



**MINUTES
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
Las Vegas, NV
April 11, 2012**

A regular meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada was convened on April 11, 2012.

The following members were in attendance:

Connie Akridge, President
Frank Flaherty, President-Elect
Alan Lefebvre, Vice President
Cam Ferenbach, Immediate Past President
James Bradshaw
Elizabeth Brickfield
Eric Dobberstein
Elana Turner Graham
Gene Leverty
Paul Matteoni
Richard Pocker
Bryan Scott
Richard Scotti
Mason Simons
David Wall
John White (ex-officio)

State Bar staff present:

Kimberly Farmer
Gale Skala
Marc Mersol
David Clark

Guests:

Paola Armeni
Marisa Guarino

The meeting was called to order by President Connie Akridge at 9:40 a.m. there being a quorum present.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, CONNIE AKRIDGE

Connie Akridge reported on the 2012 Annual Convention program and thanked Board members for their sponsorship support.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT, KIMBERLY FARMER

Kim Farmer provided a report from the Facilities Committee. The committee and Executive Committee approved contracting with Mack Realty as the real estate broker working on behalf of the state bar in our search for a new headquarters. Ms. Farmer presented an overview of the Transitioning into Practice (TIP).

Ms. Farmer discussed the Law Related Education program and potential options to fund the program in future years.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Intermediate Appellate Court/Speakers Bureau

The Supreme Court of Nevada asked for the help with promoting an Intermediate Appellate Court (IAC) initiative. They asked the state bar to consider a speakers bureau or similar PR ideas to promote and educate the public on the importance of an IAC. The Board agreed that it is necessary to educate the public on this matter and supports the state bar allocating resources to advocate for and publicize the need for the IAC. The Board determined that the focus of the message should be on the positive impact an intermediate appellate court would have on access to justice. The emphasis should be on public benefits and access to justice rather than alleviating court workload. The Court has talking points and statistics that can be used to form the state bar's message on the IAC.

REPORTS

Young Lawyers Section, Paola Armeni

Paola Armeni provided a synopsis of the Young Lawyers Section activities, highlighting their most recent implementation of Project Salute. The YLS has joined forces with Nevada Legal Services to implement the ABA Young Lawyers Division 2011-12 national public service project, Project Salute. Project Salute will host events where veterans will meet individually with volunteer attorneys to guide them through various requirements and federal veterans' benefits.

Office of Bar Counsel Report

David Clark reported the 2011 statistics from the Office of Bar Counsel (OBC). The OBC plans to conduct training sessions for the discipline board members. Mr. Clark asked for direction on whether the OBC should conduct CLE programs at the office of a firm for attorneys in the firm. The Board determined that it is appropriate for the OBC to present CLE programs to firms. The intent is to have the OBC staff available and assessable to members.

ACTION ITEMS

Financials- 2011 Year end/ February 2012

Marc Mersol reported on the 2011 year-end financials. He also covered the financial report for the period ending February 2012.

Appellate Law Section Application

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve an Appellate Law Section as a section of the State Bar of Nevada. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the following officers:

Tami Cowden, Chair

Seth Floyd, Vice Chair

Bradley Schragger, Secretary

Puneet Garg, Treasurer

Beau Sterling, Member at large

Elana Turner Graham abstained from voting.

Member Benefit – Clio

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Clio as a member benefit. Clio is an easy-to-use, intuitive, web-based practice management system. Clio's core functionality encapsulates the needs of most solos and small firms: calendaring, time tracking, note-taking, document management, trust accounting, managing retainers and billing.

ABA Day in Washington

Connie Akridge and Frank Flaherty will attend ABA Day 2012 in Washington, D.C. It was moved, seconded and carried to support lobbying for the following issues during the ABA Day.

- Legal Services Corporation funding: support increased funding for the civil legal services provided through the Legal Services Corporation.
- The Court Fee Intercept Act: support of the Court Fee Intercept Act, which would authorize the Department of the Treasury to intercept federal income tax refunds to satisfy court debts and victim restitution.
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): support for reauthorization of VAWA, the federal law aimed at ending violence against women and remedying the laws and social practices that have fostered violence against women, and for the legal services provided through VAWA.

Clients' Security Fund Policy and Procedures

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve an amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Clients' Security Fund to specifically disallow claims in which an attorney has been administratively suspended.

Social Media Proposal

Jennifer Smith provided a synopsis of the proposal for a coordinated social media program for the state bar using Facebook and Twitter. The proposal outlined a business page on Facebook and standard account on Twitter to be moderated by state bar Publication staff. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve expanding the State Bar's communication channels to include Facebook.

Pro Bono Book Discount

Jennifer Smith reported on the Publications Department proposal for a discount book program to support the efforts of attorneys taking on pro bono cases through the Nevada legal aid service providers. In addition to offering support to those agencies, a secondary goal of the program is to introduce a new marketing channel to spread awareness of State Bar of Nevada published legal reference manuals and materials. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the proposed discount program. Elana Turner Graham abstained from voting.

Lawyer Referral and Information Public Service Grants

Marisa Guarino, Lawyer Referral and Information (LRIS) committee member, reported on the LRIS Public Service Grant program and the criteria that the committee followed to review applications and approve grant awards. She then presented the committee recommendations for 2012 public service grant awards.

It was moved, seconded and carried to amend the recommendations of the LRIS Committee to increase the CCLF grant to \$285,810.55. Elana Turner Graham abstained from voting.

Organization Name	Program	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended By Committee	Amount Approved by Board
Advanced Technologies Academy	Mock Trial team expenses	\$6,342.35	\$2,786.55	\$2,786.55
CASA	Recruit/train/appoint volunteers	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
CCLF	Trial by Peers	\$22,200	\$13,500	\$22,200
LACSN	Educational Surrogate Parent Program	\$50,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
LV National Bar Association Foundation	MLK Drum Major for Justice Advocacy contest	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100
LV National Bar Association Foundation	African American Legal History exhibit	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
NFCE	People’s Law School & Speakers Bureau	\$6,050	\$6,050	\$6,050
NLS	Tribal Court Advocate Training	\$20,500	\$20,500	\$20,500
NLS	Multimedia Community Education	\$20,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Project REAL	Play by the Rules	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Rocky Mountain Innocence Center	Correction/prevention of wrongful accusations & convictions	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
SN Senior Law Project	Technical support/rebranding materials/events/training	\$78,100	\$66,000	\$66,000
UNR	Mock trial competitors	\$21,610	\$12,330	\$12,330
VARN	Purchase/installation of videoconferencing equipment	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500
VARN	Rural pro bono videoconferencing project	\$20,250	\$15,000	\$15,000
Washoe Senior Law Project	Part-time attorney for program development	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000
WCBF	Now That You’re 18 publication	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500
Washoe Legal Services	Update computer technology	\$7,844	\$7,844	\$7,844
Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence	Reprinting and distribution of domestic violence handbook	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Diversity Scholarships	2 nd of 3 annual scholarships	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
LRE Winning Mock Trial Team	Annual grant for winning Mock Trial team travel	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Total Granted		\$366,996.35	\$277,110.55	\$285,810.55

Permanent Member of the Judicial Selection Committee

It was moved, seconded and carried to appoint Valerie Cooney as a permanent member of the Judicial Selection Committee effectively immediately ending December 31, 2012.

Temporary Member Judicial Selection

It was moved, seconded and carried to appoint Stephanie Barker as a temporary member of the Judicial Selection Committee for the Eighth Judicial District. It was moved, seconded and carried to appoint Jacob Sommer as a temporary member of the Judicial Selection Committee for the Tenth Judicial District.

Discipline Board Policy

David Clark reported on the current membership of the Northern and Southern Disciplinary Boards. Currently the membership totals are at 58 attorneys and 18 lay members on the Southern panel and 41 attorneys and 16 lay members on the Northern panel. Mr. Clark proposed setting caps to the Disciplinary Boards to a maximum of 45 attorneys and 15 lay members on each Southern and Northern panels. It was moved, seconded and carried to cap the number of discipline panel members as proposed by the Office of Bar Counsel. The Board requested that Mr. Clark develop a policy for Board approval that outlines panel participation guidelines.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Minutes of January 2012

Attorney Resignations -- approved the resignations of J. Gardiner Pieper, Chris E. Strange, Dean P. Vernon, Robert M. Johnson, Kidd Crawford, and Craig G. Moore.

Business Continuity Planning – approved final Business Continuity Plan in the event that an incident renders the State Bar of Nevada inoperable for an extended period of time.

UNLV Contract – approved contract for the July 2012 Bar Exam to be held at UNLV.

2013 Annual Meeting - Harrah’s Harvey’s Agreement – approved agreement for the 2013 Annual Convention to be held at Harrah’s Harvey’s, Lake Tahoe, NV.

Family Law Revised Bylaws – approved the revised bylaws of the Family Law Section updating the section’s purpose, increasing the term length for officers from one year to two and expressly stating that the Executive Council is authorized to approve the payment of all financial obligations of the Executive Council and the section.

Commission on Judicial Discipline – approved the following upon receipt of the resignation of James Beasley. Mr. James Beasley will serve the remainder of his term as an alternate and Mr. Wayne Chimarusti will serve the remainder of his term as a primary member.

Appointments

Fee Dispute Arbitration Committee – approved the reappointment of Robert Johnston, Carson City as Regional Chair for a one year term.

Approved reappointment of the following volunteers to the Fee Dispute Arbitration Committee for a three year term commencing May 2012.

Bruce Breslow, Reno

Thomas Erwin, Reno

Patrick Fagan, Carson City

William Buchanan, Las Vegas Panel C

Ara Shirinian, Las Vegas Panel C

Wolfe Thompson, Las Vegas Panel C

Dawn Throne, Las Vegas Panel A

Approved appointment of the following volunteers to the Fee Dispute Arbitration Committee for a three year term commencing April 2012.

Ann McDermott, Las Vegas Panel B

John Hayes, Las Vegas Panel C

Susan Splan, Las Vegas Panel C

Peter Ossowski, Las Vegas Panel A

Client Security Committee

Approved the following volunteers to the Clients' Security Fund Committee for a three year term effective as stated.

Eva Cisneros March 2012

Dean Gould March 2012

Miriam Rodriguez March 2012

Ann McDermott November 2012

Jason Stoffel November 2012

Lawyer Referral and Information

Approved the following volunteers for reappointment to the Lawyer Referral and Information Committee for a three year term commencing June 2012.

Christopher Reade, Chair

Marisa Guarino, Vice Chair

Gerald Welt

Nelson Segel

Approved Katherine Provost for appointment to the Lawyer Referral and Information Committee for a three year term commencing June 2012.

Member Benefits Committee

Approved Jason Stoffel for appointment to the Member Benefits Committee ending December 2014.

Discipline Panels

Approved Jeffrey Albregts for a one year term as chair of the Southern Disciplinary Board effective June 30, 2012.

Approved reappointment of Walter Cannon for a three year term to the Southern Disciplinary Board effective June 30, 2012.

Approved appointment of Peter Ossowski for a three year term to the Southern Disciplinary Board effective April 16, 2012.

Approved J. Thomas Susich for a one year term as chair of the Northern Disciplinary Board effective June 30, 2012.

Approved reappointments of Keegan G. Low and Robert Bayer for a three year term to the Northern Disciplinary Board effective June 21, 2012.

Approved appointments of Mary Kandararis and John Sherriff for a three year term to the Northern Nevada Disciplinary Board effective April 16, 2012.

Lawyer Advertising

Approved appointment of Walter G. Sullivan for a two year term to the Southern Lawyer Advertising Committee effective April 16, 2012.

Approved the following reappointments for a two year term to the Southern Lawyer Advertising Committee.

Michael Lowry effective March 1, 2012 Adam Stokes effective February 17, 2012

Law Related Education

Approved appointments Fred Lokken and Christine Hull to the Law Related Education Committee effective June 2012.

Publications Committee

Approved reappointments of Ismail Amin, Chaz Rainey, Travis Shetler and Keith Tierney for a three year term to the Publications Committee effective June 2012.

Approved the following slate of officers for a one year term ending January 2013.

Ismail Amin, Chair Chaz Rainey, Vice Chair

Editorial Board

Approved for reappointments Mark Hinueber and Greg Shannon for a three year term to the Editorial Board effective June 2012.

Approved the following slate of officers for a one year term to the Editorial Board effective June 2012.

Patty Cafferata, Chair Michael Saunders, Chair-Elect
Rich Williamson, Vice Chair Mark Hinueber, Immediate Past Chair

EXECUTIVE SESSION 1:21 to 2:00 pm

The Board entered into Executive Session at 1:21 pm and concluded the Executive Session at 2:00 pm.

Veterans Court Committee

Richard Scotti gave a synopsis on the Resolution drafted by the Veterans Court Committee. No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.