



BOARD OF GOVERNORS MINUTES

March 25, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Governors was convened on March 25, 2025.

The following members were in attendance:

Richard Dreitzer, President
Kari Stephens, President-Elect
Catherine Mazzeo, Vice President
Seth Adams
Jeff Albregts
John Aldrich
Terry Coffing
Andrew Craner
Tyler Ingram
Maggie Lambrose
Pat Leverty
Will Sykes
Alex Velto
Dean Leah Grinvald, Ex-Officio

State Bar staff present:

Manny Botello
Lisa Dreitzer
Kimberly Farmer
Dan Hooge
Sydney Lisy
Claudia Mason
Marc Mersol
Jennifer Pulsipher-Smith
Rayna Scamardi

Guests

Austin Barnum
Angela Cook
Melissa Corral
Caleb Green
Steven Mathew
Kaine Messer

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

State Bar President, Richard Dreitzer called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m.

Richard Dreitzer discussed most recent Supreme Court public hearing in ADKT 0599 seeking to amend Supreme Court Rule 51.5 and ADKT 0623 seeking revision to Supreme Court Rule 49.1(5) regarding pro bono service by inactive attorneys serving through the Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program. Dreitzer indicated that, subsequent to the public hearings, the court amended the rules. Dreitzer also discussed the Nevada Plan funding and reported that the state bar will receive a development grant from AccessLex. Dreitzer also discussed the 2025 Bar Conference, highlighting key conference programs and encouraging board members to support sponsorship efforts.

CONSENT AGENDA

The board approved the following items:

- January 21-22, 2025 Minutes
- Section Officers for:
 - Science and Technology Law Section
 - Intellectual Property Law Section
 - Real Property Law Section
 - Entertainment and Sports Law Section
 - Energy, Utilities and Communication Law Section
- Public Lawyers Section Fee Increase
- Attorney Resignations

Business Partner Renewals – Clio, Your Membership Career Center, and Member Benefits Insurance Marketplace

REPORTS

Audit Report

State Bar auditor, Steven Mathew with HRC provided an overview of the 2023 audit to the board. The auditors issued an "Unmodified Opinion" on the financial statements, which is the opinion that is desired in an audit. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the 2023 Audit Report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:12 a.m. and concluded the session at 10:45 a.m.

REPORTS/ACTION

Financial Report

Finance Director Marc Mersol provided an overview of the December 31, 2024, year-end financial report. Overall, the net revenue year-end was \$742,351. Much of this revenue reflects the work of the board in identifying expense savings or new revenue sources. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the December 31, 2024 Financial Report.

Mersol also provided an overview of the February 28, 2025, financial report. Overall, the bar is reporting a net revenue that is \$278,163 higher than budgeted. Much of this is equated to higher interest rates, pro hac registrations, and payments to the Lawyer Referral Service. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the February 28, 2025 Financial Report.

Publication of the Guide to the Tribal Courts of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

Communications Director Jennifer Smith-Pulsipher provided an overview of a proposal to enter into a joint production agreement with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) to produce a second edition of the State Bar of Nevada's publication, The Guide to the Tribal Courts of the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, which will be titled Directory of Tribal Courts. It was moved, seconded and carried to enter into the Publications Agreement.

Young Lawyers Section (YLS)

Young Lawyers Section Chair Austin Barnum provided an overview of section activities, including a discussion of the forthcoming YLS Trial Academy. He discussed section leadership's goal to provide members with trial experience through this program. Barnum also discussed the challenge of providing networking opportunities and programs to increase section member engagement.

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.

Executive Session

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:00 a.m., concluding at 10:15 a.m.

The Board entered Executive Session at 12:20 p.m., concluding at 12:35 p.m.

Nevada Plan Update

Admissions Director Sydney Lisy provided an update on the new, three-part licensing plan for Nevada, including:

1. Nevada Foundational Law Exam
2. Nevada Lawyering Performance Exam
3. Supervised Practice Requirement

Lisy reported that the Nevada Supreme Court will receive a detailed implementation plan on or before April 1, 2025. The implementation plan provides detailed implementation steps and validity information for all components of the Comprehensive Licensing Examination.

For the development of the Foundational Law Exam (FLE), the State Bar of Nevada has obtained a grant of \$330,500 from the AccessLex Institute. That section of the plan explains that the FLE will require developing new questions and pre-testing of those questions, followed by psychometric analysis and final revisions, prior to the first exam administration.

The Lawyering Performance Exam includes addressing its improved validity and reliability in building upon the current bar exam and replacing traditional essays.

The Supervised Practice Requirement includes providing data about the number of applicants who would need placement opportunities and identifying the sources for those placements. It also provides specific steps for developing and administering all components of the Supervised Practice Requirement.

Finally, the plan addresses the required Supreme Court Rule changes, communications regarding the exam transition, administrative requirements for the new licensing process, and the development timeline for all aspects of the licensing transition.

Transition Into Practice (TIP)

Deputy Executive Director Lisa McGrane provided an overview of the TIP Program.

With the incoming Nevada Comprehensive Licensing Exam (Nevada Plan), the board discussed transitioning away from TIP to the Supervised Practice Requirement of the Nevada Plan. One of the key elements of the three-pronged Nevada Plan is the supervised practice requirement. Upon receipt of a Supreme Court order specifically authorizing the Nevada Plan, the board will review an ADKT requesting the TIP requirement be removed from Supreme Court Rule, effective December 31, 2027.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melissa Corral provided valuable feedback and insights to the Board of Governors on behalf of the Nevada Latino Bar Association (NLBA). Corral offered a thoughtful overview of NLBA activities and noted the support provided by the state bar is greatly appreciated by the NLBA and asked the board to continue supporting DEI initiatives.

Angela Cook presented comment on behalf of the Clark County Bar Association's Diversity and Inclusion Committee for Equity (DICE). She indicated the state bar's and Nevada Bar Foundation's support have helped DICE present activities to facilitate constructive discussion and enhance understanding of diversity issues. Cook noted the collaboration has an impact in the legal community.

DISCUSSION

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The board engaged in a discussion about diversity and considered two broad points below.

1. Should the board reaffirm/reevaluate its DEI initiatives.

After careful consideration, the board decided to proceed thoughtfully and strategically, reaffirming its commitment to the goals outlined in the bar's Strategic Plan.

2. Does the board wish to take a position or make a statement on current political efforts to undermine the profession and the Rule of Law?

The board discussed the matter at length. Maggie Lambrose moved, with a second received, to reaffirm the Bar's commitment to the Rule of Law through a published statement endorsing the views expressed by Chief Justice Roberts. The motion did not pass. Nevertheless, the board affirmed its ongoing commitment to promoting inclusivity, professionalism, and civility within Nevada's legal community, and to fostering a culture of respect and collaboration.

REPORTS

Las Vegas Chapter of the National Bar Association

Caleb Green, LVNBA president, offered an insightful overview of LVNBA activities. The LVNBA's programs, particularly the scholarship program, promote education, professionalism, and the pursuit of equal opportunity for all.

Labor and Employment Law Section

Labor and Employment Law Section Chair Kaine Messer discussed the section's goals of offering at least one free CLE program annually as well as networking programs. He noted the section is working to increase membership, particularly among young lawyers.

ACTION

Appointments

The Board approved appointments to:

· Fee Dispute

3-year term:

Ann Wilson

Chris Kircher

James Murphy

Angela Ochoa

Sarah Ocampo

Janet Pancoast

David Rothenberger

Daniel Westmeyer

Reno/Rural Regional Chair

1 year term:

John Boyden

Will Sykes abstained from voting

It was moved, seconded and carried to remove Andre Haynes from the Fee Dispute Committee as a Lay Member.

· TIP Mentors

Stephanie Cook

Lindsay Cullen

Jennifer Fornetti

Bradley Wibicki

· Standing Committee on Judicial Ethics

2-year term:

Susan Bush

Brianna Collings

Kendall Lovell

Denise McKay

Janet Pancoast

Nicole Ting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

VIA EMAIL VOTE

May 22, 2025

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

Harvey's Resort and Casino in Lake Tahoe contract, the venue for the 2025 Family Law Section conference

Suncoast Casino, Las Vegas contract, the venue for the 2025 Gaming Law Conference

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