



BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES
April 5-6, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada was convened on April 5 and April 6, 2023.

The following members were in attendance:

Paola Armeni, President
Julie Cavanaugh-Bill President-Elect
Richard Dreitzer, Vice President
Ann Morgan, Immediate Past President
Seth Adams
Jeffrey Albregts
Doug Clark
Terry Coffing
Andrew Craner
Pat Leverty
Joel Locke
Catherine Mazzeo
Marisa Rodriguez
Kari Stephens
Brittnie Watkins
Dean Leah Grinvald, Ex-Officio

State Bar staff present:

Manny Botello
Lisa Dreitzer
Kimberly Farmer
Dan Hooge
Brad Lewis, via Zoom
Marc Mersol

Guests, via Zoom

Sarah Bradley
Audrey Beeson
Michael Buckley

APRIL 5, 2023

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Paola Armeni called the meeting to order with a quorum present on April 5, 2023, at 12:40 pm.

Annual Meeting Report

President Armeni provided an overview of the New York City 2023 Bar Conference, scheduled for June 22-23, 2023, at the JW Marriott Essex House, located within steps of Central Park. Seminar topics include how technology is revolutionizing the law, rainmaking for lawyers, a legislative overview, and the Nevada Supreme Court update among others. Armeni also discussed the status of the stipend program for minority bars. The deadline for stipend requests was March 1, 2023. Not all stipend funds were used, therefore the BOG discussed extending the stipends to other bars. It was moved, seconded and approved to extend the stipend program to the affinity bars.

Rural Meeting Report

To address the shortfall of available legal services in Nevada's rural communities, President Armeni convened a rural practice summit. Attendees included judges and practicing attorneys in Nevada's rural judicial districts. Overall, the attendees identified a lack of available civil and criminal legal services in nearly every county. Given the scope of the issue, the board's next step is to form a taskforce to explore short and long-term solutions, such as partnerships with the Boyd School of Law and other community partners.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Kimberly Farmer provided a report on the state bar's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and pipeline initiatives, and programs covering civility in the legal profession.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

DISCUSSION

BOG recusal Policy

The BOG discussed adopting a policy concerning BOG members recusing themselves when the BOG member has a direct personal or pecuniary interest not in common with other members of the BOG. The debate covered issues relating to participation in a BOG conversation and/or recusal from a vote. After a robust discussion, a motion was made and seconded to require BOG members to disclose in writing leadership positions in legal organizations in which they have a fiduciary role. Motion carried.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The BOG discussed issues relating to AI including:

- How AI will affect how lawyers practice
- Regulatory issues
- Ethical concerns

This topic will continue to be discussed at future BOG meetings. Additionally, the state bar will convene an AI symposium designed to cover ethical, regulatory, and other issues relating to AI.

REPORTS/ACTION

Specializations

The Nevada Justice Association (NJA) is currently a certifying organization that manages the Personal Injury and the Workers' Compensation registered specializations. The NJA must seek approval from the Board of Governors every five years to maintain its status as a certifying organization for those specializations.

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Nevada Justice Association's request to renew as a specialization certifying organization in Personal Injury and Workers' Compensation. Patrick Leverty abstained.

IDEA Grant Committee Report

The state bar IDEA Grants are awarded to organizations supporting:

- Pipeline and scholarship programs; and,
- Wellbeing initiatives that foster improvement in the legal culture, promote mentorship, or aid in the building of a community of inclusivity.

The IDEA Grant Committee provided an overview of the recent IDEA grant applications received. Upon recommendation from the committee, it was moved, seconded and carried to approve the following grants:

- South Asian Bar Association – \$22,500 covering LSAT Prep Courses, an informational dinner, and funding for student scholarships.
- UNLV Kerkorian School of Medicine – \$13,389 for the LEAP fellowship program. This is an academic healthcare compliance program in partnership with the William S. Boyd School of Law. Also \$15,545 for an extension of the LEAP program fellowship, UPWARD. This program is an extension of LEAP and is an inter-institutional short-term academic fellowship.
- Nevada Legal Services – \$12,000 to provide funding for the Battle Born Racial Justice Fellow.
- Clark County Bar Association (CCBA) – \$3,600 to support the CCBA's DICE CLE series.
- Nevada Latino Bar Association (NLBA) – \$38,000 to support aspiring students to take LSAT prep courses. \$10,000 to support the NLBA scholarship program that supports students studying for the bar exam.

Financial Report

Marc Mersol presented a summary of the financial report for the month ending December 31, 2022. Mr. Mersol also provided a financial report for the month ending February 2023. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the financial report of December 31, 2022, and February 2023.

Public Lawyers Section

Sarah Bradley, section chair provided an overview of the section's 2023 programs with highlights of the upcoming Public Lawyers Conference.

President Armeni adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

April 6, 2023

President Armeni called the meeting to order with a quorum present on April 6, 2023, at 9:00 am.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:00 am and concluded the session at 9:30 am.

REPORTS

Office of Bar Counsel Report

Dan Hooe presented a summary of the activities handled by the Office of Bar Counsel including an overview of recent Supreme Court Orders and the discipline statistics.

APPOINTMENTS

The Board approved the following appointments:

Discipline Panels North and South – 3-year term

Northern Nevada Discipline Board:

Judy Prutzman, Esq.

Southern Nevada Discipline Board:

Elizabeth Hanson, Esq.

Natalie Allred, laymember

Afeni Banks, laymember

Jack Hegeduis, laymember

Anne Kingsley, laymember

Gale Kotlikova, laymember

Benjamin Lurie, laymember

Steve Moore, laymember

Vicki Seelig, laymember

Fee Dispute Committee – 3-year term

LVB Regional Chair – 1 year term

Alexander LeVeque

Reno/Rurals Chair – 1 year term

John Boyden

REPORTS

ADR Section

Audrey Beeson, section chair provided an overview of the section's 2023 programs. She noted that the section adopted mediation guidelines for Family Court practitioners.

Real Property Law

Michael Buckley, section chair provided an overview of the section's 2023 programs. He also discussed the section's legislative activities which are primarily to clean-up existing legislation. He also discussed the goal to partner with the Litigation Section on various initiatives. Finally, the section is planning an update to the Real Property Manual.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The BOG allotted time for member comments. There were no members providing comment at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

VIA EMAIL ON MAY 5, 2023

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Family Law Section request to submit an amicus brief in Supreme Court Case No. 84605

VIA EMAIL ON MAY 9, 2023

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the bylaws changes for the Real Property, Environmental & Natural Resources and Entertainment and Sports Law Sections as submitted.

VIA EMAIL ON MAY 16, 2023

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Real Property Law Section's request to file an amicus brief in the matter styled Jones v. Ghadiri before the Supreme Court of Nevada.

VIA EMAIL ON MAY 16, 2023

The Real Property Section submitted a final draft of an amicus brief in the matter styled Jones v. Ghadiri before the Supreme Court of Nevada seeking Board approval to submit the brief. The section drafted the brief on its own as the case deals with what the section believes is an important question involving fundamental real estate law. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Real Property Section's draft and submission to the Nevada Supreme Court the amicus brief in the matter styled Jones v. Ghadiri.

VIA EMAIL ON JUNE 5, 2023

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Entertainment and Sports Law Section's request to submit a letter of support to Nevada State Senate Bill 496 - Nevada Film Studio Infrastructure Act bill. The section added the paragraph below to the letter to follow section legislative position statements.

This position is being presented only on behalf of the Entertainment and Sports Law Section of the State Bar of Nevada. This position should not be construed as representing the position of the Board of Governors or the general membership of the State Bar. The Entertainment and Sports Law Section, which takes this position, is a voluntary section of 59 members composed of lawyers practicing in the areas of entertainment and sports law.

VIA EMAIL ON JUNE 6, 2023

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve \$12,000 as a capital expense to replace the air conditioner unit in suite 210.