



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES
November 2, 2023**

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada was convened on November 2, 2023.

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
Andrew Craner
Pat Leverty
Joel Locke
Cathy Mazzeo
Marisa Rodriguez
Dean Leah Grinvald, Ex-Officio
Maggie Lambrose
Holly Parker
Will Sykes

Via Zoom:

Jeffrey Albrechts
Terry Coffing
Alex Velto

State Bar staff present:

Manny Botello
Lisa McGrane
Kimberly Farmer
Dan Hooge
Marc Mersol

Guests:

Via Zoom:
Robert Kim
Roberta Ohlinger-Johnson
Nancy Snow

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

State Bar President, Julie Cavanaugh-Bill opened the BOG meeting by providing an overview of recent meetings she and BOG members attended including affinity bar events, section meetings and Boyd Law School activities. The BOG works to actively support activities of all affiliated legal organizations.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve consent agenda items:

- Officers for the Appellate Litigation Section and the Paralegal Division.
- Section Officers, Bylaws and Name Change – the new section name is LGBTQ+ Section.
- Contract for the 2025 Annual Meeting at the Willard Intercontinental Hotel, Washington DC.
- Memorandum of Understanding between the Nevada Bar Foundation and the State Bar of Nevada.
- August 2023 Minutes as amended

REPORTS/ACTION

2024 Annual Meeting Report

Julie Cavanaugh-Bill provided an overview of the planning for the 2024 Annual Meeting. The 2024 Bar Conference will be held in Santa Fe, NM from June 27 – 28, with a welcome reception kicking off the event on the evening of June 26. She noted that the state bar's Annual Meeting Planning Committee invites state bar sections and other interested parties to submit proposals to speak at the Annual Bar Conference.

2025 Annual Meeting

Richard Dreitzer announced that the 2025 state bar Annual Meeting will be held in Washington, DC, June 12-13, 2025. This meeting will be designed similar to the NYC Annual Meeting where more than 230 attorneys and another 135 guests were in attendance.

Budget Committee Report

Finance Director Marc Mersol presented the 2024 Annual Operating Budget. This budget was reviewed and recommended by the Budget Committee (Richard Dreitzer, Jeff Albregts, Terry Coffing and Kari Stephens). This budget follows along the BOG's budget projections for the next five years. The 2024 budget reflects the BOG's goal to incrementally increase revenue sources and decrease expenses between now and 2028. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the 2024 Annual Operating Budget

Financial Report

Marc Mersol provided a financial report through September 31, 2023. Highlights included a review of state bar's cash and cash equivalents at \$9,023,421. Most of these funds are designated for specific purposes, including the Operating Designated Fund, Building Capital Maintenance Fund, section carry forwards, Client's Security Fund, Dues Designated Fund, and Program Development Designated Fund. Mersol also discussed department and program variances, noting that revenues for the general fund were over projections and operating expenses were under projections. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the September 31, 2023 Financial Report.

APPOINTMENTS

The Board approved the following appointments:

Clients' Security Fund - 3-year term
Mathew Winters, Swadeep Nigam

Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility – 3-year term
J. Rusty Graf
Sarah Molleck
Sheri Thome

Fee Dispute – 3-year term

Dan Reaser
Cortney Young, non-attorney
Brooke Westlake, non-attorney
Christian Augustin
Michael Federico
Richard Johnson
Jason Maier
Rick Mula
Dina Romaya-Ladah
Jeffrey Sloane
Patsy Brown, non-attorney

Officer Appointments – 1 year

Alexander LeVeque, State Chair
Stephanie Zinna, Regional Chair Las Vegas
Karen Hanks, Regional Chair Las Vegas
Roi Moas, Regional Chair Las Vegas
Jennifer Mahe, Regional Chair Carson City

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Committee – 3-year term

Sunethra Muralidhara

Mock Trial Committee – 3-year term

Kelly Brill
Robson Hauser
Larry Sage
Tina Talim
Shellie Hughes, non-attorney

Chair – Andy Chiu 1-year

Nevada Sentencing Commission
John Arrascada

REPORTS/ACTION

Office of Bar Counsel Report

Bar Counsel Daniel Hooge presented discipline statistics covering intake, investigations, and hearings. The OBC aims to keep active cases under 250. This allows for about half (125) in investigations and half (125) split between intake, screening, and hearing. The OBC works efficiently with active cases below 250. They are within that range.

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

The BOG reviewed revisions to the Discipline Rules of Procedures. The revisions are the result of the Nevada Supreme Court Order issued Administrative Order (ADKT) 608, amending Supreme Court Rules 99 through 122, related to attorney misconduct. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the revised Discipline Rules of Procedures.

IDEA Grant Committee Report

The IDEA Grant Committee (Seth Adams, Jeff Albregts, Kari Stephens and Alex Velto) provided an overview of the Fall 2023 approved grants. IDEA Grants are awarded for program initiatives that advance the state bar's mission and strategic goals. The BOG approved the committee's recommendations including:

- South Asian Bar Association Student Support Programs -- \$50,000
- Nevada Latino Bar Association National Hispanic Bar Conference Attendance -- \$4,500
- ACLU of Nevada Silver State IDEA Internship -- \$35,000
- Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada Summer Diversity Fellowship Program (Marisa Rodriguez abstained from voting) -- \$12,000

With these recommendations, approximately \$85,000 remained in the state bar's 2023 IDEA Grant Designed Fund. It was moved, seconded and carried to transfer these dollars to the Nevada Bar Foundation for inclusion in their Foundation Grant funding. Will Sykes abstained from voting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The BOG entered Executive Session at 2:00 p.m. and concluded the session at 3:00 p.m.

ACTION

LexisNexis Expansion Agreement

Jennifer Smith-Pulispher, Communications Director provided an overview of the proposed Lexis/Nexis expansion agreement. The state bar already licenses Nevada Jury Instructions – Civil to LexisNexis. Under the proposed agreement, Lexis/Nexis would market and sell other state bar publications. The chairs of the respective sections, and the editors of the respective manuals, have been informed of the licensing opportunity and are enthusiastic of the potential for expanded reach of publications. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the expansion of the LexisNexis licensing agreement to include the following publications:

- Nevada Appellate Practice Manual
- Nevada Business Entities
- Nevada Gaming Law Practice & Procedure Manual

REPORTS

The following section and affinity bar leaders provided reports:

- Robert Kim, Business Law Section

Our mission is to govern the legal profession, to serve our members, and to protect the public interest.

- Roberta Ohlinger-Johnson, Creditors Bar Section
- Nancy Snow, Asian Bar Association of Nevada

OTHER BUSINESS

Rural Practice Discussion

The BOG continued its discussion about rural practice, noting that there is a lack of resources and access to justice in small towns across Nevada. To address Nevada's legal deserts in the rurals the BOG reviewed and provided feedback on a draft proposal seeking to change the limited practice admissions for public lawyers serving in rural communities. It was also reported that one initiative already in place is provision of free job placements on the bar's Career Center platform.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Govern Protect Serve