



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES
November 9, 2022**

A meeting of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Nevada was convened on November 9, 2022.

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
Andrew Craner
Catherine Mazzeo
Marisa Rodriguez
Kari Stephens
Brittnie Watkins
Pat Leverty
Joel Locke – Via Zoom
Dean Leah Grinvald, Ex-Officio

State Bar staff present:

Manny Botello
Lisa Dreitzer
Kimberly Farmer
Dan Hooge
Marc Mersol

Guests

Russell Christian
Randolph Fiedler
Paxton Fleming
Russ Marsh
Jeff Spencer

Dana Oswalt

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Paola Armeni called the meeting to order with a quorum present on November 9, 2022, at 8:30 am.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- August 2022 Minutes
- Resignations
- Annual Meeting Speaker Agreements -- Ari Melber and Neal Katyal
- Appointments
 - Probate & Trust Law Section
 - Vice Chair: F. McClure Wallace
 - Secretary: Kendal Weisenmiller
 - Treasurer: Brian P. Eagan
 - Solo & Small Practice Section
 - Vice Chair: Patrick Clifford
 - Secretary/Treasurer: Megan Walls
- Lease Amendment – The Griffin Co.
- Audio-visual contract -- Encore

ACTION

Office of Bar Counsel Report

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.

Also presented were proposed amendments to the Supreme Court Rules relating to lawyer discipline. Southern Discipline panel chair, Russ Marsh and vice-chair Dana Oswalt provided feedback and comments in support of the proposed rule amendments. Overall, the Board supported the rule amendments but asked for some revisions. Bar Counsel will bring a revised draft of the proposed rules for approval to the Board at the January 2023 Board meeting.

Financial Report

Marc Mersol presented a summary of the financial report as September 30, 2022. It was moved, seconded, and carried to accept the financial report of September 30, 2022.

Mr. Mersol presented an overview of the proposed 2023 Operating Budget. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the 2023 Operating Budget.

REPORTS

Civility Taskforce

Marisa Rodriguez, Civility Taskforce Chair, provided the Board with its proposed plan of action. This plan determines key programs and priorities that meet the goals of the strategic plan, such as:

- Revisions to the Rules of Professional Conduct
- Expansion of CLE programs/summits
- Creation of a commission or a section

- Development of online resources

Civility Taskforce

The SBN's 2022-2023 Strategic Plan sets forth a goal to develop programs and incentives to examine how incivility affects lawyer well-being and what effect court dynamics, client interactions/demands, and the legal culture have on civility. One of the bar's strategic goals is to provide resources to assist Nevada lawyers achieve professional excellence.

The Civility Taskforce was formed to evaluate programs, services, and the *Rules of Professional Conduct* relating to professionalism/civility with an eye towards achieving the goals set forth in the strategic plan. Taskforce members include Marisa Rodriguez, chair; Seth Adams; Richard Dreitzer; and Patrick Leverty.

The taskforce reported its proposed plan of action. This plan determines key programs and priorities that meet the goals of the strategic plan, such as:

- Revisions to the Rules of Professional Conduct
- Expansion of CLE programs/summits
- Creation of a commission or a section
- Development of online resources

Justice Hardesty Retirement

Ann Morgan presented the Board with an overview of the proposed event for Justice Hardesty. It was moved, seconded, and carried to host a reception in Justice Hardesty's honor not to exceed the cost of \$5,000.

The Board discussed a scholarship named for Justice Hardesty. This scholarship will be created to recognize Justice Hardesty's career-long advocacy to recruit and advance women and underrepresented populations to the legal profession. This scholarship is designed to assist students from underrepresented groups in overcoming the economic barriers of admission to law school.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to establish an endowment scholarship fund in the amount of \$26,000 through the University of Nevada Reno in Justice Hardesty's name. Funding for the scholarship will come from the IDEA Grant Fund.

Rural Practice Management

Paola Armeni reported on her recent meeting with the Northwest Bar leaders. Ms. Armeni discussed initiatives being taken by the other organizations to boost support for their rural counties.

Program Development Grant Committee

Brittnie Watkins gave the Board an overview of the Committee's grant review meeting.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the IDEA Grant guidelines as presented.

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

- \$9,000 for the Clark County Bar Association DICE CLE program
- \$3,225 for La Voz Mentorship Program
- \$41,000 for the Legal Aid of Southern Nevada Pipeline to Justice Project. Marisa Rodriguez abstained
- \$25,000 for the Nevada Latino Bar Association Scholarship Program. Marisa Rodriguez abstained

APPOINTMENTS

The Board approved the following appointments:

Fee Dispute Committee

3-year term
Debra Spinelli
Arun Gupta
Andre' Haynes-Layman
Timothy Thomas
Bruce Leslie
Karen Connelly
Pooja Kumar
Sarah Bradley
Michael Pintar

State Chair – September 2022 – September 2023

Margo Chernysheva

Las Vegas Regional Chair – October 2022 – October 2023

Stephanie Zinna

Carson City Regional – September 2022 – September 2023

Jennifer Mahe

Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility

Josh Gilmore - 2-year term commencing December 2022

Commission on Judicial Discipline

Patricia Halsted – remainder of term that expires January 31, 2024

Richard Dreitzer left the room during this appointment discussion and did not vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at 12:30 p.m. and concluded the session at 1:00 p.m.

ACTION

Probate and Trust Section Amicus Brief Request

It was moved, seconded, and carried to allow the Probate and Trust Section to draft an amicus brief to present to the board. Doug Clark and Julie Cavanaugh-Bill abstained.

REPORTS

Standing Committee on Ethics and Professional Responsibility

Committee Chair, Randolph Fiedler provided an overview of the committee's activities. Specifically discussing the most recent draft of a formal opinion scheduled to go out for public comment. This opinion addresses whether a Nevada attorney may require a prospective client to sign a non-disclosure agreement as a condition for receiving legal advice.

Russell Christian, chair of the Entertainment & Sports Law Section discussed co-sponsoring CLEs with the Young Lawyers Section such as the one covering legal issues when representing celebrity impersonators featuring a Dean Martin impersonator.

Jeff Spencer, chair of the Construction Law Section, discussed the section's upcoming CLE with Sean Carter. He also reported on the Fall Social Event for Bankruptcy, Tax, Real Property, Construction Law, and Public Lawyer's Sections held in Las Vegas on November 9 and scheduled for Reno on November 16.

Paxton Fleming, chair of the Intellectual Property Section, discussed the section's IP Conference. More than 70 attendees participated in this conference, which was held at Boyd. The section is also working with Boyd to develop IP community service clinics.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

VIA EMAIL VOTE ON NOVEMBER 14, 2022

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the Family Law Section's contract for Harvey's at Lake Tahoe

VIA EMAIL VOTE ON NOVEMBER 15, 2022

It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve contract for the February 2024 bar exam at the South Point Casino.

VIA EMAIL VOTE ON DECEMBER 2, 2022

It was moved, seconded, and carried to appoint Claudia Aguayo as a temporary member of the Commission on Judicial Selection.

VIA EMAIL VOTE ON DECEMBER 19, 2022

It was moved, seconded, and carried to appoint Justina Caviglia as a permanent member of the Commission on Judicial Selection.