



## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES**

**January 21-22, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Governors was convened on January 21, 2025.

### **The following members were in attendance:**

Richard Dreitzer, President  
Kari Stephens, President-Elect  
Catherine Mazzeo, Vice President  
Seth Adams  
Jeff Albregts  
John Aldrich  
Terry Coffing  
Andrew Craner  
Tyler Ingram  
Maggie Lambrose  
Joel Locke  
Holly Parker  
Will Sykes  
Dean Leah Grinvald, Ex-Officio

### **State Bar staff present:**

Manny Botello  
Lisa Dreitzer  
Kimberly Farmer  
Dan Hooge  
Marc Mersol

### **Guests, via Zoom**

Kristina Wildeveld  
Makai Zuniga  
Celina Stops

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

State Bar President, Richard Dreitzer called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The November 12, 2025, minutes were removed from the consent agenda. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the consent agenda as revised.

- Section officers for the **Construction Law Section**
- Attorney resignations

- **Annual Bar Conference** speaker fees
- Amendments to the **Mock Trial** Competition Rules
- Directors, officers, and Cyber Insurance Policy renewal
- Business Partner renewals – **Calm** and **Smith.ai**

## **ACTION**

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the amended November 12, 2025 minutes. Alex Velto abstained.

## **DISCUSSION**

### Strategic Plan

The board discussed the state bar's Strategic Plan, taking note on the progress to date for each goal.

- Goal 1: Advance a culture of inclusivity and partnership among Nevada legal professionals
- Goal 2: Assist Nevada lawyers to navigate the intersection of technology, law practice, and AI
- Goal 3: Continue to advance best practices in bar governance

### Assembly Bill Number 66

The 83rd (2025) Session of the Nevada Legislature is set to begin on February 3, 2025. Assembly Bill No. 66 (AB66), which is before the Committee on Judiciary, is submitted by the Nevada Supreme Court. The board discussed whether it should formally support AB66. After discussion, the board determined it would inform the Supreme Court that the board is aware of AB66 and will seek guidance from the Supreme Court if support is necessary.

## **REPORTS/ACTION**

### Financial Report

Finance Director Marc Mersol provided an overview of the November 30, 2024, financial report. Mersol discussed the cash and cash equivalents depicted on the balance sheet, which are \$10,310,898, noting that most of the funds are designated for specific purposes. Regarding the Operating Budget, overall, there is a YTD net revenue for the general fund of \$206,486, which is \$486,396 higher than anticipated. Revenues for the general fund exceeded projections by \$450,985, and operating expenses (not including depreciation) were under-projected by \$12,699. The net revenue for all activities was \$589,345. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the November 30, 2024 financial report.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Attorney Kristina Wildeveld provided feedback noting her recent experiences seeking assistance and guidance from the bar.

Boyd Law students Makai Zuniga and Celina Stops provided an overview of the 33rd Native American Law Moot Court Competition. They noted that they will welcome volunteers to assist with the competition.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

## **January 22, 2025**

The meeting of the Board of Governors was re-convened on January 22, 2025.

## **GENERATIVE DISCUSSION**

### Non-Lawyer Firm Ownership

The board discussed non-lawyer firm ownership.

ABA Model Rule 5.4 and Nevada Rule of Professional Conduct prohibit law firms from granting ownership to non-lawyers. Rule 5.4(b) specifically states that “A lawyer shall not form a partnership with a nonlawyer if any of the activities of the partnership consist of the practice of law.” Recently, some state bars have enacted alternative business structures. After discussion, the board determined that no action or further review of this matter will be taken at this time.

## **REPORTS/ACTION**

### Functional Equivalency Revised Rules ADKT

The board reviewed the submission of a petition to amend Nevada Supreme Court Rule (SCR) 51.5 and Addendum 2. Specifically, the revisions set forth a fourth basis for seeking a waiver of SCR 51(1)(c) for those petitioners who received an LL.M. from an ABA-accredited law school and provides long-overdue clarifications to the rules regarding Functional Equivalency. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the petition.

### Nevada Plan Overview

Admissions Director Sydney Lisy provided an overview on the development of the Nevada Plan.

The components of the Nevada Plan include:

1. Foundational Law Examination: A 100-question, closed-book, multiple-choice exam covering foundational concepts from the seven subjects currently tested on the MBE
  - Applicants could take any time after completing three semesters of law school.
  - Administered four times per year at testing centers nationwide.
2. Lawyering Performance Examination: Comprising three 2-hour performance tests similar to those currently administered in Nevada
  - One-day exam offered in January and June each year (i.e., within a few weeks of when candidates typically complete their degrees)
3. Supervised Practice Requirement: A modest requirement ensuring candidates possess essential lawyering competencies that are difficult to measure through written exams
  - 40-60 hours
  - Practice under student supervised practice rules, which can be completed during law school or in time currently spent doing bar review

Candidates must also pass the Multistate Professional Responsibility Exam (MPRE) and undergo a Character and Fitness inquiry.

## **Funding the Nevada Plan**

The board reviewed the steps taken by the Nevada Plan Taskforce to fund the development of Foundational Law Exam (FLE) and administrative changes required to implement the new exam. The taskforce continues to seek grant dollars from organizations such as the AccessLex Institute and others. However, to date there are no firm commitments. Therefore, the board discussed steps to ensure funding for the Nevada Plan.

After discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried to approve funding the upfront development costs associated with the FLE and to a lesser extent the supervised practice components.

### Office of Bar Counsel Report

Bar Counsel Daniel Hooze 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. Of the 1,338 grievances the OBC processed through December 31, 2024, 58 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.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board entered Executive Session at 11:15 p.m. and concluded the session at 12:00 p.m.

### Appointments

The Board approved appointments to:

#### · Discipline Panels

3-year term

James Barnes, Esq.

Adam Cate, Esq.

Travis Clark, Esq.

Michelle Hritz, laymember

Shellie Hughes, laymember

Michael LaBadie, laymember

David Doto, Esq.

Russell Marsh, Esq.

Rickard, Jarrod, Esq.

David Rothenberg, Esq.

Jay Shafer, Esq.

Steven Titzer, Esq.

P. David Westbrook, Esq.

Donald Williams, Esq.

Matthew Hoffmann, Esq.

Jay P. Raman, Esq.

Stefany Tewell, Esq.

Justin L. Watkins, Esq.

Cody Gamble, laymember

Joanna Ronchi, laymember

1 year term:

Chair Eric Stovall, Esq.

Vice Chair Adam Cate, Esq.

It was moved, seconded and carried to remove Andre Haynes from the Discipline Panels as a Lay Member.

#### · TIP Standing Committee

3-year term –

Andrew Chiu

Richard Galin

Danielle Miller  
Andrew Moore  
Andrea Nichols

1 year term-  
Chair Andrea Nichols

· TIP Mentors  
Colleen Baharav  
Justina Caviglia  
Adam Garth  
John Giordani  
Michelle Jobe  
Brianna Lamanna  
Rost Olsen  
Gwynneth Smith

· Mock Trial  
3-year term –  
Kimberley Hyson

· Fee Dispute  
3-year term –  
Juan Sclafani

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00p.m.

#### **VIA EMAIL VOTE**

#### **FEBRUARY 21, 2025**

It was moved, seconded and carried to appoint Franklin Katschke as a Temporary Member on the Commission for Judicial Selection.

#### **FEBRUARY 25, 2025**

It was moved, seconded and carried to support ADKT 0623.