



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES
November 12, 2024**

A meeting of the Board of Governors was convened on November 12, 2024.

The following members were in attendance:

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

State Bar staff present:

Manny Botello
Lisa Dreitzer
Kimberly Farmer
Dan Hooge
Marc Mersol

Guests

Justice Michael Douglas
Bryan Scott
Cameron Lue Sang
Stewart Chan
Jeff Luszeck, via Zoom
Shirley Blazich, via Zoom
Michael Buckley, via Zoom
Rob Kim, via Zoom
Eric Kohli

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

State Bar President, Richard Dreitzer called the meeting to order at 9:27 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- August 29, 2024 Minutes
- New Section – Immigration Law Section
- Section Officers for the Cannabis Law, Creditors Bar, Family Law, and LGBTQ+ Sections, and the Paralegal Division
- Board of Bar Examiners: La Jolla Meeting Agreements
- Attorney Resignations
- Gaming Law Conference: Palms Casino AV Contract

DISCUSSION

Why DEI is Important

The Board engaged in a discussion about diversity, and what the term means to the Board when we discuss diversity-related programs and initiatives. The discussion included a conversation as to why inclusion initiatives are important. The exchange covered history of the state bar's diversity initiatives and the goal of bringing awareness to the importance of a diverse bar.

REPORTS/ACTION

Public Comment Policy

The Board reviewed and approved a Public Comment Policy. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for members who wish to appear before the Board of Governors during the designated public comment periods at the scheduled Board of Governors meetings. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Policy 17 Public Comment Policy.

Licensing of Past Bar Exam Questions

The Board of Bar Examiners (BBX) found that commercial bar preparation companies (i.e. BARBRI, Kaplan, Ameribar) are using and reproducing past Nevada bar exam essay questions as part of their Nevada bar exam preparation courses. The Admissions office occasionally receives requests to license bar exam questions from other bar preparation companies, which means there is a benefit to and interest in providing licenses to use past Nevada bar exam questions in Nevada bar preparation materials.

The BBX proposed licensing of past bar exam essay questions. This initiative will stop companies from using Nevada bar essay questions without permission from and compensation to the State Bar of Nevada and create a source of revenue. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the licensing of past bar exam questions.

Update on the Nevada Plan

Rick Trachok, John Desmond, and Professor Joan Horwath, members of the Board of Bar Examiners and principals on the Nevada Plan Taskforce, provided updates on the development of the Nevada Plan and answered questions from the Board.

It is anticipated that the 2027 graduating class will have to satisfy the requirements of the Nevada Plan.

- First Foundational Law Exam – May 2026

- First Lawyering Performance Exam – June 2027

Business Law Section Legislative Proposal

Per the policy of the Board of Governors, sections' legislative proposals are presented to the Board prior to the section presenting revisions to Nevada's Legislature. The Business Law Section's revised proposal was presented by Rob Kim. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the legislative proposal. The section may take the legislative position and may assert that the legislative position is endorsed by the Board of Governors.

Financial Report

Finance Director Marc Mersol provided an overview of the 2025 Operating Budget. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the 2025 budget as presented and recommended by the Budget Committee, which includes Board members Andrew Craner, Terry Coffing, and Kari Stephens.

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 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.
- The OBC works efficiently with active cases below 250. We are within that range.
- Of the 1,003 grievances the OBC has processed through October 1, 2024, 60 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.
- Through October 1, 2024, the OBC has referred 129 grievances (13 percent) to investigation. Of those referred, 104 (81 percent) related to solo or small firm attorneys.
- In 2024, grievances referred to investigation regarding solo or small firm attorneys equates to approximately 17.5 percent of grievances received in those categories.
- Of the grievances received through October 1, 2024, clients have consistently submitted the most at 49 percent with opposing parties second at 19 percent.
- 85 percent of grievances received related to the southern district, with 15 percent related to the northern district.
- Of the 129 grievances referred to investigation in 2024, lack of diligence and communication continue to be the most common issues raised.
- Other prevalent issues raised in grievances referred to investigation in 2024 relate to issues under RPC 8.4 (Misconduct), RPC 1.5 (Fees), and RPC 3.2 (Expediting Litigation).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at 2:53p.m. and concluded the session at ??p.m.

Appointments

The Board approved appointments to:

- Expert Panel

Chair: Theresa Trenholm

Alternate Chair: Ann McGinley

- Functional Equivalency
3-year term – Gloria Sturman
Kari Stephens abstained from voting

- Mock Trial
3-year term – Lisa Bruce, Andy Chiu, John Giodani, Joe Gorman, Heidi Ojeda, Emily Strand, Shannon Wise

Chair: Andy Chiu
Will Sykes and Maggie Lambrose abstained from voting

- Fee Dispute
3-year term – John Aberasturi, Katherine Parks, Doug Rands, Joel Browning, Andrew Chiu, Eric Kohli, Natalie Lehman, Stefany Tewell, Quoc Thai, Dave Zerhusen

State Chair: Alex LeVeque
LVA Panel Chair: Stephanie Zinna
LVB Panel Chair: Karen Hanks
LVC Panel Chair: Royi Moas
CC Panel Chair: Jennifer Mahe

- MCLE Board
3-year term – Melissa Flatley

- Nevada Commission on Judicial Discipline
4-year term – Patricia Halstead
Richard Dreitzer abstained from voting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

VIA EMAIL VOTE

DECEMBER 18, 2024

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the Agreement with the Library of Congress for the 2025 annual meeting President's Reception and Dinner.

DECEMBER 27, 2024

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the following appointments to the Commission on Judicial Selection:

Temporary Member for Clark County – Audrey Beeson
Permanent Member for any county other than Clark or Washoe - Reappointment of Julie Slabaugh

JANUARY 3, 2025

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve for the reappointment of Gregg Kamer as a permanent member of the Commission on Judicial Selection.