



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES**

**August 29, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Governors was convened on August 29, 2024.

**The following members were in attendance:**

Richard Dreitzer, President  
Kari Stephens, President-Elect  
Catherine Mazzeo, Vice President  
Julie Cavanaugh-Bill, Immediate Past President via Zoom  
Seth Adams via Zoom  
Jeff Albregts  
John Aldrich  
Terry Coffing  
Andrew Craner  
Tyler Ingram  
Maggie Lambrose  
Pat Leverty  
Holly Parker  
Will Sykes  
Alex Velto  
Dean Leah Grinvald, Ex-Officio

**State Bar staff present:**

Manny Botello  
Lisa Dreitzer  
Kimberly Farmer  
Dan Hooge  
Marc Mersol

**Guests**

Justice Michael Douglas  
Bryan Scott  
Cameron Lue Sang  
Stewart Chan  
Jeff Luszeck, via Zoom  
Shirley Blazich, via Zoom  
Michael Buckley, via Zoom  
Rob Kim, via Zoom  
Eric Kohli

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

State Bar President, Richard Dreitzer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the consent agenda.

- June 26, 2024, minutes
- Officer Appointments for the Young Lawyers and Appellate Litigation Section
- Business partner renewal: LawPay
- Attorney resignations
- Attorney suspensions

## **REPORTS/ACTION**

### Financial Report

Finance Director Marc Mersol provided a financial report with data through June 30, 2024. Mersol noted that overall, there is a year-to-date net expense for the general fund of \$14,338, \$352,182 less than anticipated. Revenues for the general fund exceeded projections by \$238,612 and operating expenses (not including depreciation) were under projections by \$97,773. The net revenue for all activities was \$200,775. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the June 30, 2024, Financial Report.

### Office of Bar Counsel Report

Bar Counsel Daniel Hooge presented discipline statistics covering intake, investigations, and hearings.

- The OBC aims to keep active cases under 250. This goal allows for about half of cases (125) to be in the investigation phase and half of the remaining cases (125) split between the intake, screening, and hearing phases.
- The OBC works efficiently with active cases below 250. We are within that range.
- The OBC's active case load increased slightly in July, partially due to cancellation of a monthly screening, but the caseload will improve following August screenings in the north and south.
- Of the 778 grievances the OBC has processed through August 1, 2024, 60 percent named solo and small firm attorneys, with the remainder split between attorneys at medium to large firms, government attorneys, or grievances that do not name a Nevada-licensed attorney. This percentage split has been consistent since the OBC began tracking the data in 2023.
- Through August 1, 2024, 106 (13.75 percent) of grievances have been referred to investigation. Of those referred, 83 (78 percent) related to solo or small firm attorneys.

Grievances referred to investigation of solo or small firm attorneys remain consistent at around 20 percent of total grievances received in those categories.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered Executive Session at 2:00p.m. and concluded the session at 3:15 p.m.

### Proposed Resolution re: Acts of Violence

Attorney Bradley Booke requested that the Board of Governors consider adopting the following resolution:

*Acts of Violence: Resolved that all forms of physical violence and threats of violence are intolerable and unequivocally unacceptable in all political discourse, no matter how disparate are opposing views.*

After discussion, the Board took no action; therefore, the resolution was not adopted.

#### New CLE Abroad Program

The Board considered and approved a proposal for the State Bar to sponsor a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Abroad program in the Netherlands in Spring 2025. The program, in collaboration with CLE Abroad, offers a unique opportunity for Nevada lawyers to engage in high-quality legal education while experiencing the rich cultural and historical heritage of the Netherlands. The cost per participant is estimated at \$3,000-\$5,000, which includes accommodation, meals, and all educational and cultural activities. CLE Abroad is responsible for all logistics and arrangements; the state bar is responsible for marketing the program to members. The bar will not have any out-of-pocket costs and will earn royalties for this program. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the agreement to offer CLE Abroad.

#### Incubator Program

The Board discussed the Handle | BAR Incubator program. This program was designed for those new to the practice of law or entering private practice for the first time. It was also intended for attorneys with an enthusiasm for serving low- and modest-income clients. The program began in spring 2021.

While the Incubator program has provided a quality benefit and excellent programming, participant numbers have not increased during the span of the program. The significant time commitment to this program by state bar staff is the same whether there is one participant or 10 participants. After consideration, it was moved, seconded and carried to sunset the Incubator Program.

#### Justice Douglas PreLaw Fellowship Program

The Board heard a presentation regarding the Justice Michael L. Douglas PreLaw Fellowship Program. Justice Douglas, Bryan Scott, Cameron Lue Sang, and Professor Stewart Chang provided an overview of the program, which offers undergraduate students one week of simulated law school classes in substantive areas of law, legal writing, legal analysis, and LSAT preparation. Fellows gain insight on best practices for applying and succeeding in law school. This in-residence program supports first-generation and diverse students interested in law school by providing information and resources on the application process, so they are best prepared for and can succeed in law school.

#### Member Benefits Renewal

According to Board of Governors' policy, sections' legislative proposals must be presented to the Board before the section presents revisions to the Nevada Legislature. The following sections provided the Board with proposed legislative changes:

Probate and Trust Law Section members Jeff Luszeck, Michelle Rafferty, and McClure Wallace presented a legislative position. It was moved, seconded and carried to support the sections legislative position; thus the section may take the legislative position and may assert that the legislative position is endorsed by the Board of Governors.

Alternative Dispute Resolution Section member Shirley Blazich presented a legislative position. The Board did not reject the section's position. It was moved, seconded and carried to inform the the section that they may proceed with the proposed legislation, provided the section includes a statement that the position is that of the section and not the Board of Governors.

Real Property Section member Michael Buckley presented a legislative position. It was moved, seconded and carried to support the sections legislative position; thus, the section may take the legislative position and may assert that the legislative position is endorsed by the Board of Governors.

Business Law Section member Rob Kim presented a legislative position. The Board had questions on aspects of the section's legislative changes and therefore did not approve the section moving forward. The section may bring revisions back to the Board for additional review.

#### Appointments

The Board approved appointments to:

- Northern and Southern Nevada Disciplinary Boards  
3-year term – Amos Stege
- TIP Mentors  
3-year term – Scott Abbot, Jonathan Carlson
- Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility  
3-year term – Joshua Gilmore
- Nevada Lawyer  
1-year term – Vice-Chair Richard Hy
- Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline  
4-year term – Jeremy Clarke
- Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics  
2-year term – Colleen Baharav, Jared Wigginton

#### South Asian Bar Association

Eric Kohli, SABA-LV president, provided an overview of activities, including events that foster their mission of community engagement, cultural awareness, legal education, and professional development. Kohli thanked the Board for its support of SABA-LV's pipeline programs.

#### Other Business

##### ADKT Submission: Limited Practice in Rural Counties

The Board discussed the submission of an Administrative Docket (ADKT) item seeking to amend the limited practice rule, SCR 49.1(1)(e). The amendment would seek to allow an employee of a private firm contracting with rural counties for public defense work to practice under the limited practice rule. It was moved, seconded and carried to submit and ADKT with the Executive Committee authorized to approve the final language in the ADKT.

Dues Check-off – The Board discussed the dues check-off that directs funds to the Nevada Bar Foundation and legal aid providers. The Board supported a review of the dues check-off to encourage increased donations.

Future Board Meeting Topics

The Board discussed agenda items for future Board meeting. These include a discussion covering how the Board defines DEI and policies of Nevada's ABA House of Delegates representatives.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

**VIA EMAIL VOTE**

**SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the February 23-27, 2025, and July 27-31, 2025 – Plaza Hotel & Casino contracts.

**OCTOBER 7, 2024**

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve for the Elder Law Section to waive section dues for the 2025 dues cycle.

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