



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES  
June 21, 2023**

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada was convened on June 21, 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  
Catherine Mazzeo  
Marisa Rodriguez – via Zoom  
Kari Stephens  
Brittnie Watkins  
Dean Leah Grinvald, Ex-Officio

**State Bar staff present:**

Manny Botello  
Lisa Dreitzer  
Kimberly Farmer  
Dan Hooge  
Marc Mersol  
Jennifer Smith

**Guests**

Ben Gaumond  
Kaine Messer, via Zoom  
Kendal Weisenmiller, via Zoom

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Paola Armeni called the meeting to order with a quorum present at 9:00 a.m. on June 21, 2023. Armeni provided an overview of the 2023 State Bar Conference noting that 21 young lawyers and 41 first time attendees were among those registered. Seminar topics included how technology is revolutionizing the law, rainmaking for lawyers, a legislative overview, and the Nevada Supreme Court update among others.

Armeni also discussed the result of the Section Pro Bono Challenge, recognizing the LGBT Section as the winner of the challenge.

## **PRESIDENT-ELECT REPORT**

President-Elect Julie Cavanaugh-Bill provided the Board and overview of the location of the 2024 Annual Meeting, in Santa Fe, NM on June 26 – 28, 2024

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- Attorney resignations
- Attorney suspensions as revised
- Amendments to the High School Mock Trial Program
- Section/Division Bylaws and Officers – Paralegal Division, Gaming Law Section, Solo and Small Firm Section, Labor and Employment Section.
- Contracts including the Board of Bar Examiners re-grade meeting and the 2023 bar exam location. Also the Gaming Law Section meeting hotel.
- Nevada Lawyer's Assistance Program new provider agreement.

## **REPORTS/ACTION**

### Office of Bar Counsel Report

Bar Counsel Dan Hooze 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. In addition to this information, Hooze discussed the recently developed system to track types of grievances filed and discipline imposed parsed by firm size (solo, small firm, large firm and location).

### Financial Report

Finance Director Marc Mersol provided a financial report through May 31, 2023. Highlights included a review of state bar's cash and cash equivalents at \$10,760,720. Mersol also discussed department and program variances, noting that overall expenses are less than budgeted with overall revenues running over projections. Mersol also reviewed the 5-year budget projections as presented in the report. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the financial report for the month ending May 31, 2023.

### Creed of Professionalism and Civility

Marisa Rodriguez, chair of the Civility Taskforce highlighted the Taskforce's proposed amendments to the Creed of Professionalism and Civility aimed at removing duplicative language and making it easier to read. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve amendments the Creed of Professionalism and Civility as presented.

#### Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Update

Richard Dreitzer, chair of the Blue-Ribbon Committee on DEI provided an update on DEI initiatives noting that the activities follow the Strategic Plan and are germane to the mission of the state bar.

These included:

- Pipeline to Leadership Luncheons – During the 2 luncheons, section leaders shared their experiences, insights, and motivation to becoming leaders in Nevada’s legal community with Boyd student leaders.
- Law Firm Visits – Board members and staff continue to meet with law firms across Nevada to receive feedback on DEI initiatives that have worked for them, challenges they face, and how the bar might provide resources to Nevada firms.
- DEI Medallion – The bar’s Partner in Diversity Medallion program was implemented earlier this year. Twenty-three firms have received medallions to date. Those who receive medallions must attest that they have completed at least five DEI initiatives as defined by the program.
- Annual Meeting -- Affinity bars and state bar sections were offered stipends to leaders of the minority bars and sections to support attendance at the annual meeting. This program is designed to support upcoming leaders of the organizations and Nevada’s legal community.
- DEI CLE Curriculum – The curriculum includes sessions on cultivating leadership, recruiting and retention, building DEI within an organization, how to have difficult conversations and DEI from a young lawyer’s perspective. In 2023, the state bar has offered 4 free DEI CLE programs.

#### Wellness Programs

The BOG considered the addition of a new member benefit program focusing on lawyer wellbeing. The program, Unmind, provides daily wellbeing and mood tracking services, and recommended wellbeing videos, guided meditation, and written materials based on user needs. While this program supports Goal 1 of the BOG’s Strategic Plan, enhancing lawyer well-being for lawyers and other professionals in the legal community. The Board did not approve moving forward with the proposal as presented.

#### Section Legislative Policy Revisions

Julie Cavanaugh-Bill discussed the proposed amendment to the BOG policies, specifically Policy 8(b) Section Legislative Policy. This amendment is to respond to late amicus brief requests from sections. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the proposed policy revision that strongly encourages sections to submit the amicus draft brief to the Board for approval at least five business days prior to the court's deadline.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The BOG entered Executive Session at 12:00 p.m. and concluded the session at 12:30 p.m.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

The Board approved the following appointments:

*Board of Bar Examiners* – 3-year term: Kendra Bertschy and Mathew Trachok

*Character and Fitness* – 3-year term: Lori Story

*Northern Nevada Discipline Board* – 3-year term: Katherine Lyon and Asher Killian

*Southern Nevada Discipline Board:* Vincent Romeo, Damon Dias, Marni Watkins, Christopher Lalli, Baylie Hellman, Michael Czml, laymember, Rachael Lyons, laymember, and Arthur Mejia, laymember

Chair – 1 year term: Dana Oswalt

Vice-Chair – 1 year term: Christopher Lali and Adam Garth

*Nevada Lawyer – 3-year term --* Scott Wasserman

Chair – 1 year term: Patty Walsh

Vice-Chair – 1 year term: Charlie Finlayson

*Nevada Bar Foundation – 2-year term:* Mark Brandenburg, Kelley Jones, Paul Matteoni, Kyle Morishita

*Lawyer Advertising Advisory Committee – 2-year term:* Danielle Christenson, Tracie Jefcik, James Kemp, Charles Pace, Donald Pardiso, Christopher Phipps

*ABA Delegate – 2-year term:* Peter Handy

### **BOG ELECTION INFORMATION**

The BOG discussed dissemination of BOG election results after each BOG election. After discussion it was moved, seconded, and carried to keep the policy as it stands. Notably, individuals voted onto the BOG will be announced via the bar's communications channels. Bar members seeking to obtain information on the vote tally for all those who ran for the BOG may receive the information upon request to the president or executive director.

### **REPORTS**

The BOG heard thoughtful reports on section and affinity bar activities from:

- Employment Section Vice-Chair, Kaine Messer
- Probate and Trust Section Secretary, Kendal Weisenmiller
- Elko County Bar President, Ben Gaumont

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

### **TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP**

It was moved, seconded, and carried to elect the following officers:

- Richard Dreitzer as President-Elect
- Kari Stephens as Vice-President

BOG members welcomed the 2023 – 2024 President Julie Cavanaugh-Bill.

The BOG thanked outgoing President Paola Armeni for her steadfast leadership. With her focus on the 3 Cs, commitment, communication and community she guided the BOG and bar with passion, energy and enthusiasm.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.