



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES
June 26, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Governors was convened on June 26, 2024.

The following members were in attendance:

Julie Cavanaugh-Bill, President
Richard Dreitzer, President-Elect
Kari Stephens, Vice President
Paola Armeni, Immediate Past President
Seth Adams
Jeff Albregts
Terry Coffing
Andrew Craner
Maggie Lambrose
Pat Leverty
Catherine Mazzeo
Holly Parker
Will Sykes
Marisa Rodriguez
Dean Leah Grinvald, Ex-Officio

State Bar staff present:

Manny Botello
Lisa Dreitzer
Kimberly Farmer
Dan Hooge
Marc Mersol
Sydney Lisy, via Zoom

Govern Protect Serve

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

State Bar President, Julie Cavanaugh-Bill opened the BOG meeting by providing an overview of recent meetings and the 2024 Bar Conference, at which recipients of the 2024 State Bar Membership Awards were to be honored, including:

Presidential Award

Hon. Nancy Allf (ret.)

Gregg Kamer

Volunteer of the Year

John R. Bailey

Young Lawyers of the Year

Austin Barnum

Jackson Wong

Bryan K. Scott Trailblazer

Sandra Douglass Morgan

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- March 27-28, 2024, BOG Meeting Minutes
- Section Officers for the Gaming Law, Environmental & Natural Resources, Construction Law, and Bankruptcy Law Sections
- Insurance coverage for building and property, and workers' compensation
- Attorney resignations
- Attorney suspensions

REPORTS/ACTION

Financial Report

Finance Director Marc Mersol provided a financial report for the bar through April 30, 2024. He discussed the year-to-date overall net revenue for the general fund, which was \$79,122. This amount is \$211,579 more than anticipated. Revenues for the general fund were over projections by \$151,353, and operating expenses (not including depreciation) were under-projected by \$46,078. The net revenue for all activities was \$308,140. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the April 30, 2024, Financial Report.

Budget Committee Report

The Budget Committee provided recommendations regarding a balanced budget. The Board requirement of a balanced budget in five years necessitates a plan to start increasing several revenues and reducing certain expenses over the next few years. The Committee recommended revising the balanced budget requirement putting forth an action plan for revenue increases and expense reductions beginning with the 2025 budget and that a balanced budget requirement be effective only after using \$3,000,000 of the Administrative Designated Funds, this timeframe is currently estimated to be 2031. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the Budget Committee recommendations.

Bar Exam Grader Fees

The Board of Bar Examiners (BBX) hires as many qualified graders as necessary to assist the BBX in the grading of the essay examinations. Graders are paid in accordance with a schedule proposed by the chair and approved by the Board of Governors.

The current compensation for bar exam graders is \$5/essay. The amount of time exam grading requires is influenced by several factors including number of exams, number of graders, and grader efficiency.,

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve BBX's recommendation to increase the bar exam grader fee to \$10/essay effective July 2024 with a 2024 budget impact of \$11,000.

Fastcase Renewal

At its March 2024 meeting, the Board discussed whether it would continue to offer a legal research tool to all Nevada attorneys at no cost to them. The Board agreed a research tool would be valuable and directed staff to return with a recommendation. Staff evaluated platforms and recommended Fastcase (dba vLex).

Along with a robust legal research platform, including access to all 50 states and access to Nevada briefs, pleadings, motions, and orders, Fastcase provides strong legal research options and AI integration tools. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve a three-year agreement with Fastcase effective March 25, 2025.

Office of Bar Counsel Report

Bar Counsel Daniel Hooe presented discipline statistics covering intake, investigations, and hearings.

The OBC's goal is to prosecute 80 percent of disciplinary hearings within eight months. After a screening panel approves a formal hearing, Bar Counsel files a complaint, and the case moves into the prosecution/pending hearing stage.

- The number of pending hearings as of June 1, 2024, is up more than 50 percent since January.
- The OBC presses for a hearing within eight months whenever possible. It has three cases pending over eight months. The delays in these three cases have been out of the OBC's control in large part.
- These cases represent 11 percent of the total hearing cases. So, the OBC is within its goal.

Hooe reported on the status of and issues around the discipline matter *State Bar of Nevada vs. Sarah K. Hawkins*. This matter has garnered significant interest from the criminal defense bar.

Member Benefits Renewal

The Board reviewed the renewal of Member Benefits. This business partner provides health, dental, vision and additional insurance products as well as disability coverage. They offer health insurance plans for individuals and families as well as group health insurance for employers. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the renewal of Member Benefits for a one-year term.

Website Vendor

In 2022, the State Bar of Nevada's website vendor experienced staffing reductions, and as a result, subcontracted hosting, and maintenance responsibility to a new vendor. State Bar staff strongly recommended

moving the hosting and maintenance of the nvbar.org and nevadabarfoundation.org sites to a new vendor to resolve the existing issues and improve customer service. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the KMJ Web Design contract at an estimated rate of \$16,000 per year with a 2024 budget impact of \$6,912.

New Section

The Board reviewed the application for a new section – Tribal Law. The stated mission of the section is to enhance the role and skills of lawyers engaged in the practice of Indian Law through study, collection, development, and dissemination of materials on subjects of interest to the Indian Law practitioners; to assist in the formation, administration, and implementation of programs, forums, and other activities for the education of members of the State Bar of Nevada in matters pertaining to Indian laws and regulations; and to recognize and discuss means of improving the practice of law in the field of Indian Law. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the creation of the new section.

Appointments

The Board approved appointments to:

- Board of Bar Examiners
3-year term – Joan Howarth, Rob Salyer
- Character and Fitness Committees: North and South
3-year term – Scott Hoffman, Ann Bersi, James Murphy, Janet Blumen
- Client’s Security Fund
3-year term – Rosa Solis-Rainey, Amanda Patanaphan
Maggie Lambrose abstained from Voting
- Lawyer Advertising Advisory Committee
3-year term – Alicia May, Brock Ohlson, Lynnel Reyes, Justin Watkins
- Nevada Lawyer Editorial Board
3-year term - Charles Finlayson, Joseph Riccio, Gregory Shannon, Patty Walsh
Will Sykes abstained from Voting
- Nevada Bar Foundation Board of Trustees
2-year term – Patricia Halstead
Will Sykes abstained from Voting
- Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility
3-year term – Melissa Brown, Amanda Hunt, Asher Killian
Melissa Brown – Vice Chair 1 year term
- Transitioning Into Practice (TIP) Mentors
3-year term - Lisa Anderson, Christine Brady, Ashley Hanks
- Disciplinary Boards: North and South
3-year terms to those noted on the OBC memorandum

- U.S. District Court Lawyer Representative
Seth Adams, Erin Gettel, Sean McClelland
Maggie Lambrose abstained from Voting

- ABA Delegate
2-year term – Richard Pocker

American Bar Association Election Integrity Taskforce

Bill Curran, State Bar past president (1988-1989), provided an overview of the goals and objectives of the American Bar Association's (ABA) Election Integrity Taskforce. Curran and William S. Boyd School of Law Professor Rachel Anderson serve as Nevada's co-chairs.

The taskforce seeks to bolster voter confidence in elections. The nonpartisan taskforce's goals are to:

- Work to mobilize the legal profession to uphold its duty to support and defend the Constitution and the rule of law.
- Ensure lawyers are educated regarding their professional obligations.
- Leverage the legal profession to educate the public on the reasons for, and the importance of, democracy and the rule of law

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOG entered Executive Session at 1:30 p.m. and concluded the session at 2:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the public comment section of the meeting 8 attorneys provided comments. In addition to those providing comment, there were additional attorneys present to listen to and provide support to those presenting their viewpoints. Generally, the remarks covered the significant concerns from attorneys regarding the bar complaint against Sarah Hawkins. Most comments indicated the concern that the OBC overreached in this prosecution, seeking to prosecute a matter to resolve an unclear statute and major concerns with how this matter was managed from grievance through hearing. President Cavanaugh-Bill indicated that the Board would receive written comments in this matter through July 15, 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOG entered Executive Session at 3:30 p.m. and concluded the session at 4:00 p.m.

OFFICER ELECTIONS

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

- Kari Stephens as President-Elect
- Catherine Mazzeo as Vice-President

BOG members welcomed the 2024 – 2025 President Richard Dreitzer.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

VIA EMAIL VOTE

July 15, 2024

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the following contracts:

- University of Reno, Lawlor Event Center for the bar exam
- Lumix for AV at the Family Law Conference

July 30, 2024

It was moved, seconded and carried to appoint Julie Slabaugh as a permanent member of the Commission on Judicial Selection and Homa Woodrum to the temporary position. Joel Locke and Tyler Ingram abstained.

August 2, 2024

It was moved and seconded to submit a written comment in support of *ADKT 0594 – In the Matter of the Review of the Administration of the Bar Examination and Licensing of Attorneys*. This matter was tabled to a Zoom meeting scheduled for August 7, 2024.

ZOOM MEETINGS

August 7, 2024

The Board convened a meeting via Zoom to consider the pending motion from August 2, 2024, to approve submission of a written comment in support of ADKT 0594.

The following were in attendance: Seth Adams, John Aldrich, Jeff Albregts, Terry Coffing, Andrew Craner, Richard Dreitzer, Dean Leah Grinvald, Tyler Ingram, Maggie Lambrose, Joel Locke, Pat Leverty, Cathy Mazzeo, Holly Parker, Kari Stephens, Will Sykes, Kimberly Farmer, Manny Botello.

After discussion the Board queried whether the Supreme Court was seeking a comment from the Board. This matter was again tabled to a later date so that President Dreitzer could speak to the Chief Justice on this matter.

August 13, 2024

The Board convened a meeting via Zoom to discuss the tabled motion from August 2, 2024, to approve submitting a letter of support in *ADKT 0594 In the Matter of the Review of the Administration of the Bar Examination and Licensing of Attorneys in Nevada*.

The following were in attendance: Seth Adams, John Aldrich, Terry Coffing, Andrew Craner, Richard Dreitzer, Dean Leah Grinvald, Maggie Lambrose, Joel Locke, Pat Leverty, Kari Stephens, Will Sykes, Alex Velto, Kimberly Farmer, Manny Botello.

President Dreiter provided information regarding his conversation with Chief Justice Cadish in this matter. After discussion the August 7, 2024 motion was brought to a vote. The Board voted to approve submission of a letter in support of ADKT 0594.