



Alabama State Bar

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

Alabama State Bar Building and Via Zoom
415 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104
April 30, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

President Fred Helmsing convened the meeting at 4:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Secretary, Terri Lovell, took roll wherein a quorum was established:

Present: Raymond Bell, Mark Boardman, Jeff Bowling, Devan Byrd, Joel Connally, Jana Garner, Fred Helmsing, Will Lee, George Parker, and Tom Perry along with staff members Terri Lovell, Roman Shaul, and Chad Coker.

Absent: Christen Butler

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- *A Motion to Approve the agenda of April 30, 2026, was made by Jeff Bowling, seconded by Will Lee, and approved by unanimous roll call vote.*
- *A Motion to Approve the minutes from the Executive Committee Meeting of March 5, 2026, was made by Will Lee, seconded by Jeff Bowling, and approved by unanimous roll call vote.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fred Helmsing began his remarks acknowledging the enactment of Act 26-58 clarifying the bar's status as a judicial branch agency. Helmsing provided a synopsis of his speaking engagements and travels since the last meeting to include the following: Mobile Bar Association, Cumberland Law School with past president Tom Bob Methvin, UA Law reception honoring Justice Sonia Sotomayor, ALF fellows dinner, St. Clair County Bar

Association, and ASB Tackle Box Tour events in Phenix City and Andalusia. He stated Leadership Forum graduation had occurred and that he has spent time at the bar building meeting with staff regarding financial and fiscal planning.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Terri Lovell provided information regarding the most recent bar exam results from February 2026 wherein the overall passage rate was 33%. She provided a cursory update regarding an amendment to the Rules Governing Admission the Alabama Supreme Court had issued via order hours before the meeting. Lovell further informed the council of a correction that has been made to incorrect data maintained by the ABA which will illustrate Alabama has had an increase in membership over the past five years. She further announced the following items: initial HVAC repairs have been completed, interviews are occurring for an intake position within the VLP, Jana Garner and Chad Coker recently attended BLI in Chicago, YLS has been active with New Lawyer Boot Camps and Pre-Law Conferences throughout the state, Law Day will be held on May 1, four contested BBC races will be held in May, staff evaluation process is occurring, and meetings are being held at the office regarding implementation of the Public Education Injury Trust Fund legislation as it relates to the bar maintaining a list of potential hearing officers.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel Roman Shaul informed the Executive Committee that his department/personnel had been busy defending five separate lawsuits. Shaul stated the Alabama Supreme Court had recently issued their first opinion assessing a \$17,000 fine to an attorney using artificial intelligence hallucination cases in their brief. He provided an overview regarding the Supreme Court's decision to adopt a recommendation of the Alabama Securities Commission investigation and bypassing their recommendation first being submitted to the disciplinary commission. Finally, Shaul announced a meeting would occur on May 11, 2026, wherein a subset committee arising out of the disciplinary summit would be considering rule changes.

AT-LARGE COMMISSIONER NOMINATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

A discussion was held regarding at-large nominations for place 3, 6, and 9 on the board of bar commission. The consensus reached by all council members recommended Holly Sawyer be renominated for place 3 and Lisha Graham for place 6. The council agreed to defer to the collective judgment of the BBC regarding the selection for place 9.

SELECTION AND APPROVAL OF ASB AWARDS

A discussion occurred regarding the selection of Tony McLain and Bill Scruggs Awards as the Executive Council serves as the Award Committee.

- *A Motion to Select Bob MacKenzie as the McLain recipient was made by Will Lee, seconded by Tom Perry, and approved by unanimous roll call vote*
- *A Motion to Select Michael Upchurch as the Scruggs recipient was made by Jana Garner, seconded by Tom Perry, and approved by unanimous roll call vote.*

With the addition of these two selections, the list of ASB Awards to be submitted to the BBC for approval will be as follows:

<u>Tony McLain Professionalism Award:</u>	Bob MacKenzie
<u>Bill Scruggs Service to the Bar Award:</u>	Michael Upchurch
<u>Michael Ermert Award of Merit:</u>	Gibson Vance
<u>Commissioners Award:</u>	Carmen Howell
<u>President's Award:</u>	Hon. Jim Hill
	Terry McCarthy
<u>Judicial Award of Merit:</u>	Hon. Tamara Harris Johnson
<u>Maud McLure Kelly Award:</u>	Mary Margaret Bailey
<u>Susan B. Livingston Award:</u>	Leila Watson
<u>Jeanne Marie Leslie Service Award:</u>	Bradley Ekhdahl
<u>Jesse P. Evans Solo and Small Firm Award:</u>	Laura Calloway
<u>VLP Awards:</u>	
Albert Vreeland Pro Bono Award:	Travis Chin
Law Firm/Group Award:	Alabama Association of Paralegals, Inc.
Mediator Award:	Randy Gibson
Law Student Award:	Delaney Russ

REVIEW AND FINAL APPROVAL OF JANUARY 30, 2026, BOARD OF BAR COMMISSION AGENDA

- *A Motion to Approve BBC agenda of May 1, 2026, was made by Will Lee, seconded by Jeff Bowling, and approved by unanimous roll call vote.*

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

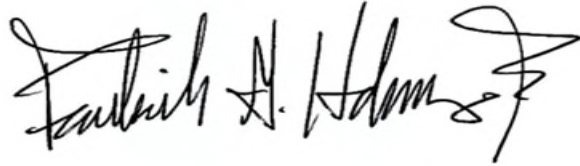
There was no old/new business.

MEETING ADJOURNED

President Helmsing asked if there was any further old or new business and there was none.

- *A Motion to Adjourn was made by Joel Connally, seconded by Will Lee, and approved by a unanimous vote.*

Helmsing adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frederick G. Helmsing, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frederick G. Helmsing, Jr., Chair
Alabama State Bar

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terri B. Lovell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Terri B. Lovell, Secretary
Alabama State Bar