



**Minutes – Board of Governors Meeting  
August 31, 2020  
Via Zoom Meeting**

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada was convened on August 31, 2020

**The following members were in attendance:**

Eric Dobberstein, President  
Ann Morgan, President-Elect  
Paola Armeni, Vice President  
Paul Matteoni, Immediate Past President  
Julie Cavanaugh Bill  
Doug Clark  
Terry Coffing  
Andrew Craner  
Richard Dreitzer  
Seth Adams  
Brittnie Watkins  
Gene Leverty  
Kari Stephens

**State Bar staff present:**

Kimberly Farmer  
Lisa Dreitzer  
Marc Mersol  
Manny Botello  
Dan Hooge

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Eric Dobberstein called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 8:30 am. Mr. Dobberstein addressed the Board and welcomed everyone.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved, second and carried to remove the LRS recommendation and Hotel Del Coronado contract from the consent agenda.

Consent agenda approved.

- Minutes
- Resignations
- Section Appointments
- Entertainment Law Name Change
- Auditor Engagement Letter

- Mock Trial Committee Recommendations
- Member Suspensions

Gene Leverty addressed his concerns with the LRS recommendation. It was moved, second and carried approve the amendments to the LRS Rules and Standards and to change the LRS governance structure specifically sunsetting the LRS Committee.

After discussion it was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Hotel Del Coronado contract for the 2021 State Bar annual meeting, June 17 -19, 2021.

## **DISCUSSION**

### Board of Bar Examiners:

Richard Trachok updated the Board on the July bar exam and highlighted the successful execution of the virtual bar exam.

### Blue Ribbon Committee on Diversity and Inclusion:

The Committee discussed how to include diversity and inclusion efforts into the state bar's long-term strategic planning. The Board agreed that the state bar should take affirmative steps to build a diverse legal community and make a commitment to diversity and inclusion as a core organizational value. It was agreed that the Board is committed to address the issue of race through open dialogues on diversity and inclusion, listening to the obstacles and experiences of people of color, and to explore ways to assist those lawyers and all people to know their legal rights and to protect such.

To that end it was moved, seconded and carried to add an objective related to diversity and inclusion to the strategic plan.

The Board discussed making public statement speaking to recent events in Nevada, America and in many countries around the world that have led to new levels of both unity and divisiveness.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to issue a public statement noting the commitment to the attorney's oath that we will support the Constitution and the Government and will promote the administration of justice. And that the State Bar of Nevada stands for justice for all and against racism and the systematic abuse of the justice system.

It was moved, second and carried to donate the proceeds from the October 15 CLE presentation, "All's Fair: Love, War & Politics," towards the Justice Michael Douglas Pre-Law Fellowship program.

## **SECTION LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL**

### Probate and Trust Section:

Mark Knobel and Alan Freer presented the legislative proposals on behalf of the section.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the legislative position taken by the section as the position by the section. The section shall include the disclaimer as outlined in the state bar bylaws noting the legislative position is presented on behalf of the section only.

### Real Property Section:

Michael Buckley presented the legislative proposals on behalf of the section.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the legislative position taken by the section as the position by the section. The section shall include the disclaimer as outlined in the state bar bylaws noting the legislative position is presented on behalf of the section only.

Business Law Section:

Rob Kim presented the legislative proposals on behalf of the section.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the legislative position taken by the section as the position by the section. The section shall include the disclaimer as outlined in the state bar bylaws noting the legislative position is presented on behalf of the section only.

Family Law Section:

Kimberly Surrat and Megan Lucey presented the legislative proposals on behalf of the section.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the legislative position taken by the section as the position by the section. The section shall include the disclaimer as outlined in the state bar bylaws noting the legislative position is presented on behalf of the section only.

**APPOINTMENTS**

The Board approved the following appointments:

TIP Mentors

It was moved, second and carried to approve the slate of mentors.

Fee Dispute Committee:

It was moved, second and carried to approve Royi Moas as committee chair.

Publications Committee:

It was moved, second and carried to appoint:

Elizabeth Bassett

Chandeni Sendall

Chair: Paul Ray

Vice-Chair: Jeffrey Luszeck

Ann Moran and Richard Dreitzer abstained from voting.

Executive Session

The Board went into Executive Session at noon and concluded the session at 12:30 p.m.

**DISCIPLINE TASKFORCE REPORT**

Terry Coffing updated the board on the highlights of the most recent taskforce meeting. Dan Hooge provided additional background on the cost and statistics of alternative regulatory models.

**DISCIPLINE REPORT**

Dan Hooge presented the report and statistics covering current matters in the Office of Bar Counsel.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Marc Mersol presented a summary of the state bar's Financial Report for June 30, 2020. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the June 30, 2020 financial report.

Also presented was proposed 2020 budget revisions. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the 2020 revised budget.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Incubator Program & Memorandum of Understanding for Practice Management Advisor:

Kimberly Farmer highlighted the objectives of the practice management program, Handle/BAR and discussed the role of a practice management advisor. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the addition of a practice management advisor to the Handle/BAR program.

Ms. Farmer also discussed a new program – a legal incubator program. This program is designed to help newer attorneys begin solo and small practices while also serving community legal needs. The program funding would require an annual cost of \$30,000. The intent is to fund this program using a designated fund. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the legal incubator program.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Margo Piscevich joined the board to discuss her concerns and objections to the recent Supreme Court rule change requiring CLE for Attorneys over 70 years of age.

## **AWARDS PRESENTATION**

Immediate Past-President Matteoni and President Dobberstein presented the awards to the following recipients:

Bronagah Kelley – Young Lawyer of the Year

Kevin Speed and Alex Velto – Volunteers of the Year

The Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice – Medal of Justice

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm

## **Email Vote, September 4, 2020**

Via email, a motion was made with a second and carried to authorize the Real Property Section to develop an amicus brief in the matter of Editha Salvador v. Countrywide Home Loans Inc.; Bank of America, N.A. (BANA); Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MERS); Quality Loan Service Corporation; and Bank of New York Mellon, F/K/A Bank of New York

Richard Dreitzer abstained from voting

## **Email Vote, October 26, 2020**

Via email, a motion was made with a second and carried to approve the revised Mock Trial rules facilitating virtual competitions.