

MINUTES

ALABAMA STATE BAR BOARD OF BAR COMMISSIONERS MEETING

**The Hilton Sandestin
4000 S Sandestin Boulevard
Emerald C/Coastal A
Miramar Beach, Florida**

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

President Brannon Buck convened this meeting of the Alabama State Bar Board of Commissioners at 2:34 p.m. in Coastal A Ballroom of the Hilton Sandestin, Miramar Beach, Florida. Commissioner Mark Debro led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

Conrad Anderson	Fred Helmsing	Steven Savarese
Pratt Austin-Trucks	Scott Holmes	Holly Sawyer
Raymond Bell	Carmen Howell	Pat Sefton
Edgar Black	Angela Kennedy	Jeff Sherrer
Mark Boardman	Felicia Long	Doug Smith
Sally Bowers	Clay Martin	Elizabeth Smithart
Jeff Bowling	David Martin	John Stamps
Brannon Buck	Doug Martinson	Brian Strength
Hunter Compton	LaBella McCallum	Jimbo Terrell
Joel Connally	Bob McMillan	Jerome Thompson
Brad Cornett	Cliff Mendheim	Jeff Utsey
Mark Debro	Steven Nicholas	Gibson Vance
Lang Floyd	Andrew Nix	Leila Watson
Sam Ford	Lynn Perry	Suntrease Williams-
Jana Garner	Tom Perry	Maynard
Lisha Graham	Bobby Poundstone	
Leon Hampton	Chuck Price	
Josh Hayes	Ryan Robichaux	

The following commissioners were absent:

Will Broome	Matthew Carter	Richard Fikes
Kitty Brown	Chris Driver	Scott Foster
Clay Carr	Deborah Dunsmore	Dana Grimes

Erik Heninger
 Ralph Holt
 Mitch Kemmer
 Lee Knowles
 Edwin Lamberth
 Bill Lancaster
 David Langston

Jorja Loftin
 Don Mansell
 Clint Maze
 Leslie Moore
 Manish Patel
 John Rea
 Chrissy Riddle

Freddy Rubio
 Tyler Sims
 Jason Simmons
 John Smyth
 Kyra Sparks
 Andrew Stanley
 Robin Wolfe

QUORUM PRESENT

Also in attendance were staff members Roman Shaul, Merinda Hall, Melissa Warnke, Karen Laneaux, Suzi Huffaker, Linda Lund, Hilaire Armstrong, Katarina Essenmacher, Chris Colee, and Chad Coker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

President Buck recognized special guests including Associate Justice Sarah Stewart, Associate Justice Greg Cook, Supreme Court Clerk Megan Rhodebeck, Court of Civil Appeals Judge Ben Lewis, U.S. District Judge Austin Huffaker, former Bar Commissioner Alison Skinner, Incoming Bar Commissioner Brandy Robertson, Past Presidents Rich Raleigh, Cole Portis, Bob Methvin, and Gibson Vance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA FOR JUNE 26, 2024 AND CONTINUING TO JUNE 29, 2024, MADE BY PRATT AUSTIN-TRUCKS AND SECONDED BY STEVEN SAVARESE, AND APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 3, 2024, BOARD MEETING

President Buck stated that the minutes of the May 3, 2024, Board Meeting had been transcribed and circulated prior to the meeting. He asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions. There were none.

COMMISSIONER ANGELA KENNEDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 3, 2024, BOARD MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LISHA GRAHAM AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COMMISSIONERS AND NEW COMMISSIONERS

President Buck recognized those members of the commission who are retiring with a retiring commissioner medallion. They were:

Dana Grimes
 John Smyth

9th Judicial Circuit
 10th Judicial Circuit, Place 2

LaBella McCallum	10 th Judicial Circuit, Place 5
Erik Heninger	10 th Judicial Circuit, Place 9
Fred Helmsing	13 th Judicial Circuit, Place 2
David Martin	15 th Judicial Circuit, Place 6
Mark Boardman	18 th Judicial Circuit, Place 2
Cliff Mendheim	20 th Judicial Circuit
Clay Martin	23 rd Judicial Circuit, Place 4
Clint Maze	27 th Judicial Circuit
Don Mansell	39 th Judicial Circuit

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Buck updated the commission on the launch of the Justice4AL website and the overall success of the OutREACH program. Buck announced that Wilson Green has been tapped as the next editor of the Alabama Lawyer, and commended Greg Ward for his five years of outstanding service. President Buck concluded his remarks by thanking the commission for its courtesy to him as bar president. He also thanked the members of the commission for their service and a great bar year.

SECRETARY/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Secretary/Executive Director Terri Lovell informed the commission that a new commissioner orientation will be held on August 15, 2024, via Zoom. Lovell provided information related to the Alabama State Bar Health Plan and the open bid process underway. She thanked the Alabama State Bar for their hard work preparing for the annual meeting. She closed by thanking President Buck for his service as president, his guidance in difficult situations, and for being a role model for civility and professionalism.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel Roman Shaul provided information on the ongoing efforts on the database implementation. He further stated that a public survey on lawyer advertising had been completed and referred to the Court for further input.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT

Parliamentarian Mark Boardman gave an informative overview of the Executive Council’s role within the Board of Bar Commission. He further provided an update of activities of the Executive Council since the May 3, 2024, Board of Bar Commission meeting.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

President Buck informed the board of the recently completed performance evaluations for the Executive Director and the General Counsel pursuant to the review policy adopted by the Board of Bar Commissioners. President Buck announced that the completed evaluations were made available prior to the meeting and would be available upon request after the meeting.

BAR EXAM NEXT STEPS

Karen Laneaux shared recent steps by the Board of Bar Examiners to assess and evaluate proposed changes to the Alabama bar exam. Laneaux indicated that the current bar exam will retire July of 2028. She indicated that the Board of Bar Examiners will be providing a substantive report to the Alabama Supreme Court for their input and guidance on the recommendation to be made by the Board of Bar Examiners and the Board of Bar Commissioners for the Court's final approval.

MCLE APPOINTMENTS

Upon the retirement of commissioners Cliff Mendheim and David Martin, there will be two vacancies on the MCLE Commission. Nominations were opened from the floor and received for Angela Kennedy and Andrew Stanley.

MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS AND MOVE TO AN ACTION ITEM MADE BY PRATT AUSTIN-TRUCKS AND SECONDED BY MARK DEBRO, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE. MOTION TO APPOINT COMMISSIONERS ANGELA KENNEDY AND ANDREW STANLEY TO THE MCLE COMMISSION MADE BY JANA GARNER AND SECONDED BY SUNTREASE WILLIAMS-MAYNARD, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

ACTION ITEMS

ANNUAL LICENSE FEE RENEWAL

President Buck announced that the Finance and Audit Committee and the Executive Council recommended licensing fees continue for a third year at the reduced rate of \$300 for occupational license and \$150 for special license.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED LICENSURE FEES AS \$300 FOR OCCUPATIONAL AND \$150 FOR SPECIAL MADE BY MARK DEBRO, SECONDED BY HUNTER COMPTON, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

YOUNG LAWYER SECTION BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

President Buck announced amendments to the Young Lawyers Section Bylaws were presented for vote upon recommendation of the YLS Board.

MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO THE YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION BYLAWS MADE BY COMMISSIONER PRATT AUSTIN-TRUCKS, SECONDED BY EDGAR BLACK, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

ALABAMA RULES GOVERNING ADMISSIONS RULE CHANGES

Admissions Director Karen Laneaux announced amendments to ARGA Rule II and Rule VI(B) were presented for vote subject to approval of the Alabama Supreme Court.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENTS TO RULE II AND RULE VI(B) MADE BY PRATT AUSTIN-TRUCKS, SECONDED BY LEON HAMPTON, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

2024 ALABAMA LAWYERS HALL OF FAME CLASS

Executive Director Terri Lovell reported that the selection committee of the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame had recommended four individuals who have been deceased at least two years. They are Camille W. Cook, James O. Haley, Alexander W. Newton, and L. Charles Wright. The selection committee had also recommended the induction of Gabriel Moore who has been deceased more than 100 years.

COMMISSIONER ELIZABETH SMITHART MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2024 HALL FAME CLASS, SECONDED BY CLAY MARTIN, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD MEMBER APPOINTMENT

General Counsel Shaul informed the commission that nominations were sought for the upcoming vacancies on the Disciplinary Board. Lisha Graham was the only nomination for the position.

COMMISSIONER CHUCK PRICE MOVED TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS, SECONDED BY STEVEN SAVARESE, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE.

COMMISSIONER LABELLA MCCALLUM MOVED TO APPROVE LISHA GRAHAM TO THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD, SECONDED BY HUNTER COMPTON, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD LAY MEMBER & ALTERNATE APPOINTMENTS

General Counsel Roman Shaul informed the commission that nominations were sought for the upcoming vacancies for lay members on the Disciplinary Board. The following individuals were nominated:

Jim Billings, Danny Sample, Charlie Harper, Carson Francis, Bob Collins, Roosevelt Morgan, Katie Crowe, and Caroline Woodward. Commissioner Jana Garner withdrew her nominations of Crowe and Woodward.

MOTION TO NOMINATE BOB COLLINS AS THE PERMANENT LAY MEMBER AND THE REMAINING NOMINEES JIM BILLINGS, DANNY SAMPLE, CHARLIE HARPER, CARSON FRANCIS, AND ROOSEVELT MORGAN AS ALTERNATE LAY MEMBERS MADE BY COMMISSIONER RAYMOND BELL, SECONDED BY CLIFF MENDHEIM, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

General Counsel Roman Shaul informed the commission that he had solicited nominations for a vacancy on the Disciplinary Commission. The only nomination received for the vacancy was Hunter Compton. Shaul also informed the commission that the terms of Clay Martin and Manish Patel expire July 2024 and both were seeking reappointment and no other nominations had been received.

COMMISSIONER KIRK GARRETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF HUNTER COMPTON TO THE DISCIPLINARY COMMISSION AND THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CLAY MARTIN AND MANISH PATEL. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LISHA GRAHAM, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD HEARING OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

General Counsel Roman Shaul informed the commission that nominations were solicited for the upcoming vacancies of three hearing officer positions on the hearing panels of the Disciplinary Board. The following individuals were nominated to fill the hearing officer positions: Rebekah McKinney, Jim Rebarchak, and David Martin

COMMISSIONER PAT SEFTON MOVED TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS, SECONDED BY RAYMOND BELL, AND THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

AFTER DISCUSSION OF EACH NOMINEE FOR REAPPOINTMENT, A MOTION WAS MADE BY PRATT AUSTIN-TRUCKS, SECONDED BY ANGELA KENNEDY, TO REAPPOINT REBEKAH MCKINNEY, JIM REBARCHAK, AND DAVID MARTIN AS HEARING OFFICERS, AND THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

CLIENT SECURITY FUND APPOINTMENTS

President Buck informed the commission that the term of Jim Ward is expiring on the Client Security Fund Committee. John Saxon was the only nomination to fill the vacancy.

COMMISSIONER ANDREW STANLEY MOVED TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE CLIENT SECURITY FUND COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY JEROME THOMPSON, AND THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

COMMISSIONER PRATT AUSTIN-TRUCKS MOVED TO APPROVE JOHN SAXON AS A MEMBER OF THE CLIENT SECURITY FUND COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY EDGAR BLACK, AND APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS APPROVAL

President Buck announced that the Board of Bar Examiners is presented to the Board of Bar Commissioners on a recommendation from the Executive Council as follows: Dan Johnson, David Hymer, Chuck James, Susan Kennedy, Forrest Latta, Tara Lockett, and Robert Lockwood.

MOTION TO APPROVED THE RECOMMENDED BOARD OF BAR EXAMINERS MADE BY RAYMOND BELL, SECONDED BY CLIFF MENDHEIM, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

CHARACTER AND FITNESS COMMITTEE APPROVAL

President Buck announced the Character and Fitness committee is presented to the board on a recommendation from the Executive Council for appointment by the President.

MOTION TO APPROVED THE CHARACTER AND FITNESS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT MADE BY PRATT AUSTIN-TRUCKS, SECONDED BY JEFF BOWLING, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

ALABAMA LAWYERS ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION APPOINTMENTS

President Buck informed the commission that he had solicited nominations for a vacancy on the ALAP Foundation. The only nomination received for the vacancy was that of Commissioner Pratt Austin-Trucks.

MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS MADE BY STEVEN SAVARESE, SECONDED BY HUNTER COMPTON, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

MOTION TO APPROVE PRATT AUSTIN-TRUCKS MADE BY CLIFF MENDHEIM, SECONDED BY FELICIA LONG, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION BOARD APPOINTMENTS

President Buck informed the commission that nominations for vacancies on the Alabama Law Foundation Board of Trustees had been announced. The Alabama Law Foundation Board of Trustees nominated Flynn Mozingo.

COMMISSIONER STEVEN SAVARESE MOVED TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY PRATT AUSTIN-TRUCKS, AND APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

AFTER DISCUSSION, MOTION TO APPROVE FLYNN MOZINGO TO THE ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION BOARD MADE BY MARK DEBRO, SECONDED BY ANGELA KENNEDY, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

ABA HOUSE OF DELEGATES APPOINTMENTS

President Buck announced that the Alabama State Bar has five delegate positions and vacancies for of those positions which will occur following the ABA meeting in August 2024. The positions are currently filled by Rich Raleigh and Richard Gaal, who are seeking reappointment, and Michael Vercher, who is not seeking reappointment. A nomination was received for John Stamps. Ginger Busby was nominated by Bobby Poundstone from the floor.

MOTION TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS MADE BY LABELLA MCCALLUM, SECONDED BY CLIFF MENDHEIM, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, A MOTION TO APPROVE JOHN STAMPS FOR ABA DELEGATE WAS MADE BY HUNTER COMPTON, SECONDED BY JANA GARNER, AND APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION MADE BY MARK DEBRO TO REOPEN DISCUSSION ON THE APPROVAL OF THE 2024 LAWYERS HALL OF FAME CLASS, SECONDED BY SALLY BOWERS, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

Discussion opened with concern regarding inductee Gabriel Moore.

MOTION TO RESCIND ACTION APPROVING 2024 HALL OF FAME CLASS FOR FURTHER REVIEW MADE BY MARK DEBRO, SECONDED BY SUNTREASE WILLIAMS-MAYNARD, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

RECESS

President Buck declared that the meeting was in recess at 4:35 pm to a time and place certain, specifically Saturday, June 29, 2024, reconvening in Emerald E ballroom at 11:15 am.

**RECONVENED AGENDA
EMERALD E**

MEETING RECONVENED

Parliamentarian Mark Boardman announced the meeting of the Board of Bar Commissioners reconvened in Emerald E ballroom.

CALL TO ORDER

President Tom Perry called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

President Perry recognized Commissioner Mark Debro of the Nominating Committee, for the report of the Nominating Committee. Commissioner Debro reported the following nominations:

Nominations for Officers and Executive Council

Vice President:	John Stamps
Secretary:	Terri Lovell
Parliamentarian	Mark Boardman
Executive Council:	Jana Garner
	Pat Sefton
	John Smyth/Ron Strawbridge

The nominating committee nominated incoming commissioner Ron Strawbridge as the third commissioner member of the Executive Council. His term as a sitting commissioner will begin Monday, July 1, 2024. Accordingly, since Alabama Code 34-3-43 establishes eligibility to be a member of the Executive Council as being a sitting commissioner, and since a government official continues in his/her role until his/her replacement is seated, the nominating committee has asked retiring commissioner and executive committee member John Smyth to serve until Ron Strawbridge is eligible.

COMMISSIONER JOSH HAYES MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AS PROPOSED, SECONDED BY SUNTREASE WILLIAMS-MAYNARD, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION MADE BY MARK DEBRO TO APPROVE CAMILLE W. COOK, JAMES O. HALEY, ALEXANDER W. NEWTON, AND L. CHARLES WRIGHT AS THE 2024 ALABAMA LAWYERS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES, SECONDED BY EDGAR BLACK, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE.

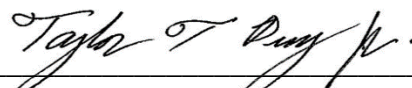
ADJOURNMENT

President Perry asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MADE BY SCOTT HOLMES, SECONDED BY STEVEN SAVARESE, AND APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE, WITH THE MEETING ADJOURNING AT 11:42 AM.



Brannon J. Buck, President
Alabama State Bar



Taylor T. Perry, Jr.
ASB President, 2024-2025

ATTEST:



Terri B. Lovell, Secretary
Alabama State Bar