to the bar and spoke of the improved relations with the Court. Perry complimented Brannon Buck, Terri Lovell, and the staff for their vigilance in maintaining these relationships. Perry also stated he was honored to present Lynn Jinks with his 50-year member pin in a ceremony held in Union Springs, Alabama last week.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Regarding the operations side of the bar, Executive Director Terri Lovell informed the committee preparations are being made for the executive committee retreat. She intends to offer proposed plans regarding staff compensation and leadership development at the retreat. Building maintenance issues are ongoing regarding the HVAC and three bids have been obtained. Lovell announced the pending retirement of Linda Lund, Director of the Volunteer Lawyers Program.

On the regulatory side, Lovell stated this would be the largest bar exam since Covid with over 600 testing of which 127 are seeking special accommodations. The Supreme Court has given preliminary approval for the bar exam to be moved to Birmingham beginning in February of 2025. This location will be in closer proximity to approximately 70% of those sitting for the exam. Lovell further stated she anticipates a substantive report to be provided to the Supreme Court regarding the pending changes by NCBE to the bar exam. Rule changes regarding the application process, approved by the BBC at the annual meeting, have been forwarded to the Supreme Court for their approval.

As it relates to programs, Lovell stated interest has increased regarding participation in section and committee involvement. Committees are in the process of being finalized of which it will be necessary for over 1,000 appointments to be entered into the database system. Fifty-year milestone celebration preparations are ongoing for the event to be held September 19, 2024, at Ross Bridge in Birmingham. The 2023-2024 Annual Report was mailed to all past presidents and bar staff are in the process of finalizing annual reports for committees and task forces.

GENERAL COUNSELS REPORT

General Counsel Roman Shaul provided an update on the Rule 7 series changes (Rule 7.1-7.6). Michael Upchurch has provided a memo to the Court and an additional clarification memo will be

provided to the Court to address expressed concerns. He discussed the ongoing OGC database implementation and the new features it would provide.

ALF APPOINTMENTS

Past President Brannon Buck informed the committee that due to an oversight at the annual meeting, two individuals, recommended by the Alabama Law Foundation, were not voted on by the Board of Bar Commissioners. Due to exigent circumstances, Buck felt the Executive Committee could vote for the approval of these individuals and seek ratification of this decision at the next BBC meeting. During discussion, Ron Strawbridge recused from any discussion or participation in the matter.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENTS OF AUDREY STRAWBRIDGE AND JEFF McLAUGHLIN TO THE ALF BOARD WAS MADE BY BRANNON BUCK, SECONDED BY FRED HELMSING, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

President Tom Perry announced that he would be asking each member of the Executive Council to serve as liaisons to the following programs, projects, committees, and/or task forces:

John Stamps (Vice President):

Admission and Bar Exam

Regulation and Licensing

Mandatory Bar Issues

Staff contacts: Karen Laneaux, Roman Shaul, Cathy Sue McCurry

Jana Garner

MCLE and Specialization

Leadership Forum and Leadership Summit

Sections and Committees

Annual Meeting Guidance

Staff contacts: Cathy Sue McCurry, Chad Coker, Terri Lovell, Robyn Bernier

Pat Sefton

Agency Foundations

Bylaws Review

Character & Fitness

Staff contacts: Terri Lovell, Shannon Knight, Karen Laneaux, Merinda Hall

Ron Strawbridge

Law Practice Management

Local/Regional Bar Visits

Staff contacts: Chris Colee, Chad Coker, Robyn Bernier

Mark Boardman (Parliamentarian):

Open Meetings Act Guidelines

Public Records

Staff contacts: Terri Lovell, Melissa Warnke

Fred Helmsing (President-Elect)

Next Gen Bar Exam

2026 Southern Conference of Bar Presidents

Board Engagement

Strategic Planning Review

Lawyer Surveys

Staff contacts: Karen Laneaux, Terri Lovell

Brannon Buck (Past President):

Justice4AL

Hall of Fame

Discipline & Regulatory

Alabama Lawyer

Staff contacts: Melissa Warnke, Roman Shaul, Terri Lovell

Tom Heflin: (Personnel Chair/Ex-Officio Member)

Legal Incubator

Operations & Staff

Law Practice Management & Lawyer Referral

Staff contacts: Terri Lovell, Chad Coker, John Dunn, Chris Colee

Halron Turner: (Finance Chair/Ex-Officio Member)

Finance & Audit

Procurement Policy Changes

Financial Compliance

Staff contacts: Merinda Hall, Terri Lovell

Aigner Kolom: (Alabama Lawyer's Association President/Ex-Officio)

Alabama Lawyers Assistance Program

Local/Practice Area Bar Relationships

Member Benefits


Staff contacts: Shannon Knight, Chad Coker, Chris Colee

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RETREAT

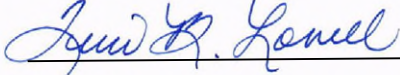
President Tom Perry announced the location and date for the Executive Council Retreat as August 28-30, 2024, at the Hotel Provincial in New Orleans, LA.

ADJOURNMENT

President Perry thanked the members for their attendance and there being no further business before the Executive Council, a MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN BY BRANNON BUCK, SECONDED BY FRED HELMSING, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE at 10:33 a.m.


Taylor T. Perry, Jr., President
Alabama State Bar

ATTEST:



Terri B. Lovell, Secretary
Alabama State Bar