



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES  
January 18 - 19, 2023**

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada was convened on January 18 and January 19, 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  
Andrew Craner  
Catherine Mazzeo  
Marisa Rodriguez  
Kari Stephens  
Brittnie Watkins  
Pat Leverty  
Joel Locke  
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**

Amanda Netuschil  
Majorie Guymon  
Julia Gold  
Jennifer Richards  
Kevin Kampschror

Barbara Buckley

## **JANUARY 18, 2023**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Paola Armeni called the meeting to order with a quorum present on January 18, 2023, at 2:50 pm.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

### **REPORTS**

#### Pro Bono Challenge

Brad Lewis presented the board with an overview of the upcoming section pro bono challenge, noting the decrease in pro bono since 2020. The challenge will start February 1, 2023, and conclude on May 31, 2023.

#### **Blue-Ribbon Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

The Blue-Ribbon Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion provided a report and recommendations including the goal to continue firm visits and the recommendation to adopt a program that provides a recognition medallion for firms that have demonstrated a commitment to DEI. It was moved, seconded, and carried to adopt the medallion program as presented.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Policy re: Board Member Service**

The board discussed the creation of a policy concerning board members appointed to outside committees, boards and commissions. The BOG regularly appoints its members to outside boards and commissions under the authority and direction provided in the Nevada Revised Statutes, Nevada Supreme Court Rules, or other governing documents of various organizations.

This service can be beneficial to the state bar and the organization. It was moved seconded and carried to implement a policy allowing board members to be appointed to committees during their time of service on the board. Board members who seek appointment to these entities will not participate in the discussion and will abstain from voting.

### **REPORTS**

#### Annual Meeting

Lisa McGrane presented the board with an overview of the programing for the 2023 State Bar annual meeting. A discussion was had regarding the stipends offered to sections and affinity bars. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve a stipend program for minority and county bar leaders, State Bar section leaders, the Nevada Lawyer Editorial Board and leaders of the Boyd School of Law Student Bar Association. Each organization will name the individual receiving the stipend. The stipend program outline includes the following:

- Each minority bar, county bar, and section receive two stipends each at \$2,000. If the organization brings a third person who registers for the conference the group will receive one more \$2,000 stipend. Those receiving the stipend must register and attend the conference.
- One stipend each of \$2,000 will be offered to the chair and vice-chair of the Student Bar Association at the Boyd School of Law. Those receiving the stipend must register and attend the conference.
- Should the Nevada Lawyer Editorial Board hold its bi-annual Board meeting during the annual meeting, members will each receive a \$2,000 stipend.

President Armeni adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

## **JANUARY 19, 2023**

President Paola Armeni called the meeting to order with a quorum present on January 19, 2023, at 8:30 am.

### **REPORTS**

#### Office of Bar Counsel Report

Dan Hooge 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. Mr. Hooge also discussed the draft ADKT seeking to amend Supreme Court Rules relating to attorney misconduct, SCRs 99-123. After discussion it was moved, seconded and carried to submit to the Supreme Court the ADKT relating to attorney misconduct.

#### Civility Taskforce

Marisa Rodriguez, Civility Taskforce Chair provided the board with an update on the taskforce's work. Ms. Rodriguez explained the draft of the Civility Creed, which encourages Nevada attorneys to treat each other better. It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the [preamble and creed of professionalism and civility](#) as presented.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### Probate and Trust Section Amicus Brief

Barbara Buckley, Executive Director of the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada expressed her concerns with the Amicus Brief and the impact it would have on low-income individuals. Jennifer Richards indicated that she also shared some of Ms. Buckley's concerns. The Board heard the section's overview later in the meeting.

#### License Fee Refund Request

The board discussed the state bar's DEI initiatives and programs as they related to a member's request for a partial license fee refund. The board believes programs that are in place help create a fair and equitable legal profession for minority and women attorneys and this is a form of regulating the legal profession thus germane to the bar's mission. Diversity within the profession helps build public trust in the legal profession and improvement in the quality of legal services.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to deny the request for a partial license fee refund.

### **REPORTS**

#### Audit Report

Daniel McArthur Daniel C. McArthur, LTD delivered the State Bar of Nevada Audit Report for the year ending December 31, 2021, to the board.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered Executive Session at 11:00 and concluded the session at 11:15.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the 2021 Audit Report. It was moved seconded and carried to engage the audit firm of Daniel C. McArthur, LTD for the 2022 State Bar audit.

**APPOINTMENTS**

The Board approved the following appointments:

*Standing Committee on Transition into Practice – 2-year term*

Carmen Avello  
Andy Moore  
Allison Reese

*Chair*

Carmen Avello

Marisa Rodriguez abstained.

*Transition into Practice Mentors*

*CLE Committee – 3-year term*

Sarah Bradley  
Arun Gupta  
Matthew Morris  
Michael Rock Rocheleau

*Chair*

Stephanie Buntin

*Vice-Chair*

Stacy Newman

*Clients' Security Fund - 3-year term*

James Kohl

*Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics – 2-year term*

Susan Bush  
Nicole Ting  
Janet Pancoast  
Angela Dows  
Jeannie Hua  
Kendall Lovell  
Denise McKay

*Discipline Boards – 3-year term*

Sarah Atwood  
Nell Christensen  
Dana Oswalt  
Jacqueline Carman  
Jeff Sloan  
Robert Caldwell  
Daniel Royal

*Non-Attorney*

Joelyne Gold  
Kellie Rubin

*Northern Discipline Board Chair - 1 year term*

Eric Stovall

*Northern Discipline Board Vice-Chair - 1 year term*

Adam Cate

*MCLE Board – 3-year term*

Amanda Patanaphan

*Board of Indigent Defense Services – 3-year term*

David Lopez Negrete  
Allison Joffee

**ACTION**

Product Liability and Mass Tort Section

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the request to add the Product Liability and Mass Tort Section as a state bar section.

**DISCUSSION**

Personal Injury and Workers Compensation Specialization Renewals

Kimberly Farmer discussed the missed deadlines for the Nevada Justice Association (NJA) to obtain board approval of renewals for NJA certification for the Personal Injury and Workers Compensation Specializations. She discussed the NJA request to change how Personal Injury Specialization board members are appointed.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the NJA as the appointing authority for individuals serving on the Personal Injury Specialization board. Patrick Leverty abstained.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to provide an extension for submission of recertification information for the Personal Injury and Workers Compensation Specializations. Materials are due no later than March 15, 2023. The board will review the recertification request for each specialization at the April 2023 board meeting. Patrick Leverty abstained.

**DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)**

Probate and Trust Section Amicus Brief

Marjorie Guymon spoke on behalf of the section, providing the board with an overview of the amicus brief and the intent of the brief. After this presentation the board entered Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board convened an Executive Session at 1:00 p.m. and concluded the session at 1:30 p.m.

**DISCUSSION (CONTINUED)**

Probate and Trust Section Amicus Brief

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Probate and Trust Section's request to submit the Amicus Brief as presented on behalf of the section only. Marisa Rodriguez abstained from voting.

**REPORTS**

LGBT Section

Kevin Kampschorr, section chair provided and overview of the section's 2022 programs with highlights from the section's roundtable program with Prop 8 litigants. He also reported on the section's 2023 plans including the objective to reach out to Boyd's student organization OUTLaws to provide mentors and guidance.

Financial Report

Marc Mersol presented a summary of the financial report as November 30, 2022. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the financial report of November 30, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

**VIA EMAIL VOTE FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

A motion was made to approve the Facilities Committee recommendation to authorize the lease terms outlined in the Letter of Intent with Bureau Veritas North America, Inc. for Suite 210 and proceed to a lease. Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the Facilities Committee recommendation to accept the terms and lease with Branstetter Stranch & Jennings, PLLC for Suite 208. Motion carried.

**VIA EMAIL VOTE MARCH 16, 2023**

A motion was made to approve the Facilities Committee recommendation to accept the terms and lease with Bureau Veritas North America, Inc. for Suite. Motion carried.